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DIRECTORATE OF
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# *Central Intelligence Bulletin*

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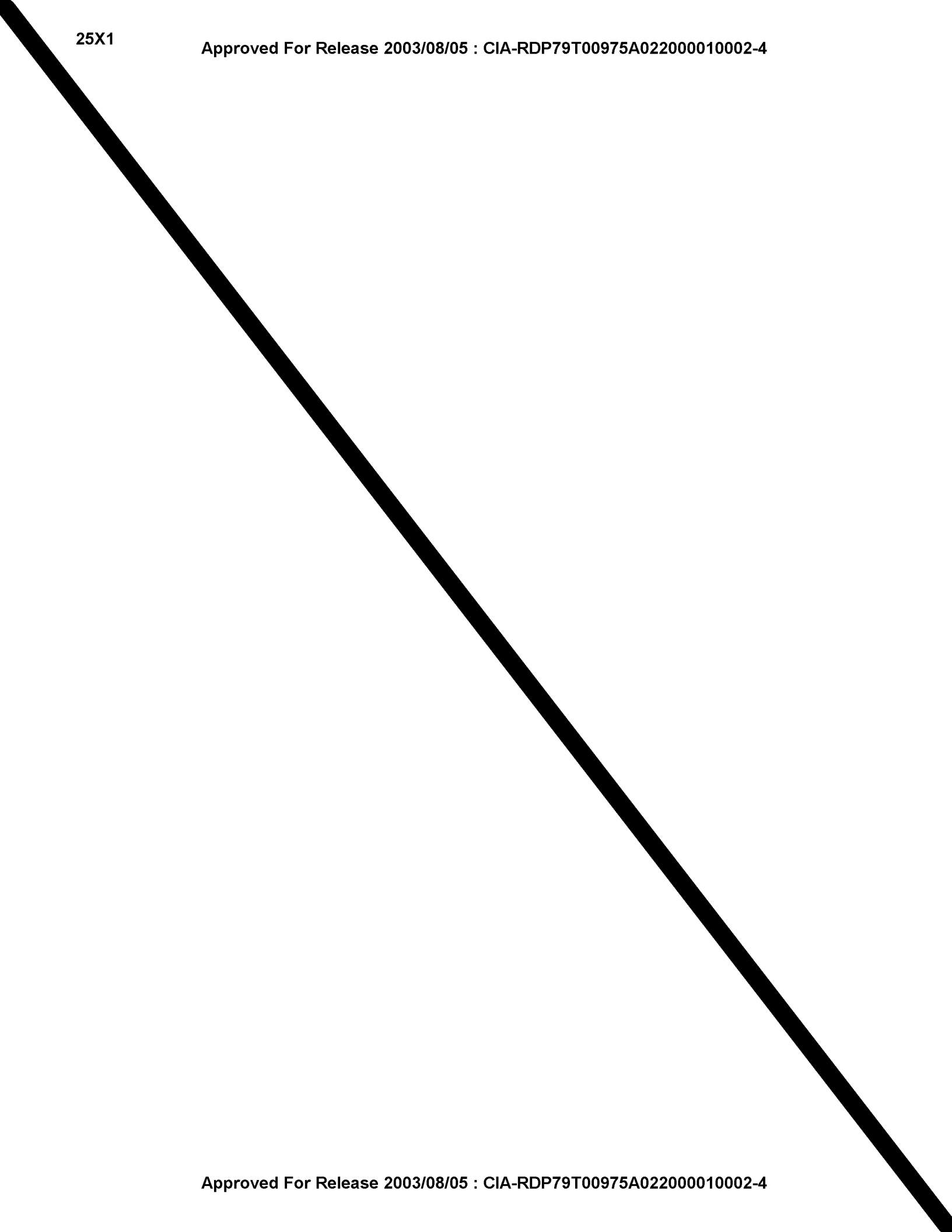

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25 May 1972

# *Central Intelligence Bulletin*

*CONTENTS*

25X1

KENYA: Coup rumors reflect tribal animosities.
(Page 7)

25X1

Approved For Release 2003/08/05 : CIA-RDP79T00975A022000010002-4

25X1

Approved For Release 2003/08/05 : CIA-RDP79T00975A022000010002-4

Next 7 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2003/08/05 : CIA-RDP79T00975A022000010002-4

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25X1

KENYA: A rumored coup plot by the army does not appear to present a threat to the government, but it does underscore sharpened tribal animosities in the military.

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The Kenyan Special Branch, which is controlled by President Kenyatta's office and which played an important role in thwarting a coup plot last year, is aware of the rumors.

Tensions in the military stem from the efforts of the Kikuyu, President Kenyatta's fellow tribesmen, to gain a dominant position in the army, the only instrument of power they do not control. Kenyatta has recruited large numbers of Kikuyu into the army, pushed their assignment to officer training schools, and encouraged their rapid advancement. As a result, the number of officers and enlisted men from the rival Kamba tribe, which once made up the bulk of the army, has decreased steadily in favor of the Kikuyu. The Kamba still retain most of the top military positions, including the posts of army commander and deputy commander, but their control of these positions also is threatened by the Kikuyu.

Thus far, Kamba dissatisfaction appears to have been limited to barracks grumbling. Recently, however, the situation has been aggravated by Kikuyu allegations that the Kamba army commander is showing favoritism to his fellow tribesmen. Government moves against those believed to be involved in the current plotting might further divide the army and increase the chances for future plotting.

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25X1

Approved For Release 2003/08/05 : CIA-RDP79T00975A022000010002-4

Next 2 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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