

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

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CIA-CI-BRIEF

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE(b)(1)  
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EUROPEAN BRIEF CI EB 76-032.4

1. PORTUGAL: POLITICAL PARTIES AND MILITARY LEADERS SIGNED AN AGREEMENT ON THURSDAY TO RETURN THE COUNTRY TO CIVILIAN RULE AFTER NEARLY TWO YEARS OF MILITARY DOMINATION.4

THE FINAL AGREEMENT IS A VICTORY FOR THE NON-COMMUNIST POLITICAL PARTIES, WHICH LAST YEAR WERE FORCED TO CONSENT TO MILITARY CONTROL OVER POLITICS FOR AT LEAST THREE YEARS. THE NEW PACT, UNDER DEBATE SINCE DECEMBER, CONFIRMS THE SHIFT TO THE RIGHT THAT HAS TAKEN PLACE SINCE A LEFTIST MILITARY UPRISING WAS PUT DOWN BY CONSERVATIVE OFFICERS ON NOVEMBER 25.4

THE LAST-MINUTE DELAY OVER THE ADDITION OF A PREAMBLE THAT NON-COMMUNIST PARTY LEADERS REJECTED AS "MARXIST" WAS RESOLVED ON WEDNESDAY WHEN MILITARY AUTHORITIES AGREED TO STRIKE THE ENTIRE PASSAGE.4

4 NEGOTIATIONS HAD EARLIER SNAGGED ON THE CENTRIST POPULAR  
 3 DEMOCRATS' INSISTENCE THAT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS FOLLOW  
 2 CLOSELY ON LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS. THE FINAL DRAFT SPECIFIES  
 1 THAT A NEW PRESIDENT WILL BE CHOSEN BY DIRECT POPULAR ELECTION

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NOT LESS THAN TWO MONTHS AFTER THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IS SELECTED.

THE ASSEMBLY WILL BE ELECTED ON APRIL 25, WHICH MEANS THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION COULD TAKE PLACE IN LATE JUNE.

THE COMPLETE TEXT OF THE DOCUMENT IS NOT YET AVAILABLE, BUT PRELIMINARY REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL BE GIVEN WIDE-REACHING POWERS TO OVERSEE THE PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT. SEVERAL POLITICAL PARTIES ARE EXPECTED TO SUPPORT THE CANDIDACY OF A MILITARY OFFICER TO PREVENT DISSENSION AMONG THE PARTIES AND TO SMOOTH THE TRANSITION TO A COMPLETELY CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT.

THE ONLY POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITIES LEFT TO THE MILITARY WILL BE TO ADVISE THE PRESIDENT AND TO GUARANTEE THE OPERATION OF THE ELECTED GOVERNMENT. THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, WHICH HAS BEEN THE TOP DECISION-MAKING BODY FOR NEARLY A YEAR, WILL BE LIMITED TO QUESTIONING THE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF LAWS, ADVISING THE PRESIDENT IF HE DECIDES TO DISSOLVE THE LEGISLATURE, AND AUTHORIZING DECLARATIONS OF WAR. THE COUNCIL WILL, HOWEVER, RETAIN CHIEF JURISDICTION OVER INTERNAL MILITARY

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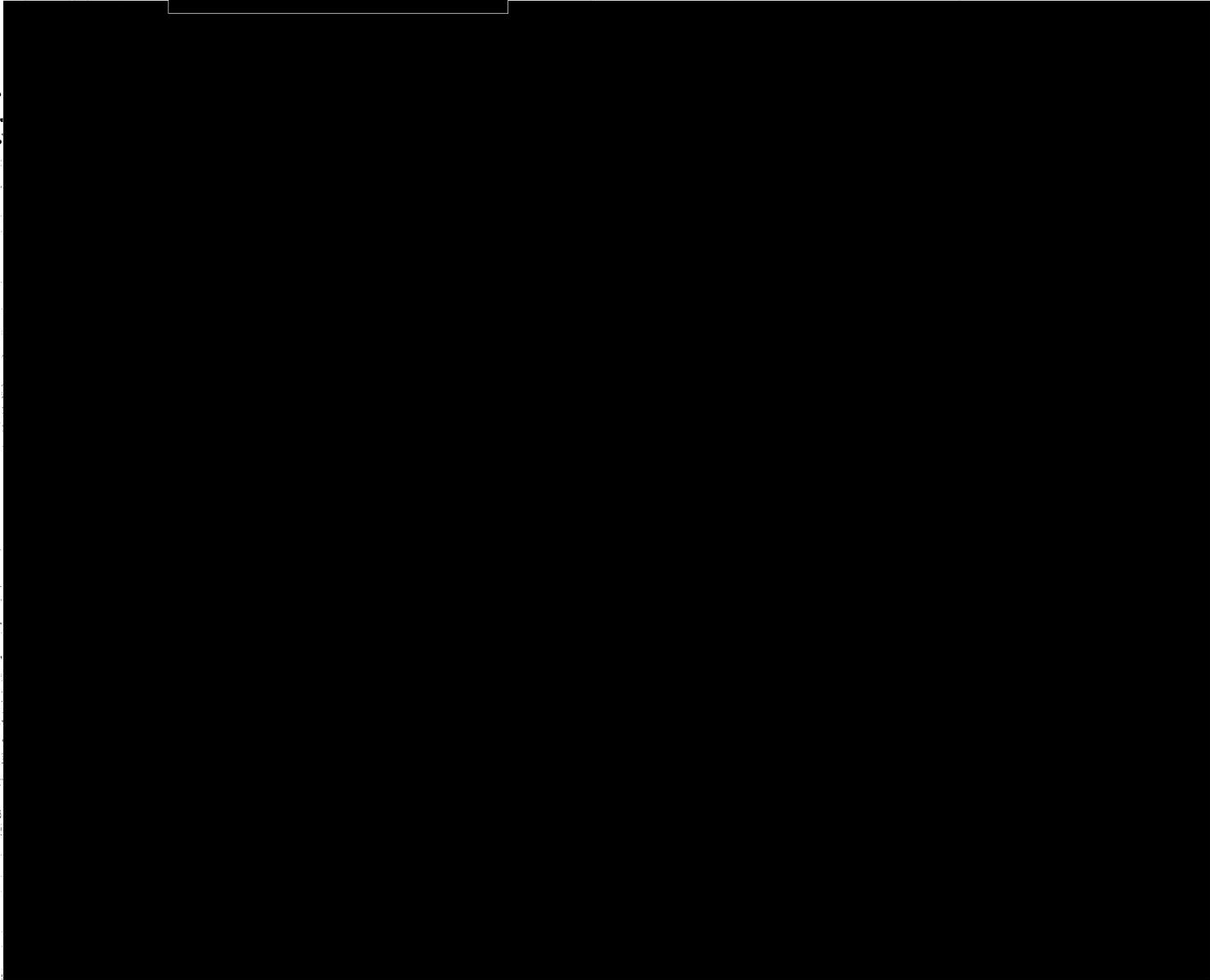
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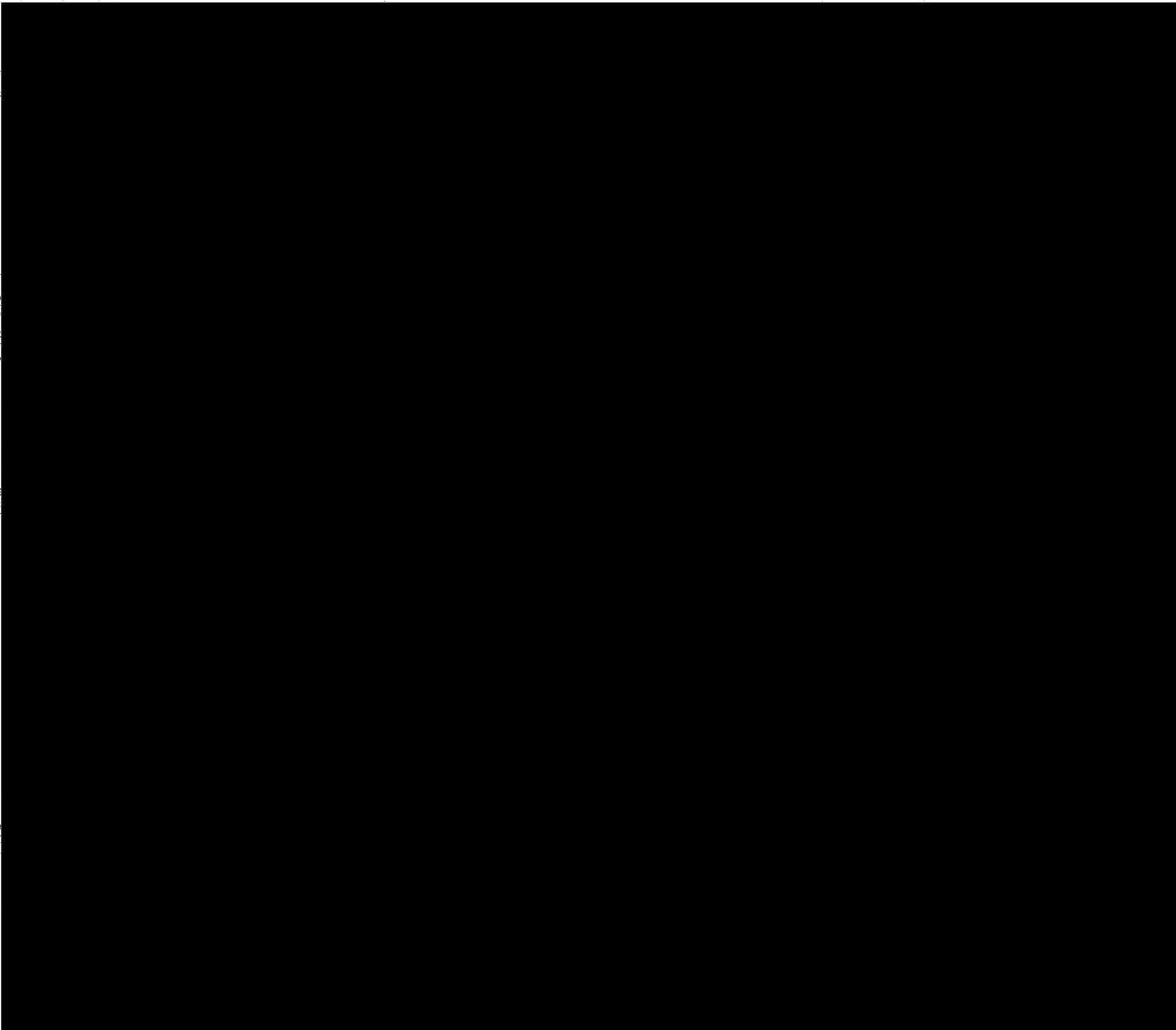
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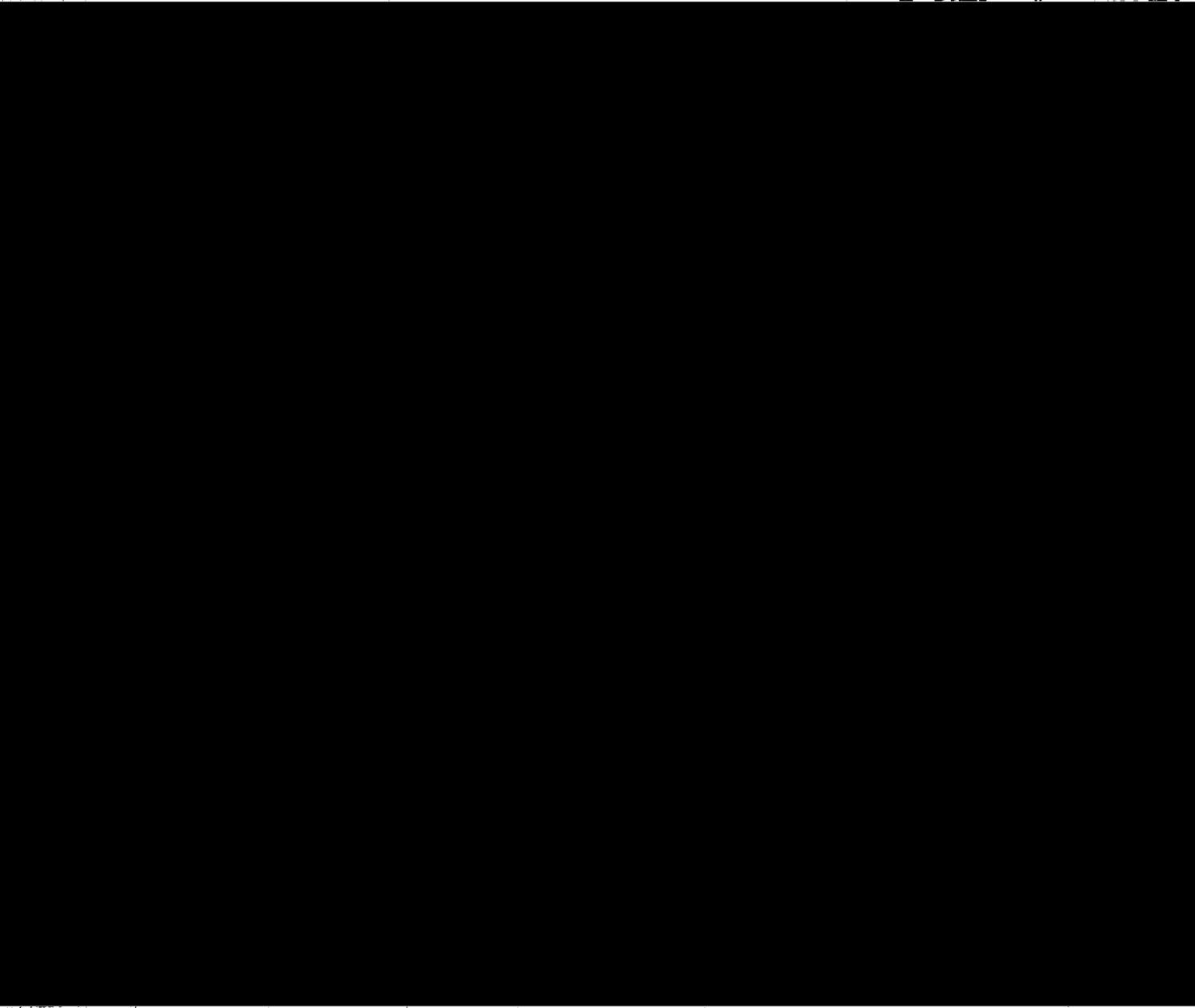
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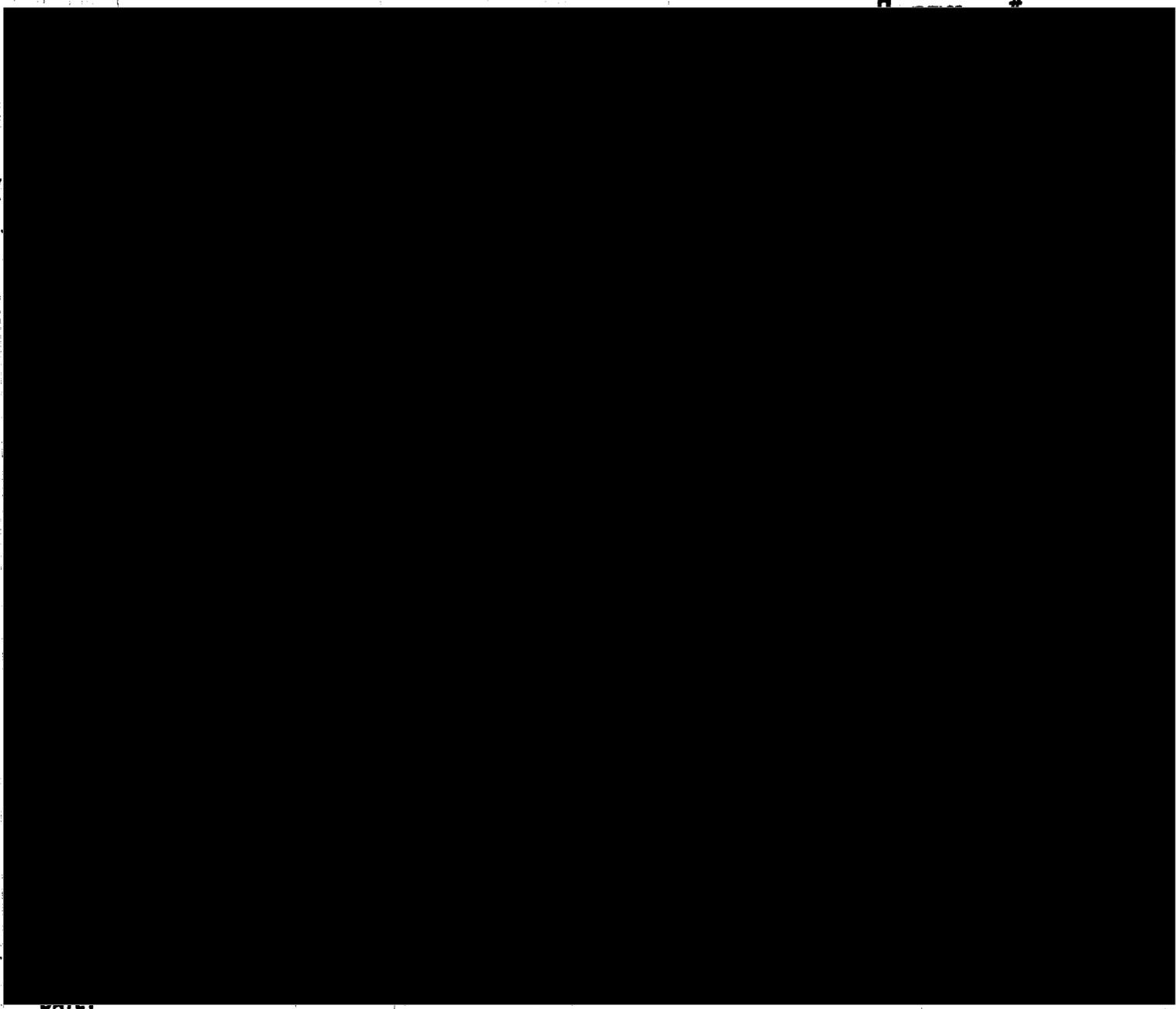
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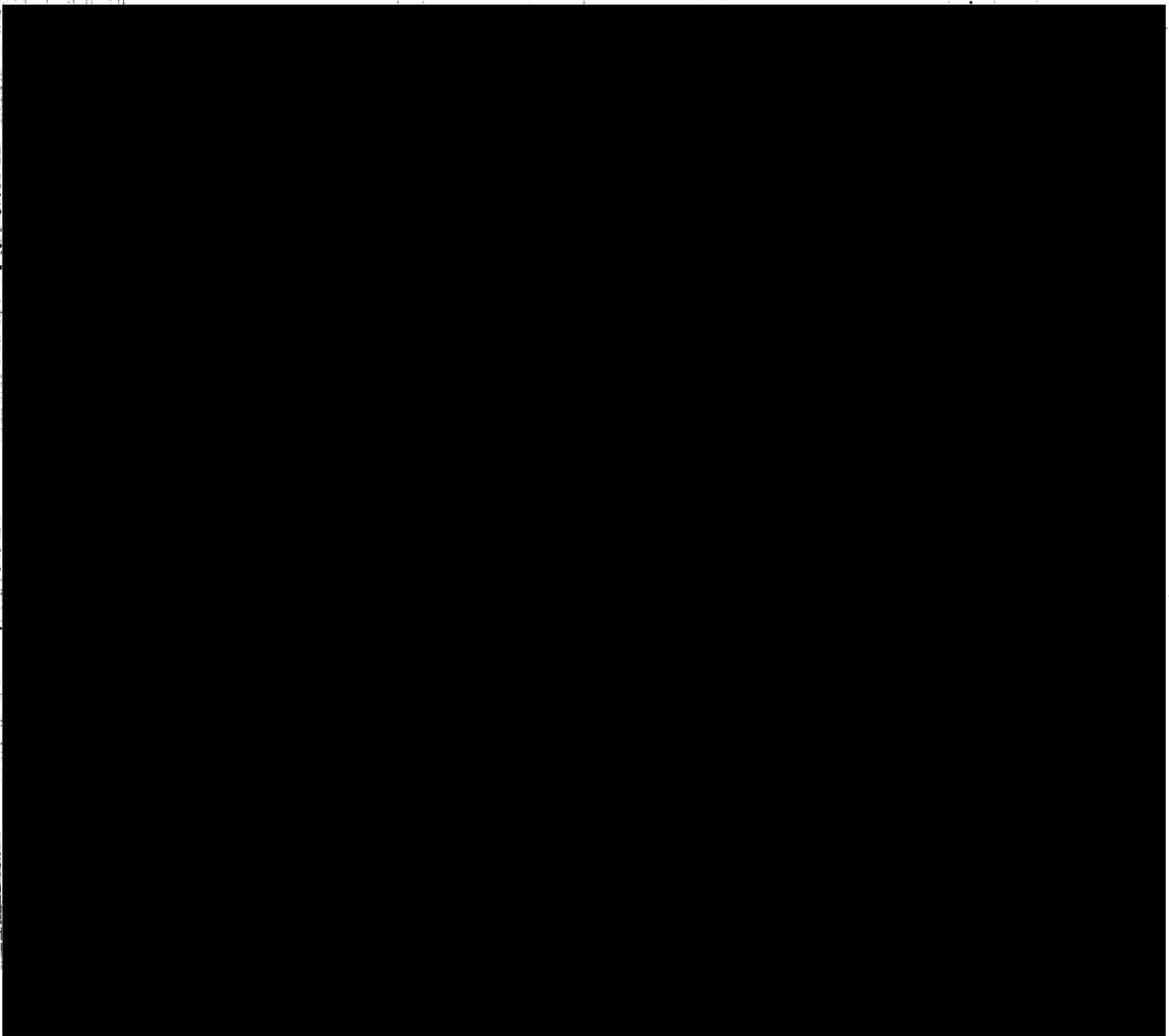
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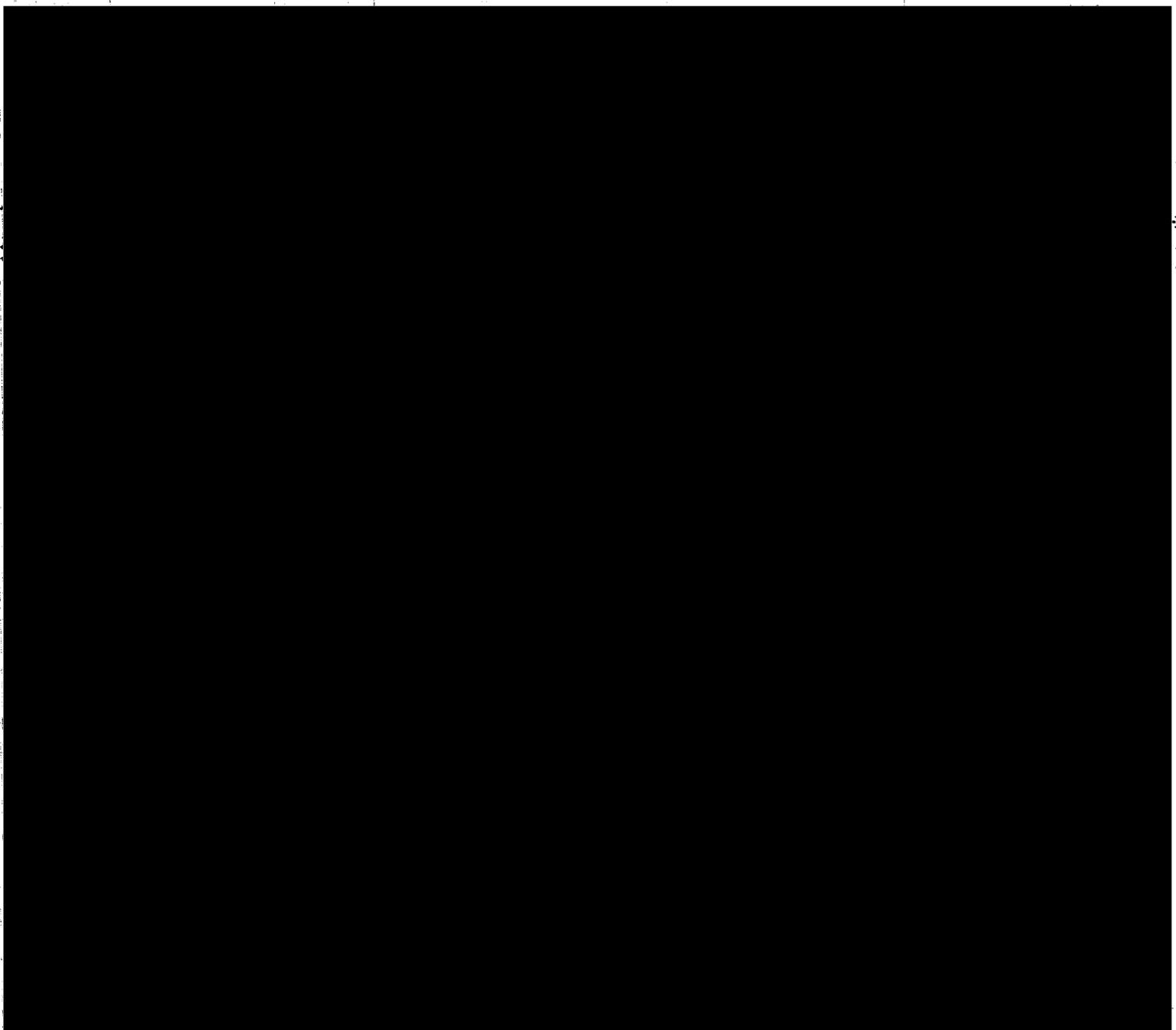
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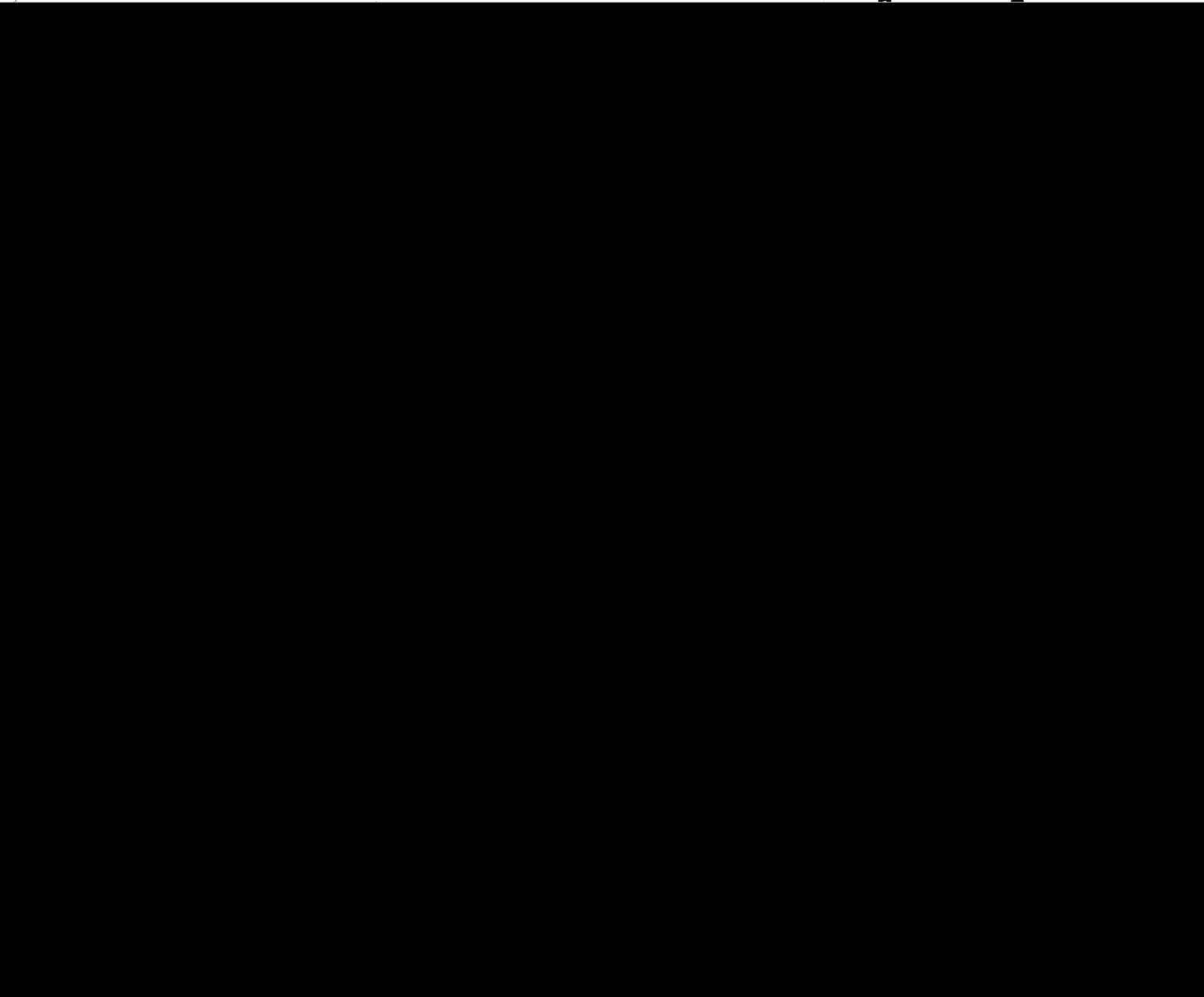
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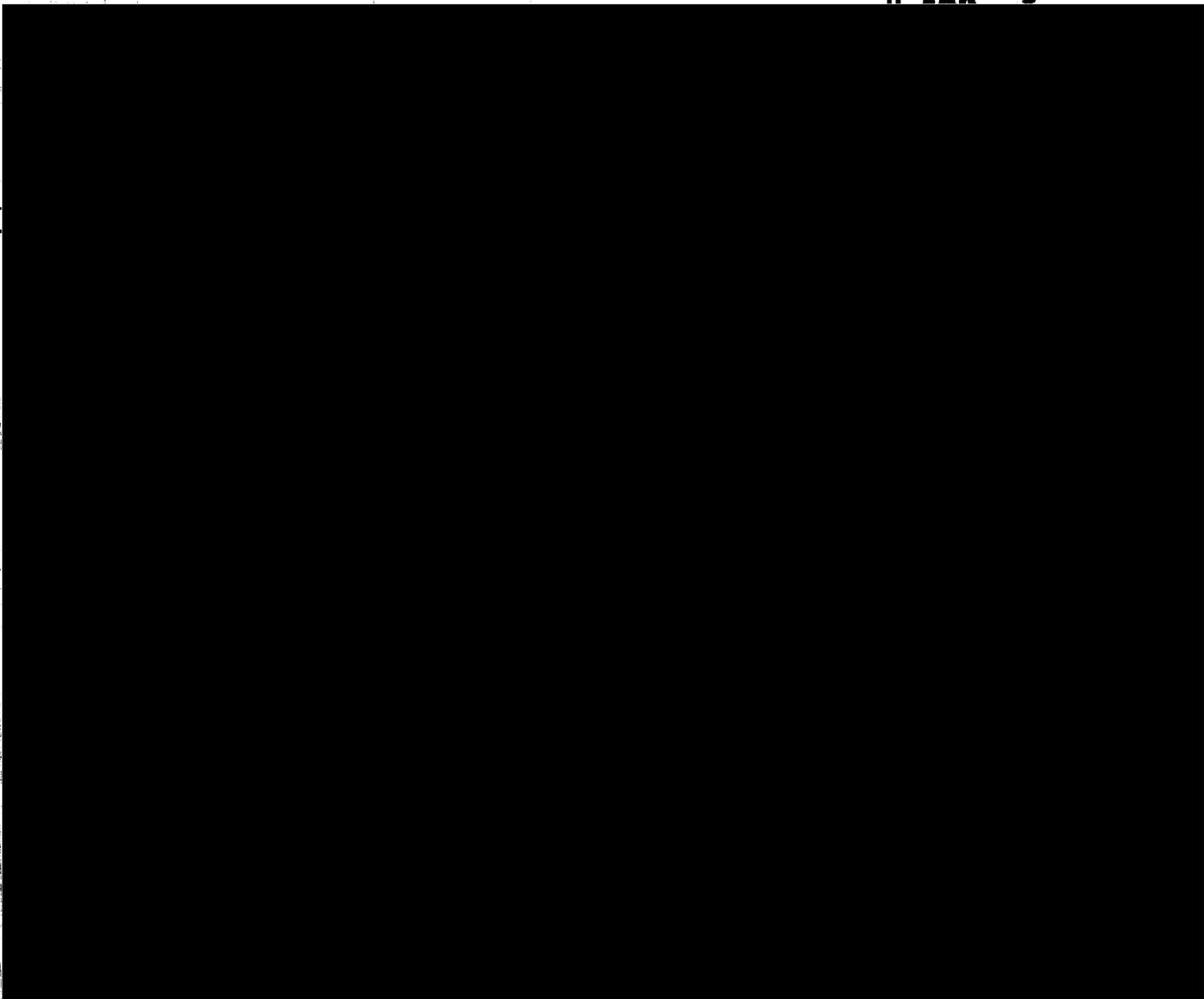
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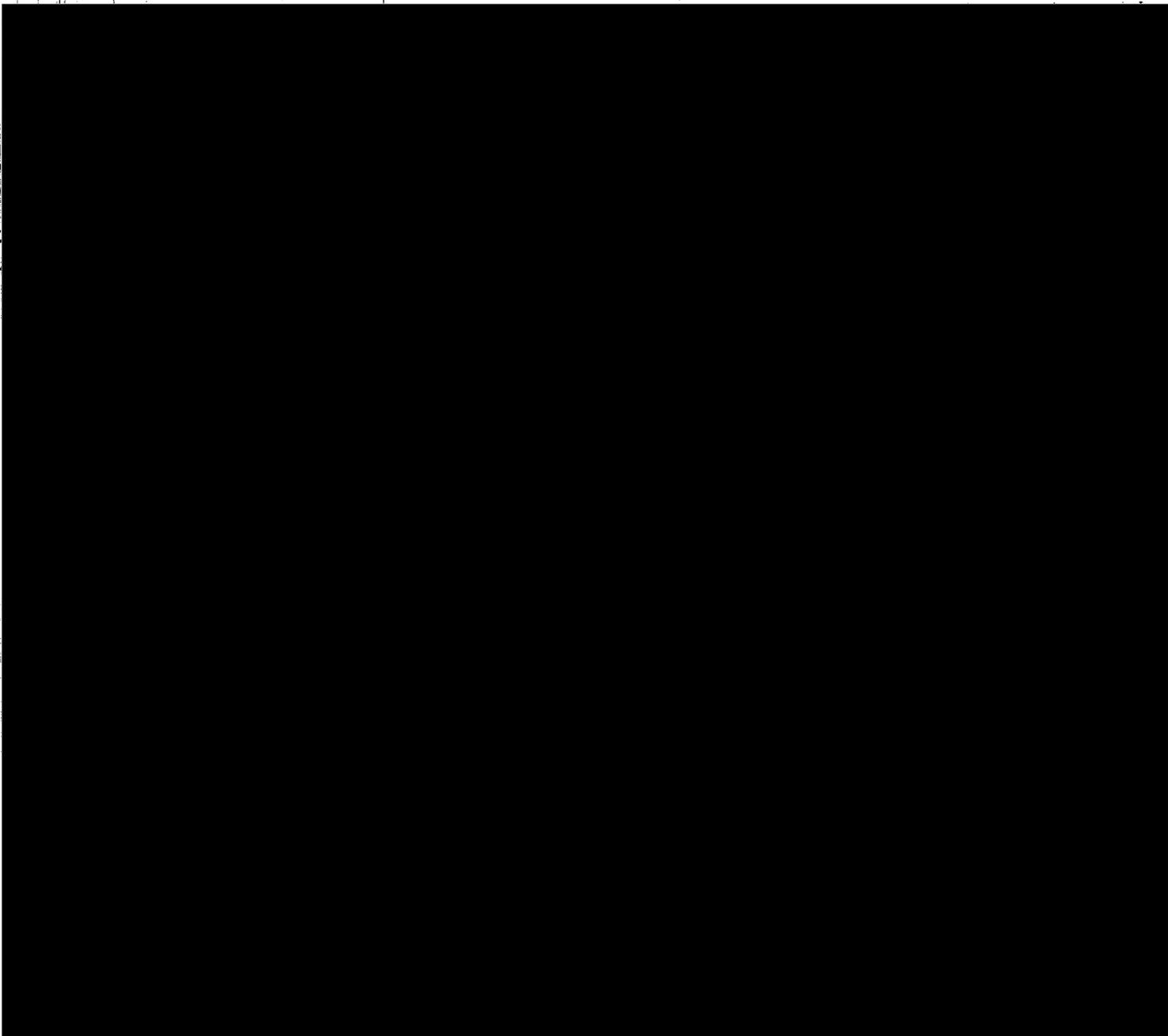
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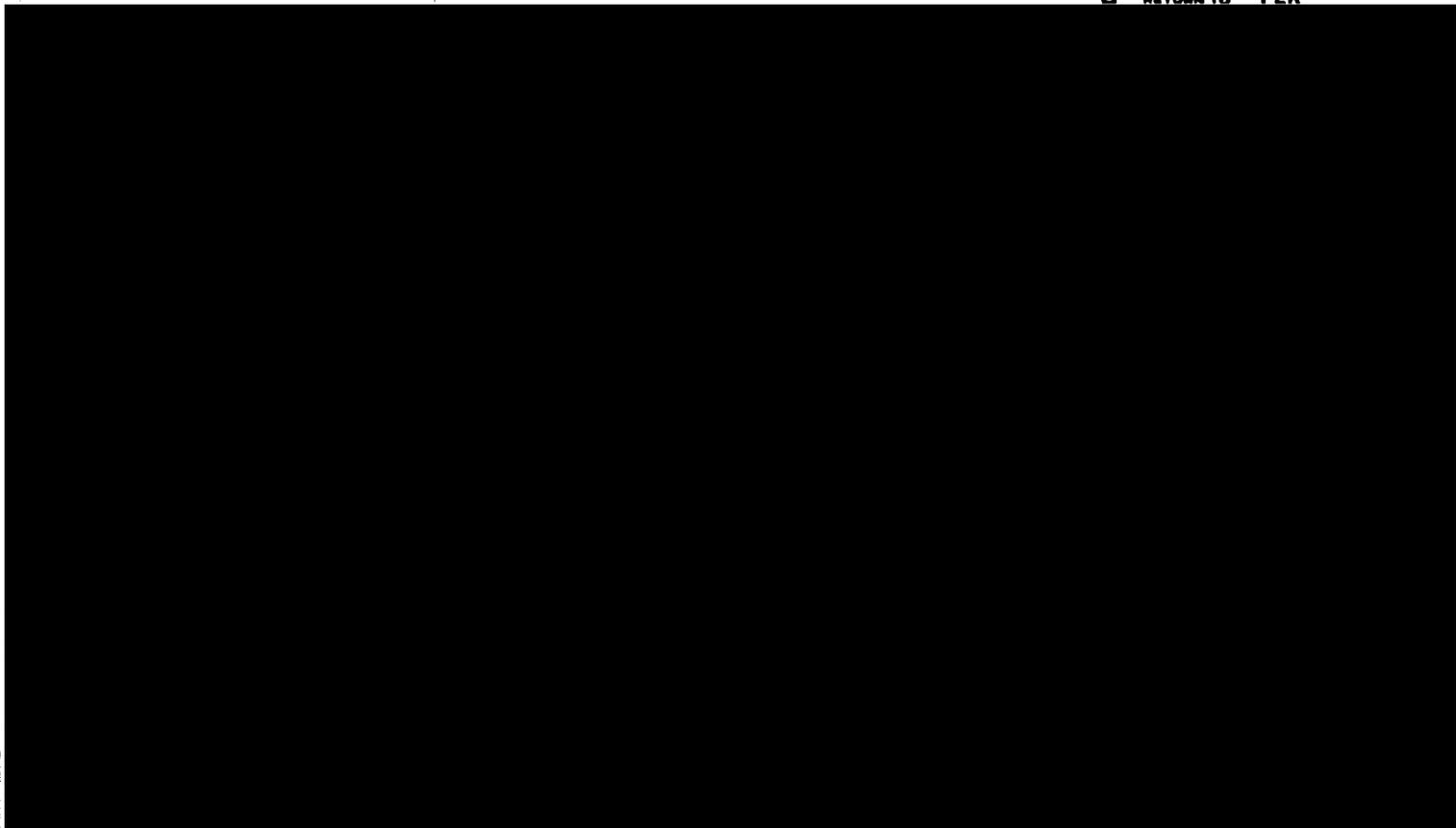
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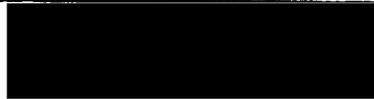
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