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DIRECTORATE OF
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WEEKLY SUMMARY

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28 November 1969
No. 0398/69

75-228539

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The WEEKLY SUMMARY, issued every Friday morning by the Office of Current Intelligence, reports and analyzes significant developments of the week through noon on Thursday. It frequently includes material coordinated with or prepared by the Office of Economic Research, the Office of Strategic Research, and the Directorate of Science and Technology. Topics requiring more comprehensive treatment and therefore published separately as Special Reports are listed in the contents pages.

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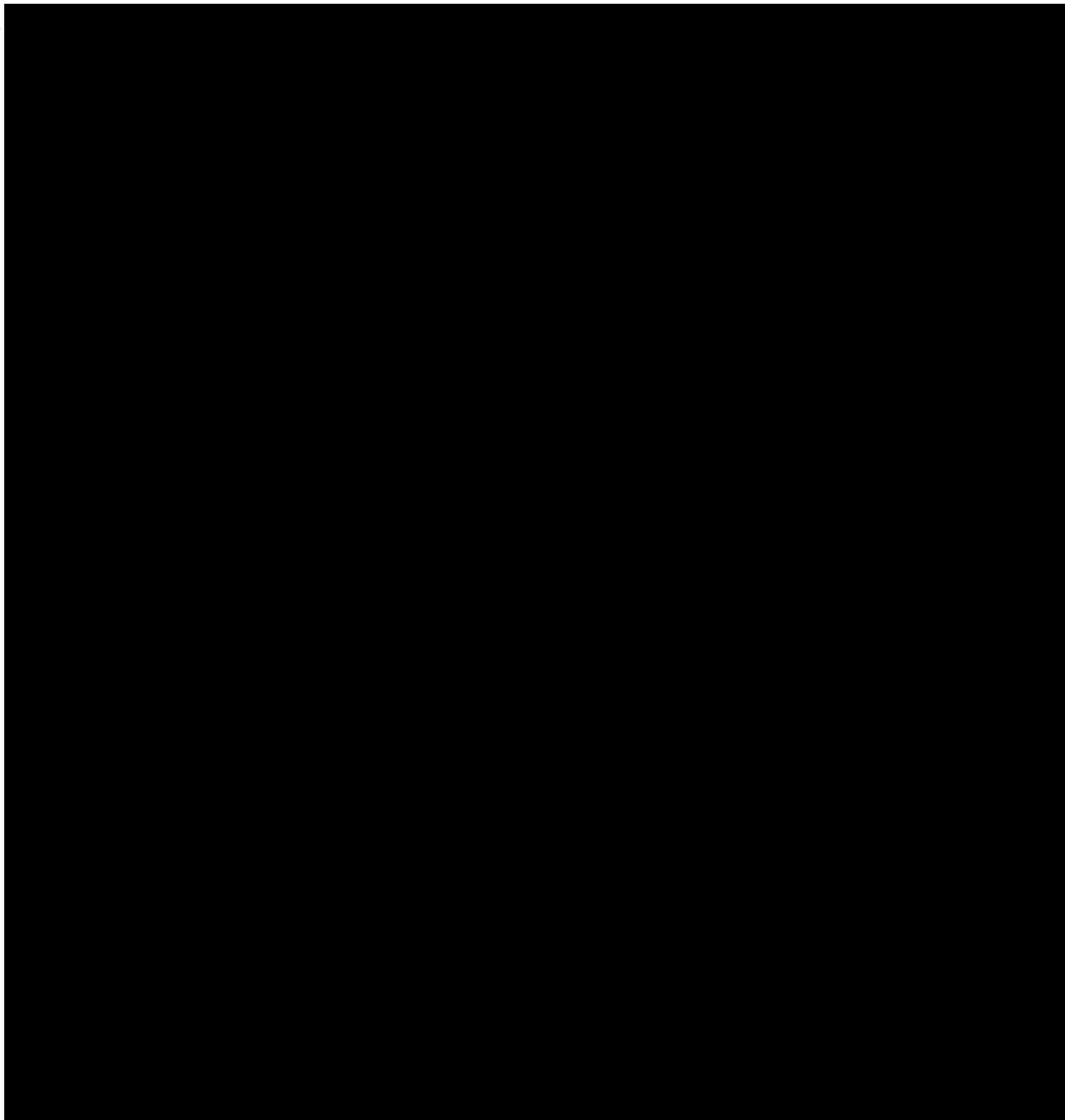
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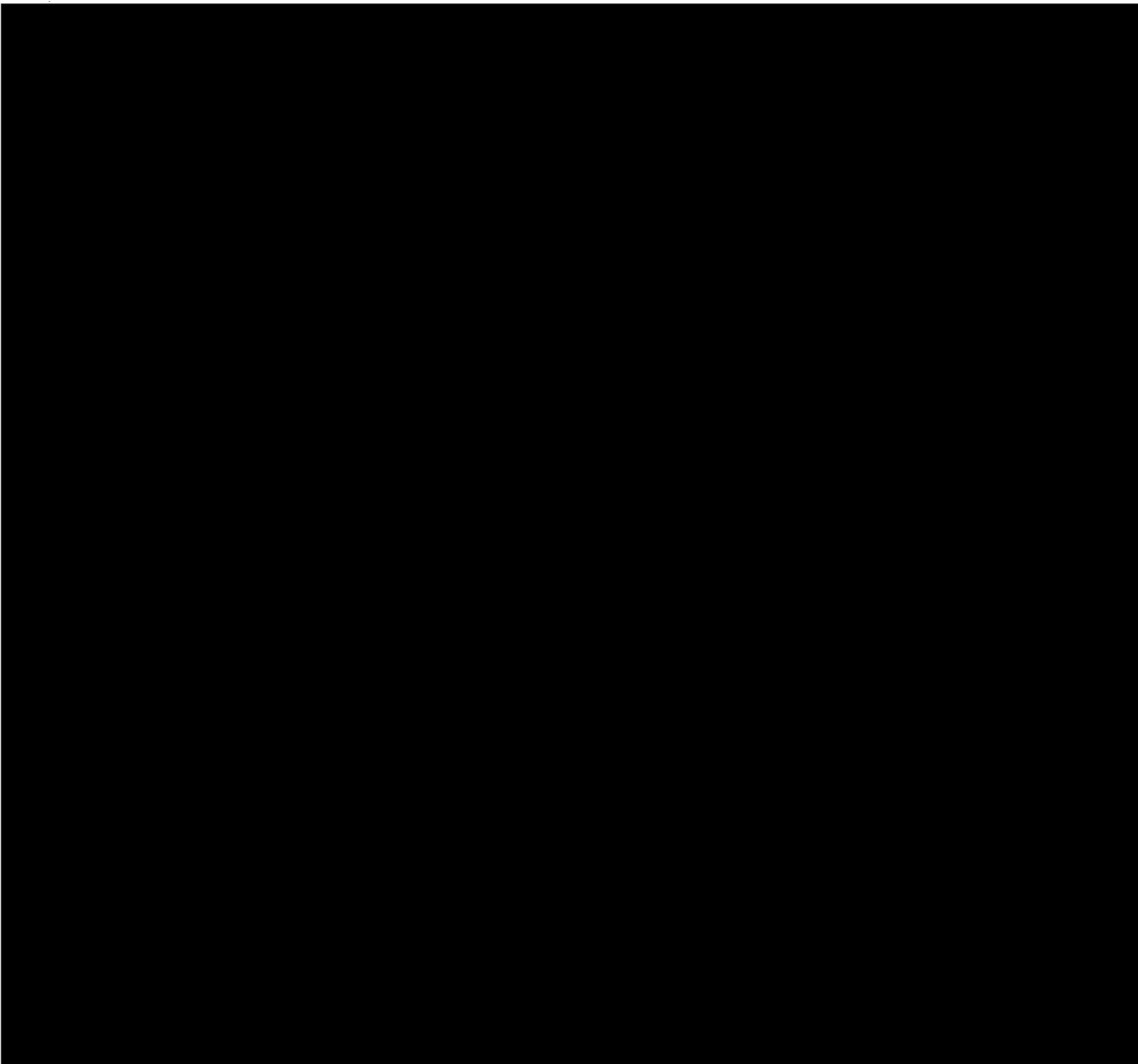
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PEKING TALKS APPARENTLY STALEMATED BUT CONTINUING

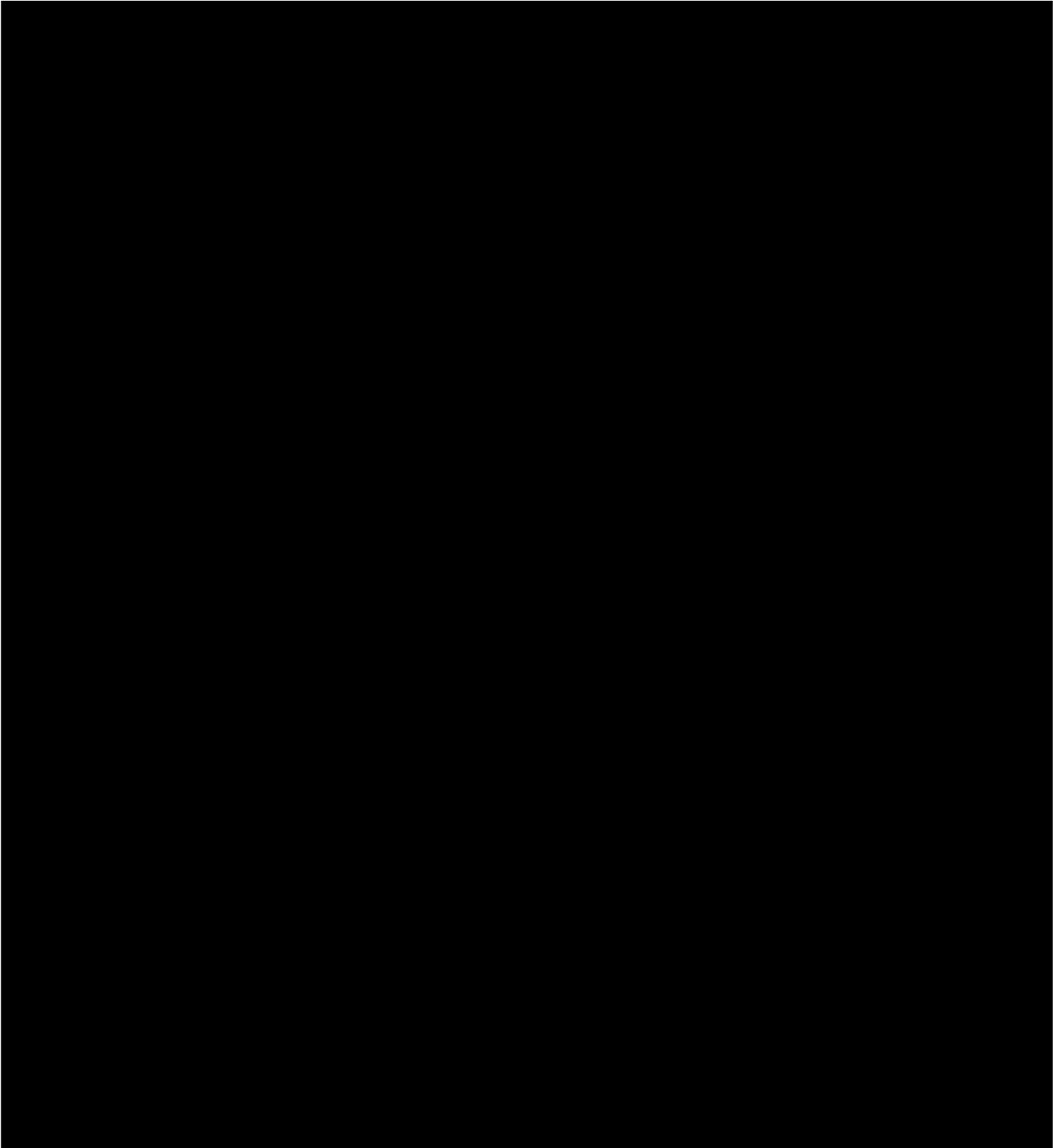
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PEKING TALKS APPARENTLY STALEMATED BUT CONTINUING

The Sino-Soviet border talks in Peking continue amid increasing signs that the two sides are at loggerheads. The original air of careful optimism presented by Soviet officials has dissipated, and the first public break in Soviet silence on the difficulties at the talks has appeared.

Responding to questions at a public lecture in Moscow on 21 November, a speaker from the Novosti press agency said that the Chinese had adopted an "unreasonable position," and that they apparently had no desire for positive results from the talks. Although this statement was not picked up by Soviet media, it echoes opinions advanced privately by other Soviet officials.

Indications of a stalemate have also been received from the Chinese side. The NCNA bureau chief in Moscow reportedly told a Western newsman that the article in a Hong Kong newspaper earlier this month claiming that the talks were stalemated was correct, and that earlier public Soviet optimism was a "typical lie." The Chinese also used the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of Sino-Albanian relations on 23 November to launch their harshest propaganda attacks on Moscow since the talks began. A People's Daily editorial attacked "Soviet revisionist social-imperialism" for stepping up war preparations,

and a Chinese vice minister of foreign affairs delivered a stinging attack on the Soviets at a reception at the Albanian Embassy.

It is not known what specific issues are creating the deadlock, but the different approaches of the two sides to the talks are obviously a major factor. The Chinese appear to be primarily interested in some sort of formal military stand-down in disputed areas that would leave their charges and claims against the Russians intact, while the Soviets seem to want a negotiated settlement of the conflicting claims over the areas in dispute.

The talks are continuing, nevertheless, and each side is probably reluctant to break them off. Chinese officials continue privately to express concern over the Soviet military presence along the border, and must feel somewhat easier about Soviet intentions while the talks are in progress. Having made a considerable effort to get the Chinese to the conference table, the Soviets are obviously reluctant to quit without results. The talks could drag on for some time, therefore, even in a state of deadlock.

Regardless of the difficulties at the conference table, each side apparently is persevering in its efforts to keep the border quiet. No significant border incidents have been reported since August. [REDACTED]

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