

The overall exemptions for this document are (b)(1) and (b)(3).

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CIA CI-Brief - 76-079

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: SEP 2000 F(b)(1)
F(b)(3)
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OUTGOING MESSAGE

02-100	1	4	7
	2	5	8
	3	6	9

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AGE COI ACP TOG TPE MRO DCI

PAGE OF PAGES

2

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CLASSIFICATION

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MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF: INFO: FILE

INDEX DISSEM BY:
 NO INDEX
 RETURN TO PER
 IP FILES #

EUROPEAN BRIEF CI EB 76-079.4

1. PORTUGAL:

[REDACTED] THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY ON TUESDAY NOMINATED ITS NUMBER TWO OFFICIAL, OCTAVIO PATO, AS A CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT IN PORTUGAL'S ELECTION ON JUNE 27. NEITHER PATO NOR TWO OBSCURE CANDIDATES CHOSEN LAST WEEK BY THE FAR LEFT HAVE ANY CHANCE OF WINNING, BUT ALONG WITH POSSIBLE RIGHT-WING ENTRIES, THEY COULD ATTRACT ENOUGH VOTES TO FORCE A RUNOFF BETWEEN THE TWO LEADING CONTENDERS, ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF EANES AND PRIME MINISTER AZEVEDO.4

[REDACTED] EANES' ANNOUNCEMENT ON FRIDAY THAT, IF ELECTED, HE WILL CHOOSE SOCIALIST LEADER MARIO SOARES AS HIS PRIME MINISTER WILL CONSOLIDATE HIS SUPPORT AMONG MEMBERS OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY, WHICH POLLED A PLURALITY IN THE LEGISLATIVE ELECTION LAST MONTH.4

[REDACTED] PRIME MINISTER AZEVEDO DOES NOT HAVE THE SUPPORT OF ANY FORMAL PARTY ORGANIZATION, BUT HE IS A POPULAR FIGURE IN PORTUGAL, AND HIS FORCEFUL STYLE WILL MAKE HIM AN ATTRACTIVE

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ORIG:
UNIT:
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1	4	7
2	8	8
3	9	9

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY
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PAGE 3 OF 3 PAGES

CLASSIFICATION
~~SECRET NOFORN~~
 MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF: INFO: FILE

- INDEX DISSEM BY:
- NO INDEX
- RETURN TO PER
- IP FILES #

CANDIDATE. HE REPORTEDLY INTENDS TO FOCUS HEAVILY ON HIS RECORD AS PRIME MINISTER, BUT HE WILL BE HAMPERED BY HIS DIFFICULTY IN ATTRACTING HIGH-LEVEL ENDORSEMENTS AND BY HIS FAILURE SO FAR TO PUT TOGETHER AN EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION. AN APPEAL TO MEMBERS OF THE CABINET LAST WEEK TO SUPPORT HIS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY APPARENTLY FELL ON DEAF EARS.4

THE ABSENCE OF A DECLARED COMMUNIST CANDIDATE APPEARED TO ASSURE AZEVEDO OF A LARGE NUMBER OF COMMUNIST VOTES IN HIS BID TO STOP THE MORE CONSERVATIVE GENERAL EANES. AZEVEDO, HOWEVER, APPARENTLY INTENDED TO RUN A STRONG ANTI-COMMUNIST CAMPAIGN, AND THIS PROBABLY HELPED PARTY CHIEF CUNHAL DECIDE TO PUT FORWARD PATO.4

AZEVEDO'S FAILURE TO SOUND OUT THE POLITICAL PARTIES AND THE MILITARY BEFORE ANNOUNCING HIS CANDIDACY WAS A SERIOUS TACTICAL ERROR, AND SOME SOURCES ATTRIBUTE HIS PROBLEMS TO THE ABSENCE OF GOOD POLITICAL ADVISERS. THE DEATH OF AZEVEDO'S CHIEF ADVISER EARLIER THIS YEAR IS SAID TO HAVE COST HIM THE SUPPORT OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY.4

DATE:
 ORIG:
 UNIT:
 EXT:

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OUTGOING MESSAGE

1	4	7
2	5	8
3	6	9

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

AGE 0 COI 0 ACP 0 TOS 0 TPE 0 MRO 0 DCI 0

PAGE 4 OF PAGES

CLASSIFICATION

~~SECRET NOFORN~~

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF:

INFO: FILE

- INDEX DISSEM BY:
- NO INDEX
- RETURN TO PER
- IP FILES #

{C} IN CONTRAST, A BLUE-RIBBON ELECTION COMMITTEE IS SUPPORTING EANES. IT CONTAINS LEADERS OF THE THREE MAJOR DEMOCRATIC PARTIES, AS WELL AS SOME OF PORTUGAL'S MOST PROMINENT NEWSPAPER EDITORS AND COLUMNISTS. [REDACTED]

DATE:
ORIG:
UNIT:
EXT:

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AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

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OUTGOING MESSAGE

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2		0		0	
3		0		0	

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

AGE

COI

ACP

TOB

TPE

MRO

DCI

PAGE OF PAGES

5

OMF 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

CLASSIFICATION

~~SECRET NOFORN~~

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF:

INFO: FILE

INDEX

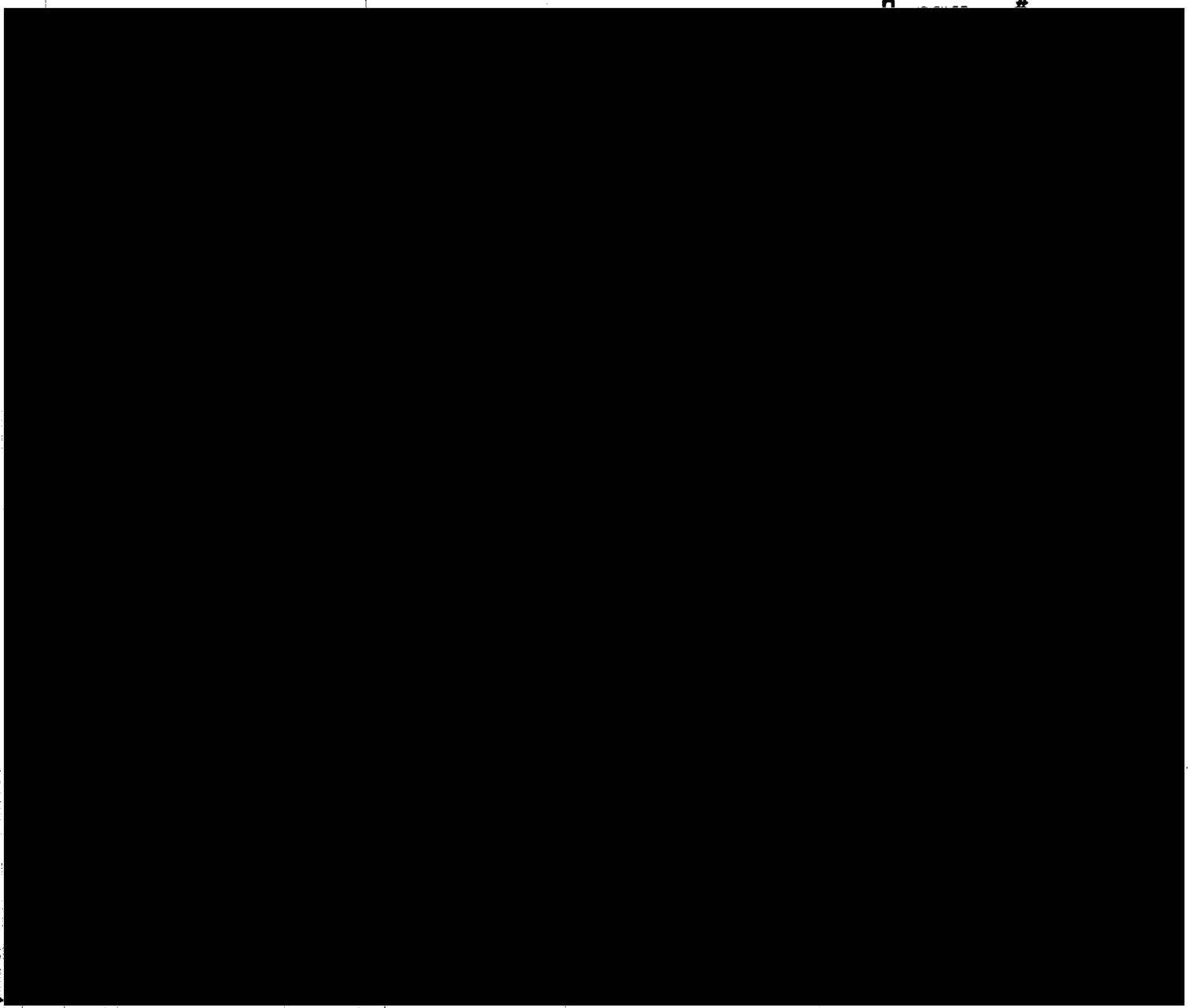
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NO INDEX

RETURN TO

PER

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DATE:

ORIG:

UNIT:

EXT:

RELEASING OFFICER

COORDINATING OFFICERS

AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

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OUTGOING MESSAGE

1		4		7	
2		5		8	
3		6		9	

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

AGE

COI

ACP

YOG

TPB

MRD

DCI

PAGE OF PAGES

OMF 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

6

CLASSIFICATION

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MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

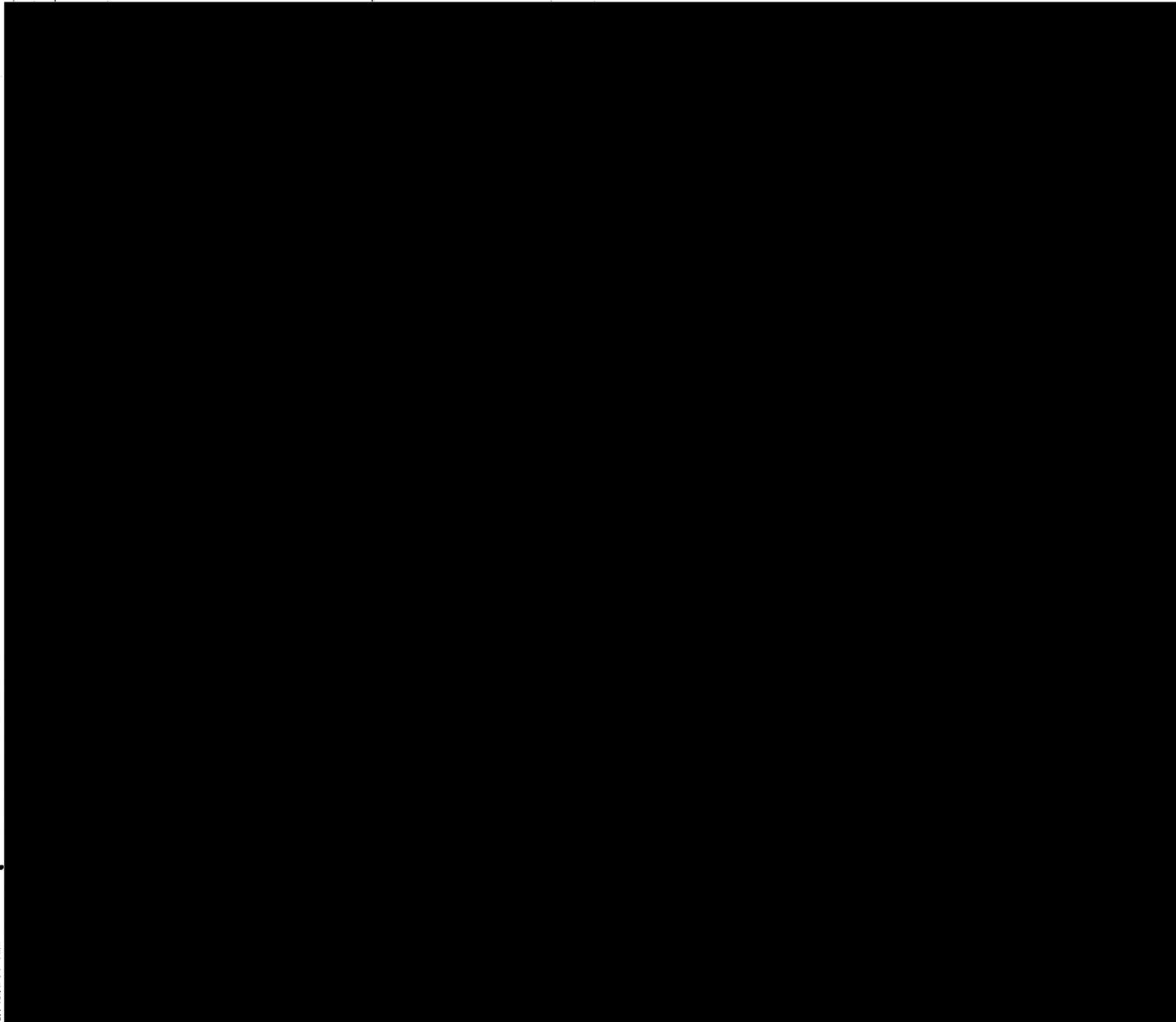
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MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF:

INFO: FILE

INDEX DISSEM BY:
 NO INDEX
 RETURN TO PER



DATE:
ORIG:
UNIT:
EXT:

RELEASING OFFICER

COORDINATING OFFICERS

AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

OUTGOING MESSAGE

CLASS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

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PAGE OF PAGES

7

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MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

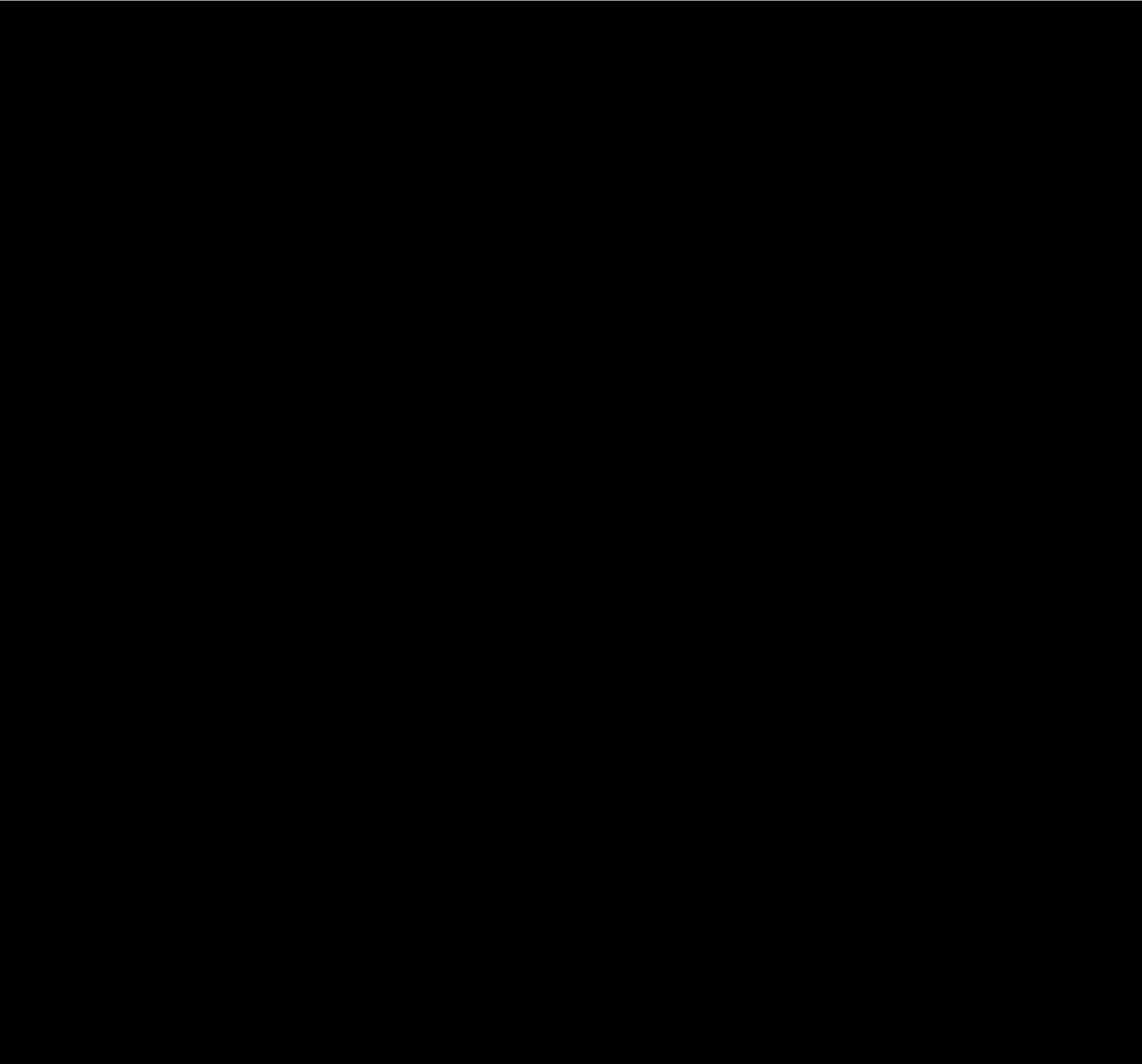
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MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF:

INFO: FILE

INDEX DISSEM BY:
 NO INDEX
 RETURN TO PER



DATE:
 ORIG:
 UNIT:
 EXT:

RELEASING OFFICER

COORDINATING OFFICERS

AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

OUTGOING MESSAGE

1	4	7
2	5	8
3	6	9

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

AGE

COI

ACP

TGS

TPE

MRO

DCI

PAGE OF PAGES

OMF 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

8

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MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

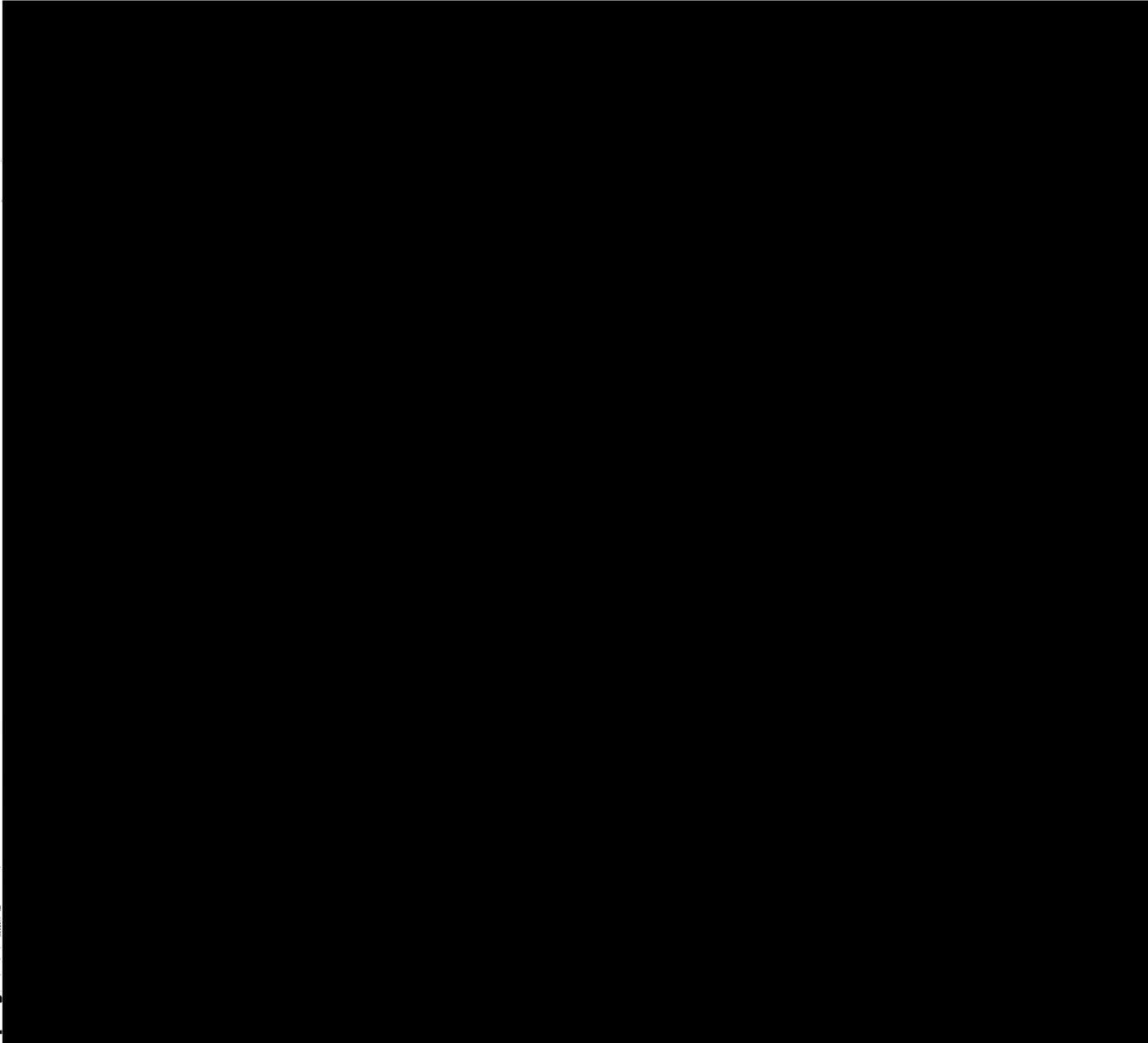
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MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF:

INFO: FILE

- INDEX DISSEM BY:
- NO INDEX
- RETURN TO PER



DATE:
 ORIG:
 UNIT:
 EXT:

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COORDINATING OFFICERS

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OUTGOING MESSAGE

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PAGE 9 OF PAGES

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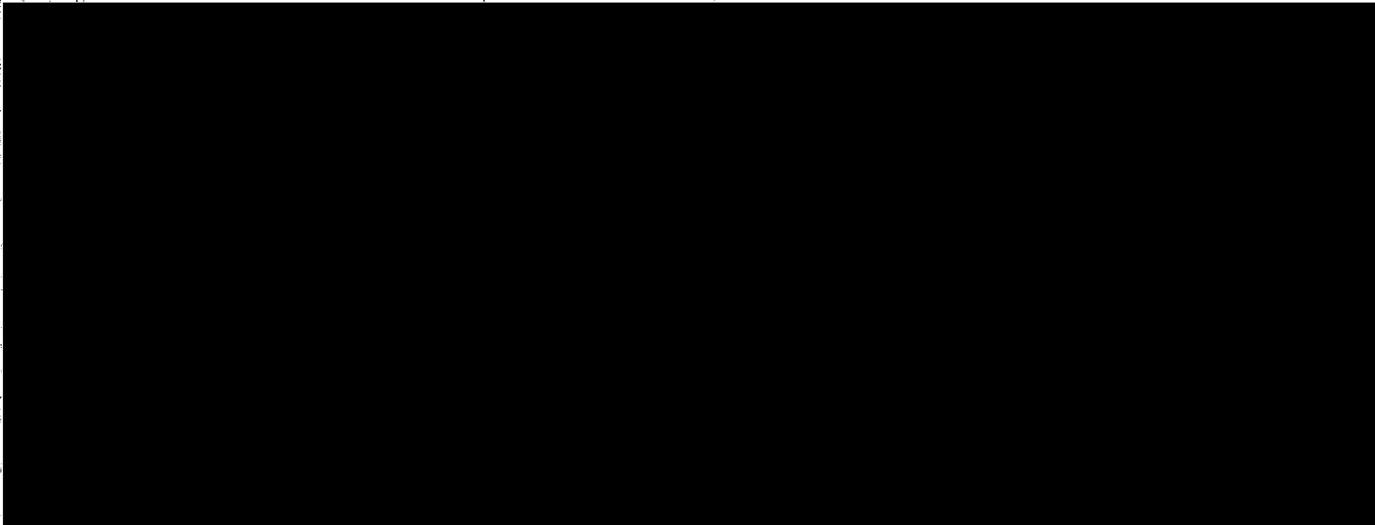
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MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

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