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Director of  
Central  
Intelligence

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12 May 1988

Approved for Release  
Date JUN 1999

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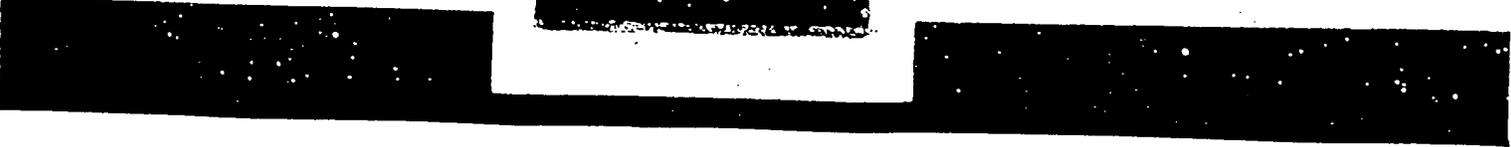
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GUATEMALA:

Officer Rebellion Fails

[REDACTED]

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Guatemala City is calm after more than 700 troops from two outlying provinces were kept from entering Guatemala City to participate in an alleged coup early Wednesday. [REDACTED] Led by junior officers, the troops—in tractor trailers—were en route to the capital in response to false rumors spread by Col. Lima Estrada—commander of Chiquimila Department—that officers in the capital were rebelling and required assistance. [REDACTED] Loyal officers in Guatemala City and forces from Escuintla moved immediately to block roads into the capital; the units were stopped and returned to their barracks without incident. [REDACTED]

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Defense Minister Gramajo said publicly the rebellion was provoked by members of rightwing political parties and announced that an investigation was under way to identify all conspirators. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] The rebellion was poorly planned and lacked the support of officers in control of key command positions in the capital. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] These groups have actively tried to organize a coup over the past year and have publicly called for Cerezo's resignation. [REDACTED]

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Although the crisis is over for now, further coup plotting will probably persist because of the serious discontent in the military over Cerezo's domestic reform policies, his apparent willingness to talk with the Guatemalan insurgents, and his efforts to restore relations with the Soviet Bloc. Gramajo probably will demote or remove the key troublemakers. If he does not distance himself from Cerezo's policies quickly, however, Gramajo will become a target for replacement, as junior-officers place increasing pressure on the military leadership to find someone who will look after the military's interests more forcefully. [REDACTED]

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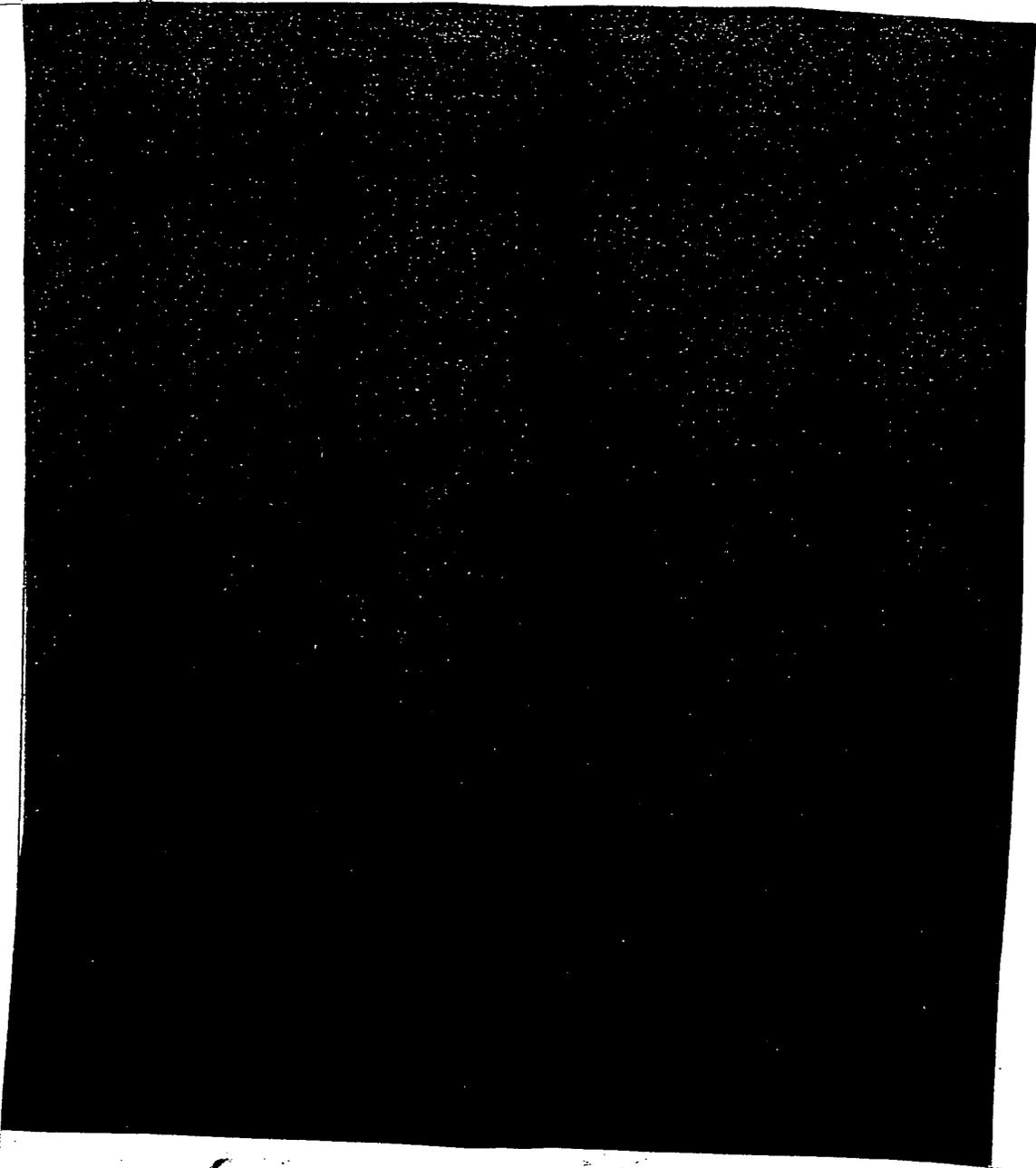
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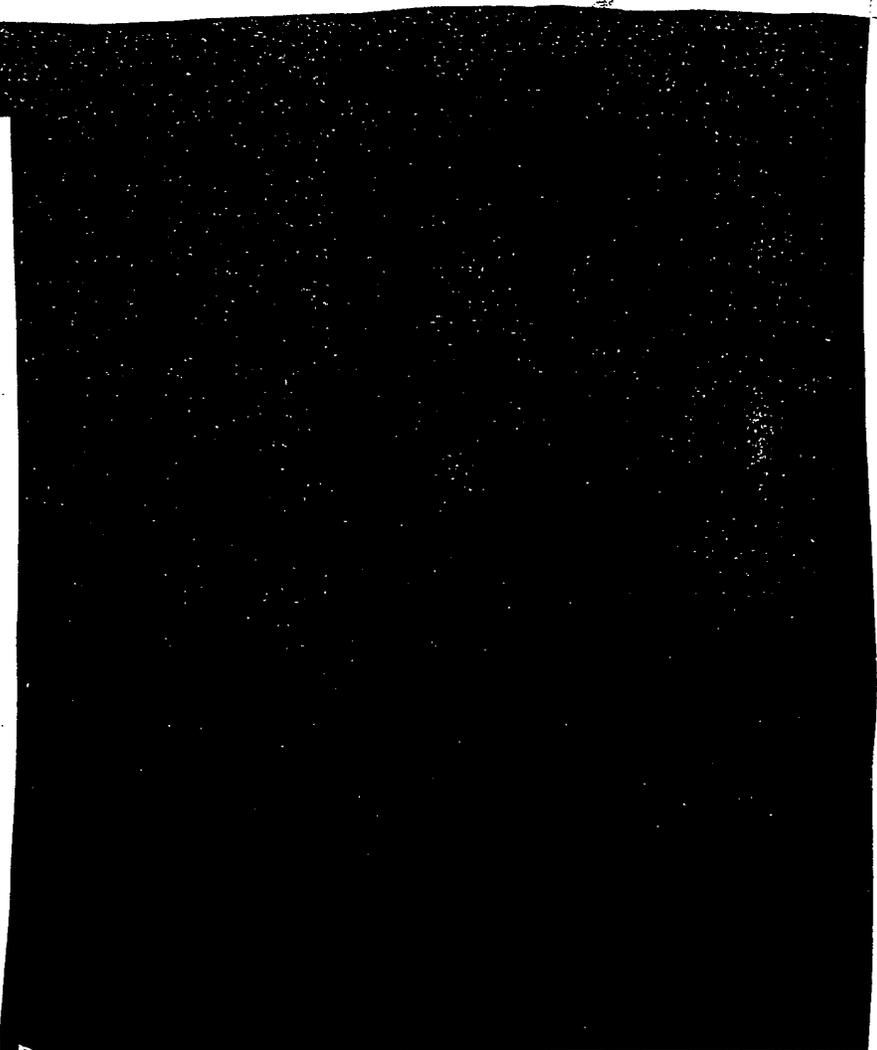
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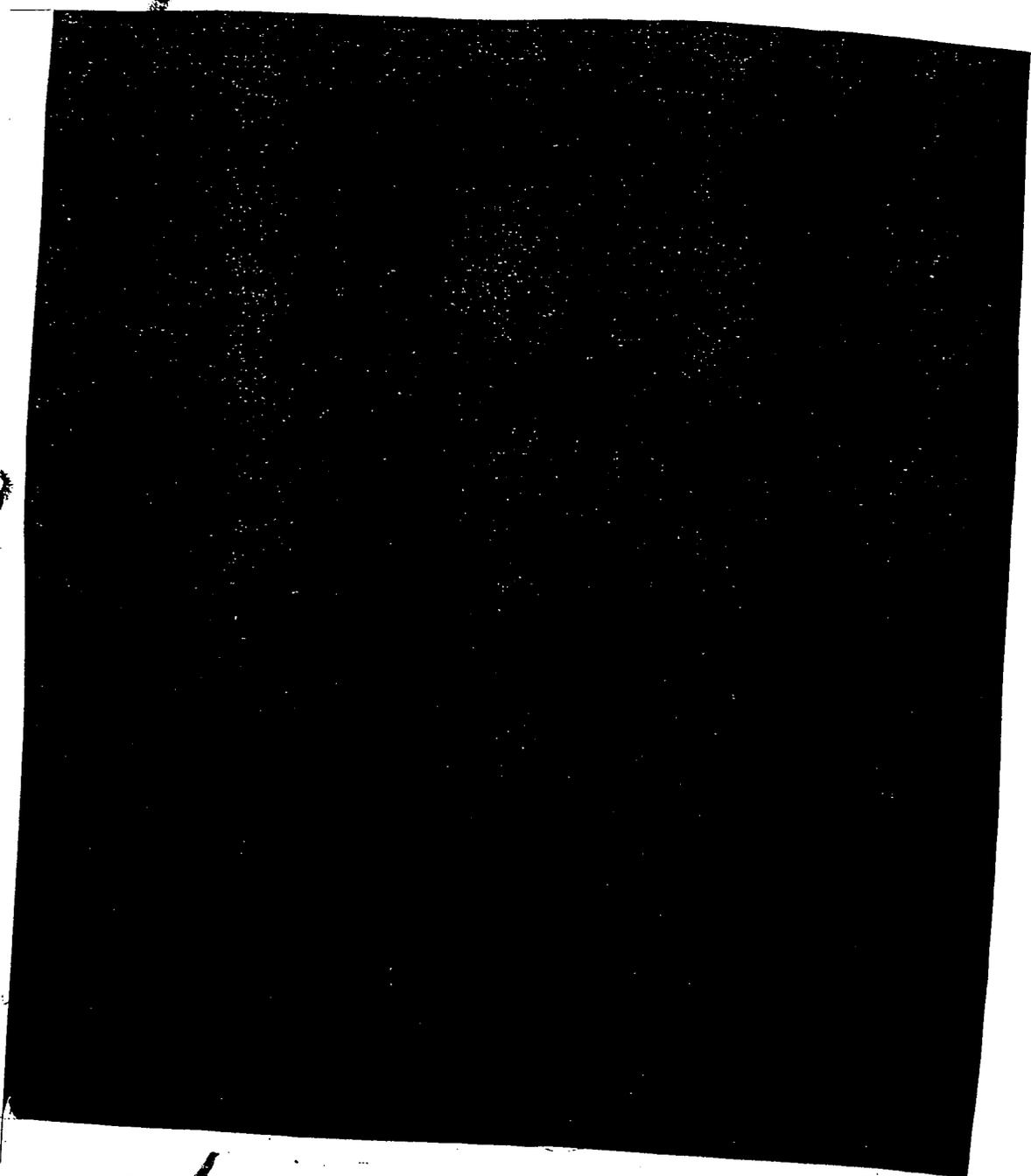
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LEBANON:

Hizballah Victories in Beirut

*Hizballah is consolidating gains against its rival Shia militia Amal in the southern suburbs of Beirut, while Amal has begun retaliating in south Lebanon.*

[REDACTED] Hizballah repelled an Amal assault on the southern suburbs, captured Amal's headquarters in the Burj al-Barajinah neighborhood, and increased its hold on other areas of the suburbs. [REDACTED] Hizballah may have received artillery support from the Palestinian camps.

[REDACTED] Press reports indicate the fighting may be spreading westward out of the southern suburbs toward the coastal road. [REDACTED]

In south Lebanon, Amal arrested approximately 250 Hizballah members in Tyre and An Nabatiyah and expelled six senior Hizballah religious leaders on Tuesday, according to Israeli press. [REDACTED]

There have been no signs that Syrian forces are preparing to enter the southern suburbs in force, despite the continuing barrage of Syrian threats. According to the press, Gen. Ghazi Kan'an, head of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon, said yesterday that Syria now feels compelled to enter the southern suburbs and end the fighting. He reportedly compared the current situation in southern Beirut with the situation that existed prior to Syria's entry into West Beirut in February 1987. [REDACTED]

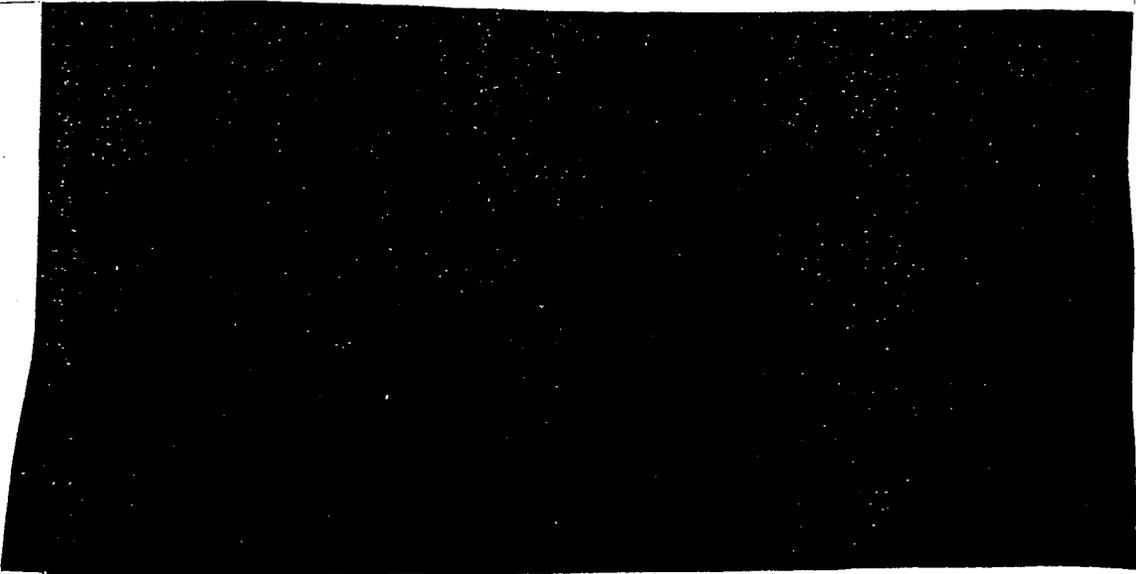
[REDACTED] Hizballah has definitely gained the upper hand over Amal in the southern suburbs and may soon drive its rival out of most neighborhoods. In desperation, Amal probably will continue fighting Hizballah elements in south Lebanon and may attempt to convince the Syrians to move against Hizballah in the Bekaa Valley, particularly against its stronghold in Balabakk. Syrian leaders almost certainly hope that their threats will halt the fighting and avoid a direct confrontation with Hizballah. [REDACTED]

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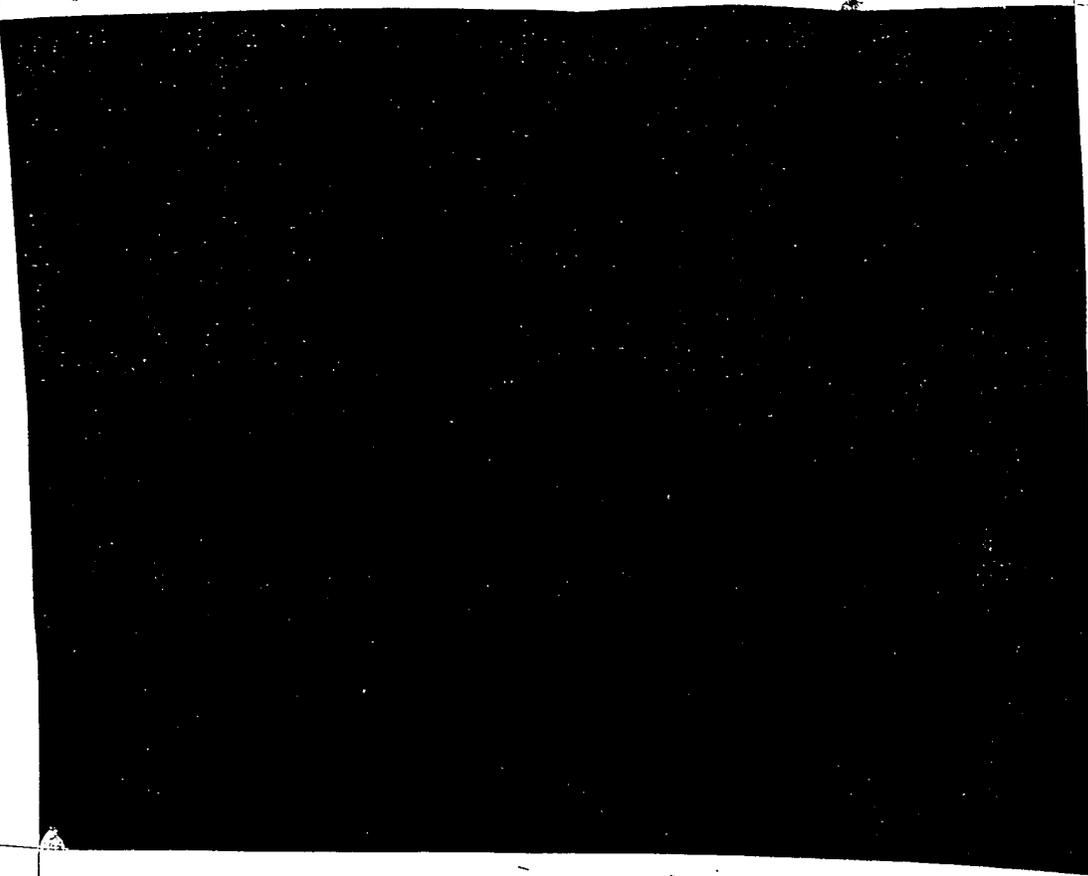
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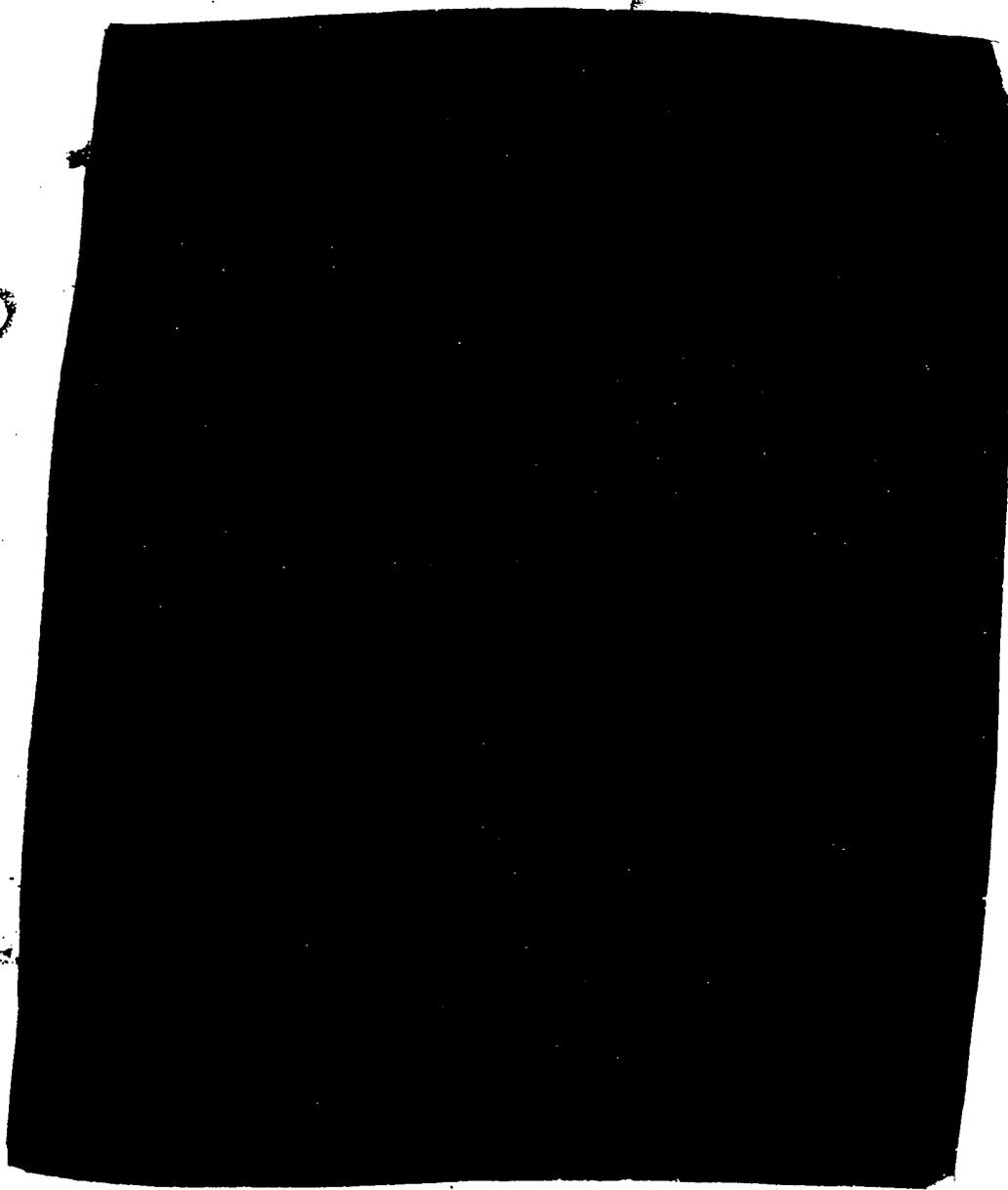
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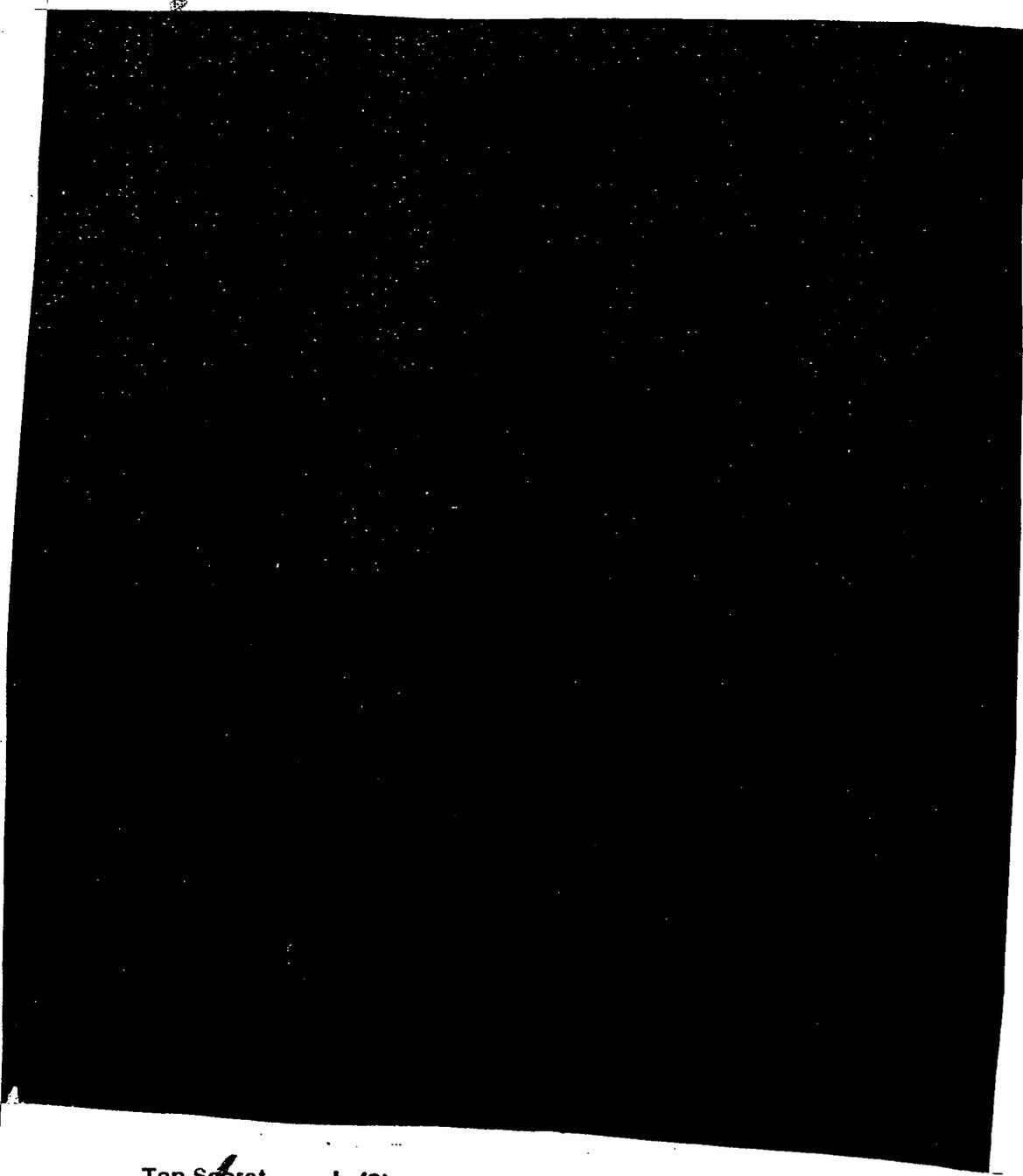
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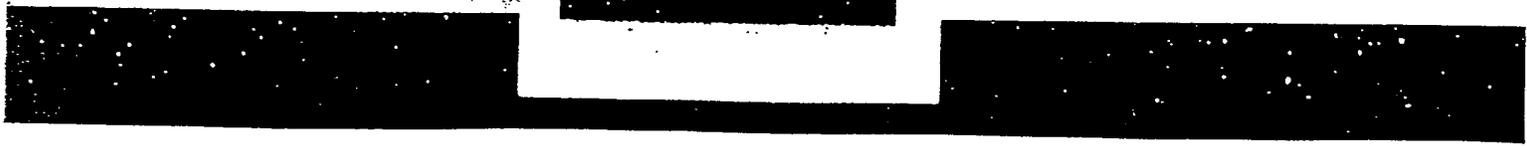


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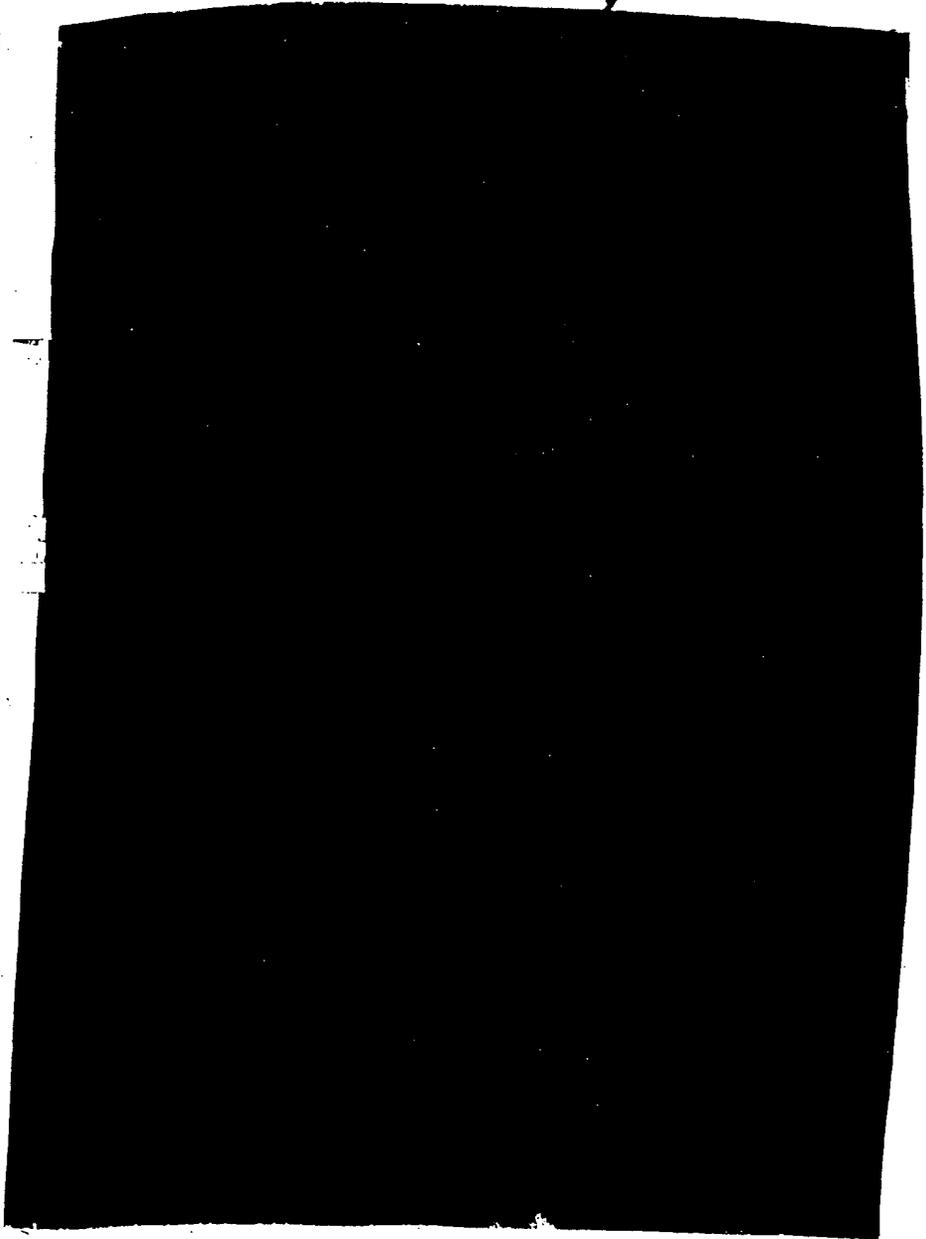
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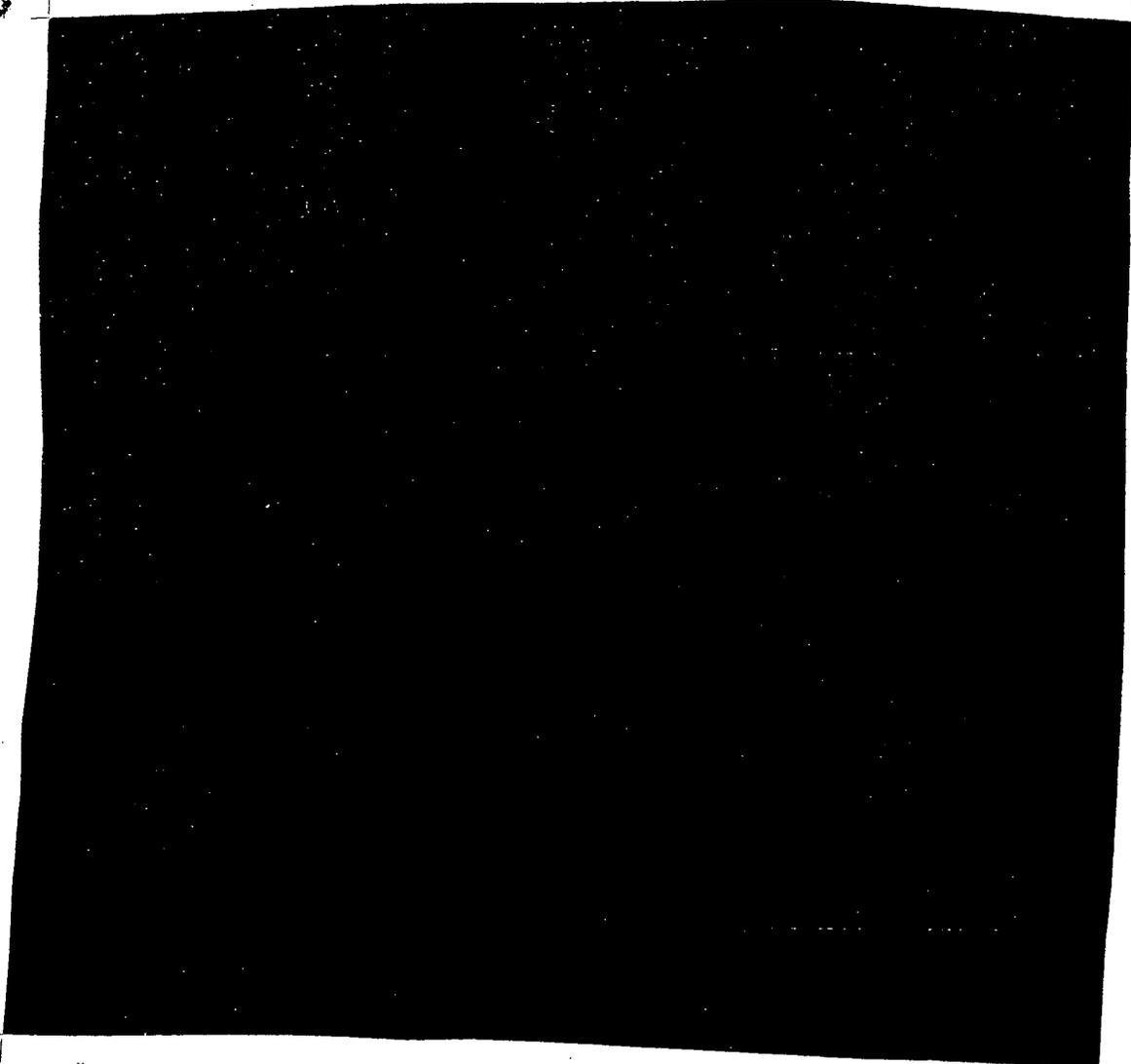
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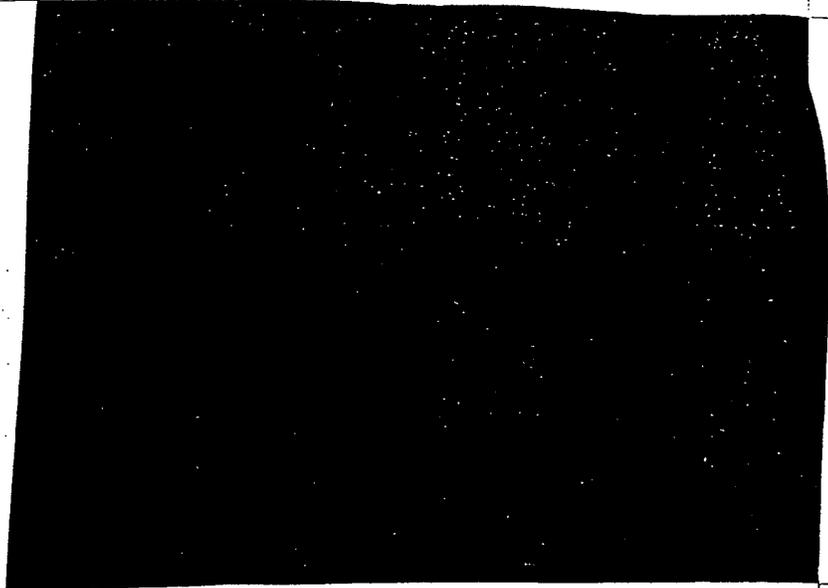
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**PHILIPPINES: Aquino Weighs in on Antinuclear Bill**

President Aquino, in a meeting this week with several Philippine senators, has expressed her concern for the first time, that an antinuclear bill now pending in the Philippine Senate would restrict her options in negotiations with the US on the use of military bases in the Philippines. Several of the senators publicly cited the need for flexibility on the bases issue and acknowledged the executive branch's prerogative on foreign policy. However, the primary sponsor of the bill—which prohibits the storage or transit of nuclear weapons as well as visits by nuclear-powered and nuclear-capable ships—said Aquino gave the senators no specific instructions and did not indicate her position on the bill.

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The central problem for Aquino, Foreign Secretary Manglapus—her chief negotiator on the bases—and the Philippine Senate is agreeing on a nuclear policy that is both consistent with the constitutional ban on nuclear weapons and explicable to the Philippine public. Although Aquino's comments to the senators are unlikely to prevent the bill's sponsors from pressing forward, the version emerging from the Senate is likely to be watered down and may not pose a direct threat to the viability of the bases. In exchange for less stringent antinuclear legislation, Aquino and Manglapus will probably have to give the senators more influence in the ongoing bases review—a role the legislature has been seeking since before the review began last month.

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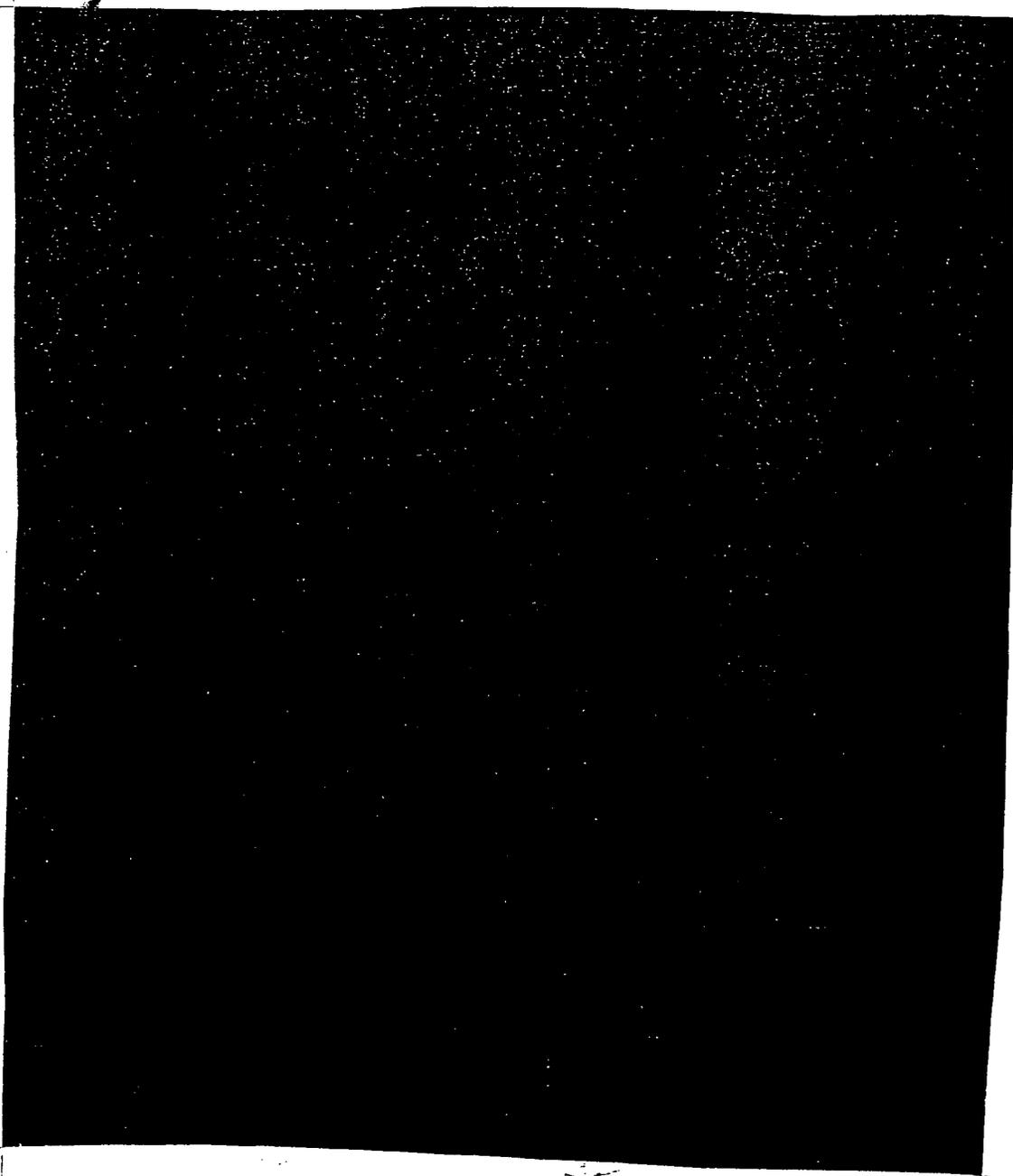
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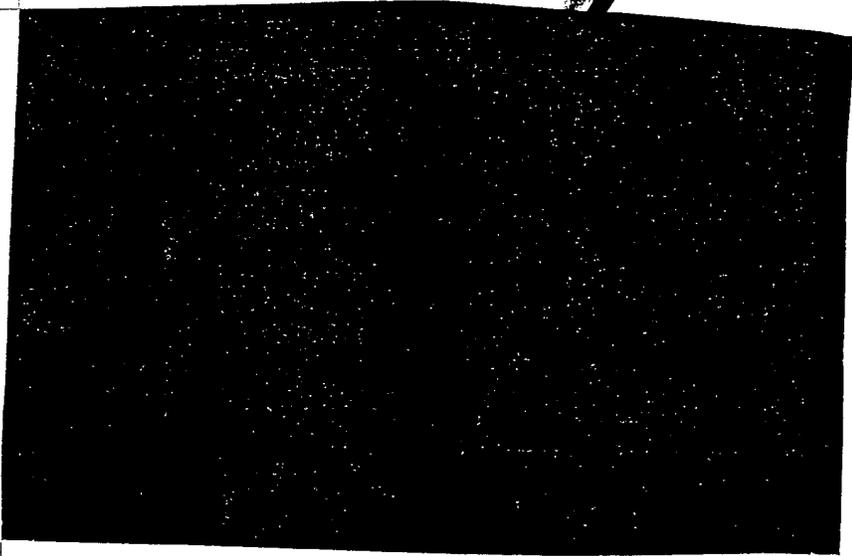
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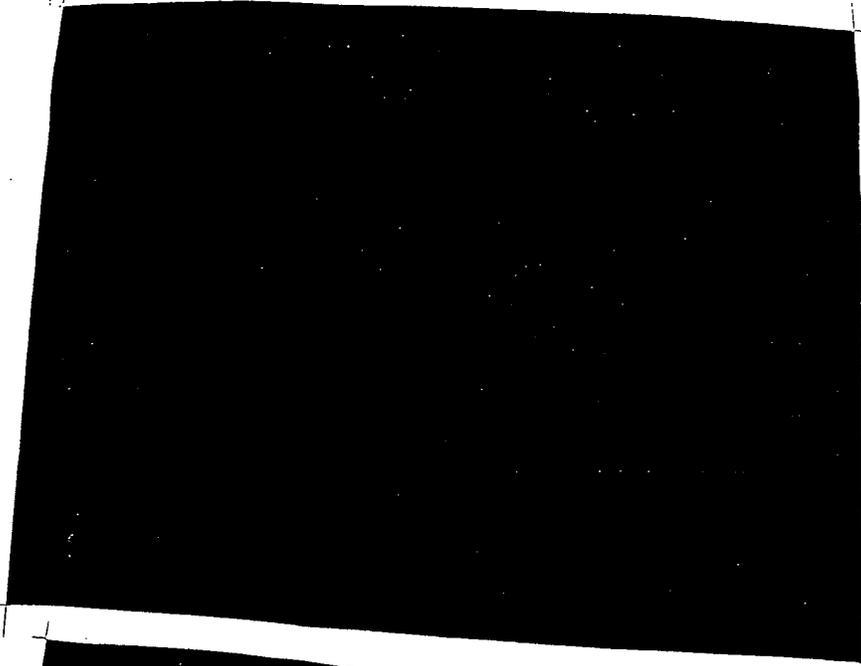
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In Brief

Middle East

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[REDACTED]

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— No casualties, minimal damage from rocket attack Tuesday on US Embassy in North Yemen ...

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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Iran probably will not fulfill contract for 700,000 tons of Argentine wheat for lack of funds ... portends continued austerity in Iran.

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Americas

— Guerrillas struck Peru's main oil pipeline last Friday ... probably Sendero Luminoso Insurgents ... damage slight in first known attack against oil facilities ... may presage increased economic sabotage.

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— Peru's cabinet resigned Tuesday ... President Garcia likely to replace four or five members, including Prime Minister ... government under fire for ineffectiveness against insurgents, economic problems.

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USSR

— Soviets yesterday announced start of trial of more than 80 charged in February ethnic riots in Sumgait in which 32 acknowledged killed ... trial will further elevate tensions if either side perceives justice not served.

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Africa

— Senegalese leftist opposition leader Wade given suspended sentence for instigating illegal assembly after February election ... easy treatment may help defuse tensions in Dakar ... President Diouf still faces volatile students, economic problems.

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— South African Foreign Minister Botha yesterday said Cuban troop buildup in southern Angola increasing tensions in region ... first public acknowledgment of major Cuban-Angolan presence near Namibian border.

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East Asia

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Indonesian soldiers recently fired on boat full of Vietnamese refugees, killing one, wounding another of 125 aboard . . . first such incident since 1979 . . . Indonesians resupplied boat, pushed it off to Malaysia.

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[Redacted]

— Drought delaying planting in key Chinese farm provinces . . . officials advocating more irrigation, fertilizer use . . . poor outlook for early harvest likely to increase demand for US wheat imports.

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Europe

— Central Committee meeting Tuesday left Hungarian party leader Kadar strengthened, likely to remain . . . conference next week not to name scapegoats, have open-ended discussion of failures . . . Central Committee, leadership changes planned.

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— New Yugoslav Defense Minister Veljko Kadijevic more Western-oriented than predecessor . . . US-trained army general, has background in arms production . . . favors improving defense cooperation with US, continuing arms sales to Third World.

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— Yugoslavia cut North Korea's Embassy staff.

[Redacted] . . . other bilateral tensions, US pressure have hardened Yugoslav line.

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[Redacted]

South Asia

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— Delegation from India's ruling Congress Party in Beijing for two weeks, . . . led by Prime Minister Gandhi's former foreign minister. . . may discuss a Gandhi visit to China in fall.

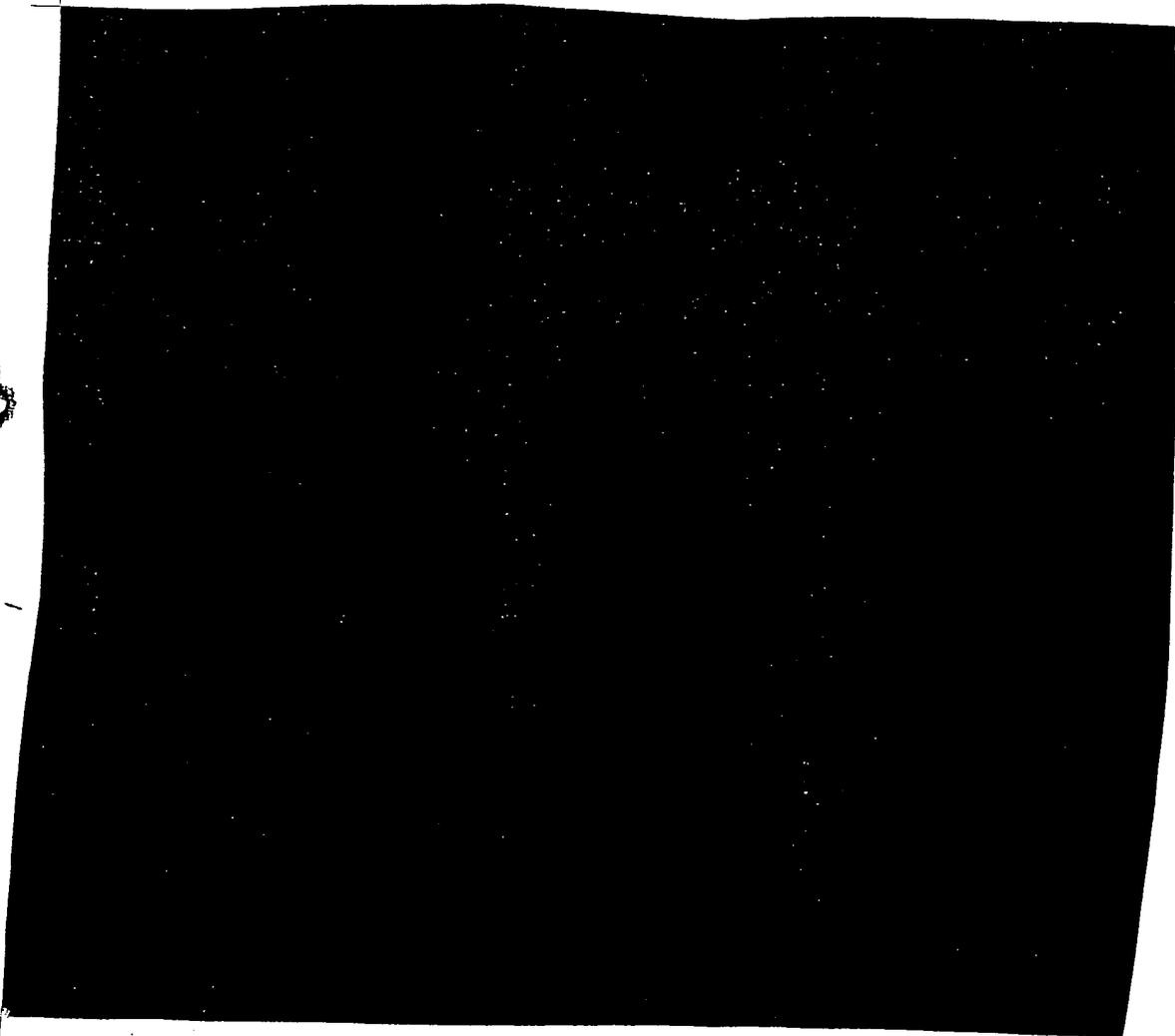
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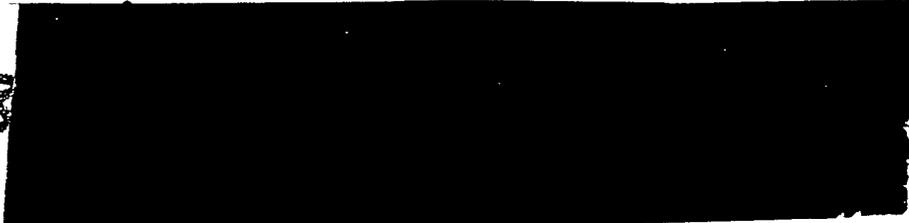
Special Analysis

PERSIAN GULF:

The Tanker War

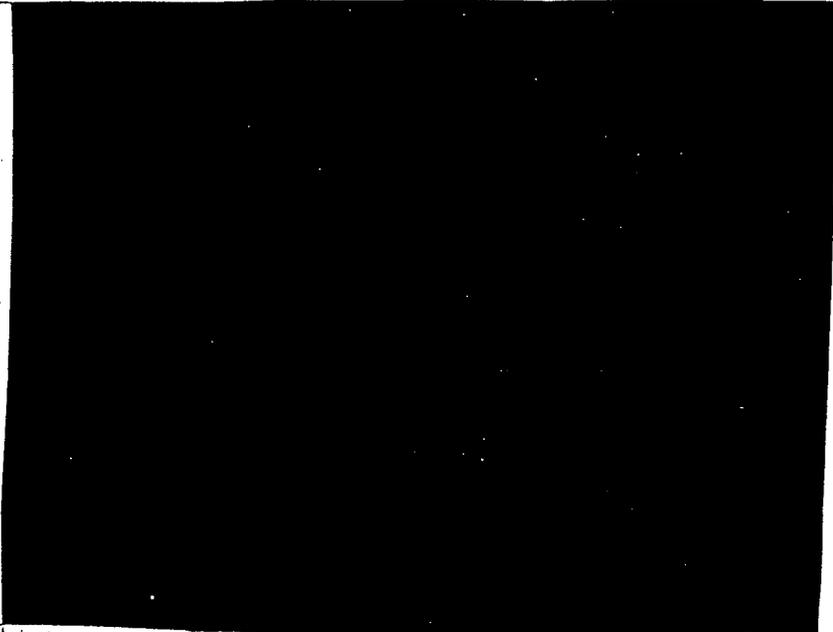
*The success rate of Iraq's antishipping campaign continues to decline. The number of attempted Iraqi attacks remains high, however, suggesting that Baghdad is not willing to allow tension in the Gulf to diminish. Regardless of Iraq's lack of success, Tehran may continue sporadic ship attacks in response to increased US protection of Gulf shipping and heightened tensions with some Gulf Arab states, but still appears willing to end its ship attacks if Iraq does the same. (S-NF)*

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Has Iraq Stopped Trying?

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**Iran May Initiate Attacks**

Although the intensity of the tanker war in the past usually was determined by the level of Iraqi ship attacks and subsequent Iranian retaliation, Tehran may now attack shipping without regard to Iraq's lack of success. Iran has attacked [redacted] ships so far this year; excluding the [redacted] ships hit in response to the US-Iranian clash last month, it has attacked [redacted] tankers since Iraq's last successful attack. Iran almost certainly will want to demonstrate that it has not been intimidated by recent setbacks in the Gulf and in the ground war.

Tehran probably will also want to continue its more aggressive policy against Iraq's allies, as shown by its attempt to hit more Gulf shipping in retaliation for Iraqi attacks, by its renewed mining operations last month, and by its increased terrorism against Kuwait and Riyadh since March. Tehran appears determined to hit the Saudis for their refusal to be accommodating on the pilgrimage issue and for breaking relations.

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Continued Iranian ship attacks may also be a response to the expanded US protection program. In a speech last week, Iranian Assembly Speaker Rafsanjani accused Washington of siding with Baghdad. He said Iran's policy is to deter Iraqi attacks by retaliating against countries—specifically Kuwait and Saudi Arabia—that have aided Baghdad and therefore cannot claim to be neutral. [redacted] Iran will respond forcefully to US interference. Iran is unlikely to confront US forces directly, but its naval forces will try to operate just beyond the limits of US protection to prove that shipping is still vulnerable to attack.

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Rafsanjani, nevertheless, reaffirmed Iran's position that it will stop attacking ships if Iraq does. Tehran almost certainly recognizes that it will be less able to conduct ship attacks following its losses last month and the expansion of the US protection program. Moreover, terrorism and sabotage against the Gulf Arabs may be more appealing to Iran now that ship attacks are becoming riskier.

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Tehran has long held that no shipping in the Gulf can be secure until all shipping is safe, and it is certain to retaliate for successful Iraqi ship attacks. Iran is nevertheless using Iraq's lack of success to cut its own antishipping campaign, perhaps to limit demands on its overburdened naval forces and eventually to lower tension in the Gulf to Tehran's political advantage.

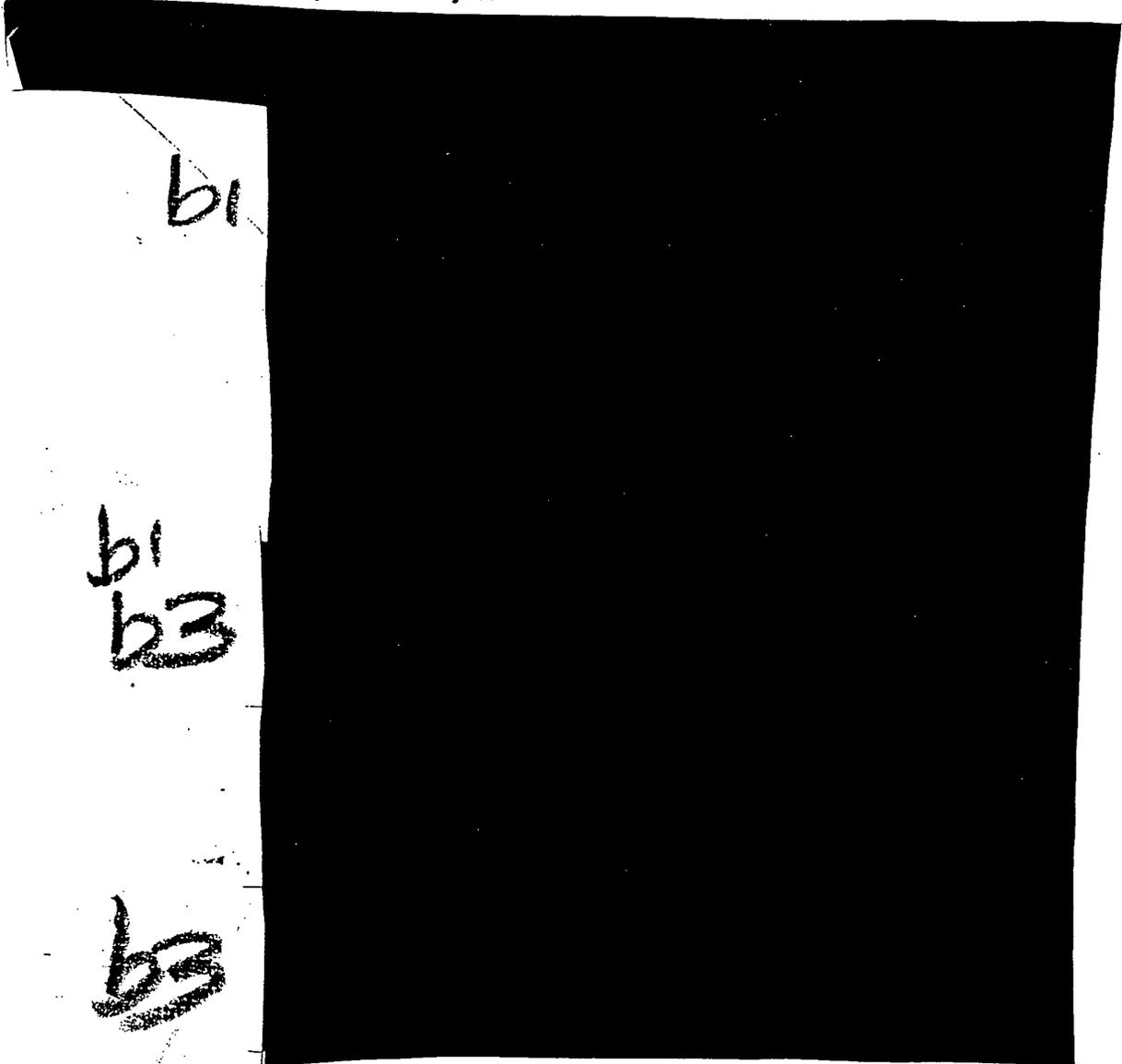
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Special Analysis



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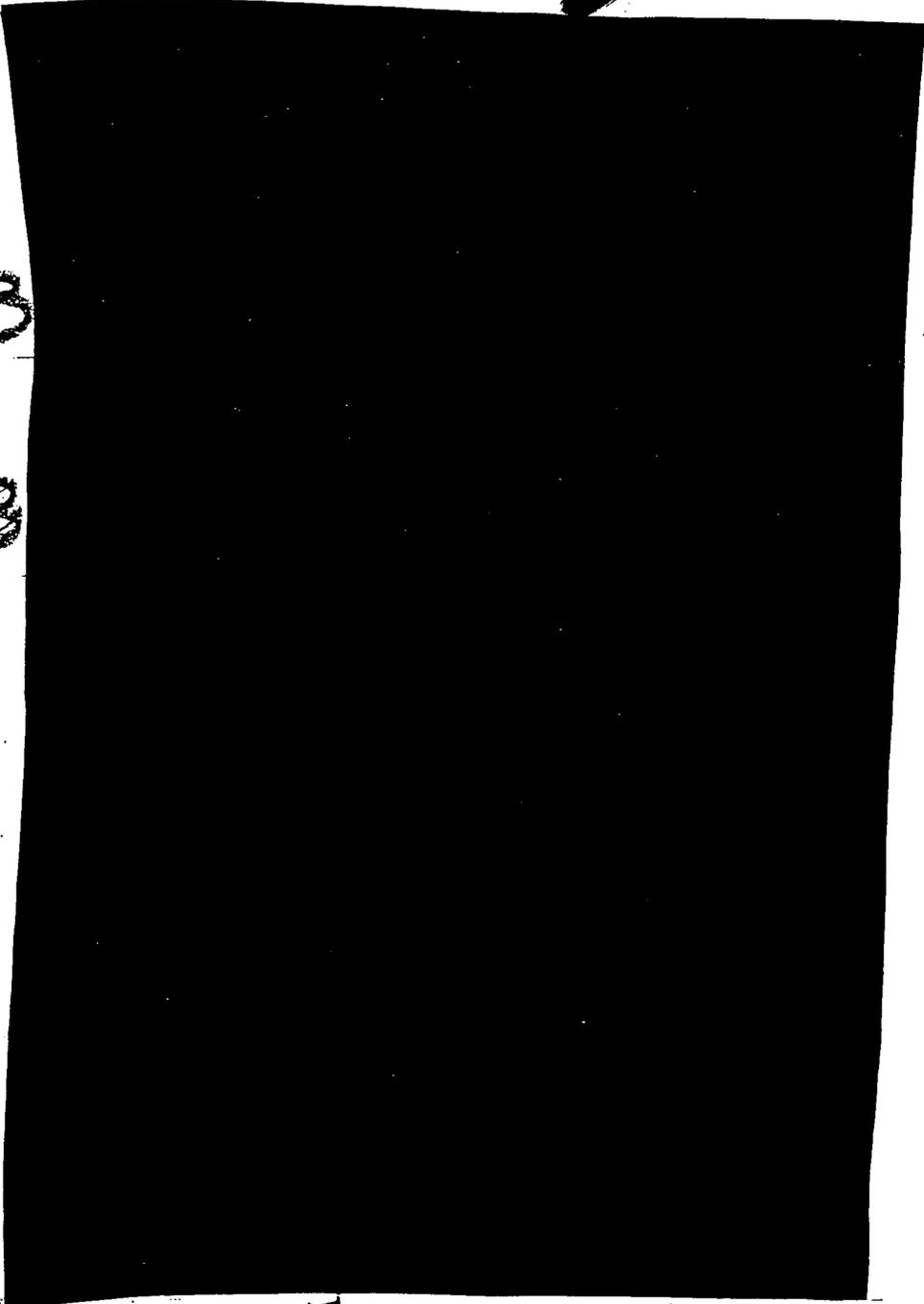
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