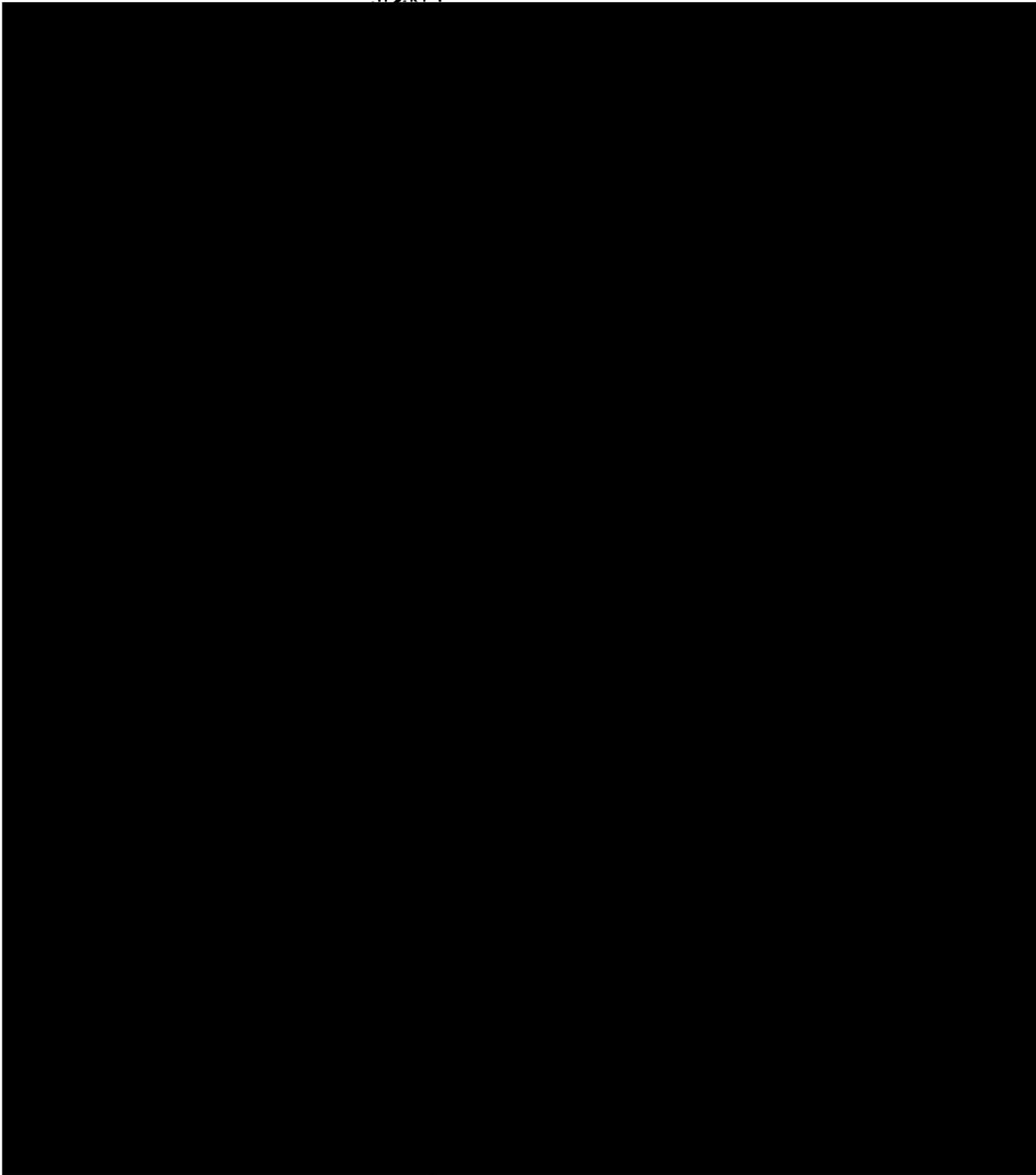


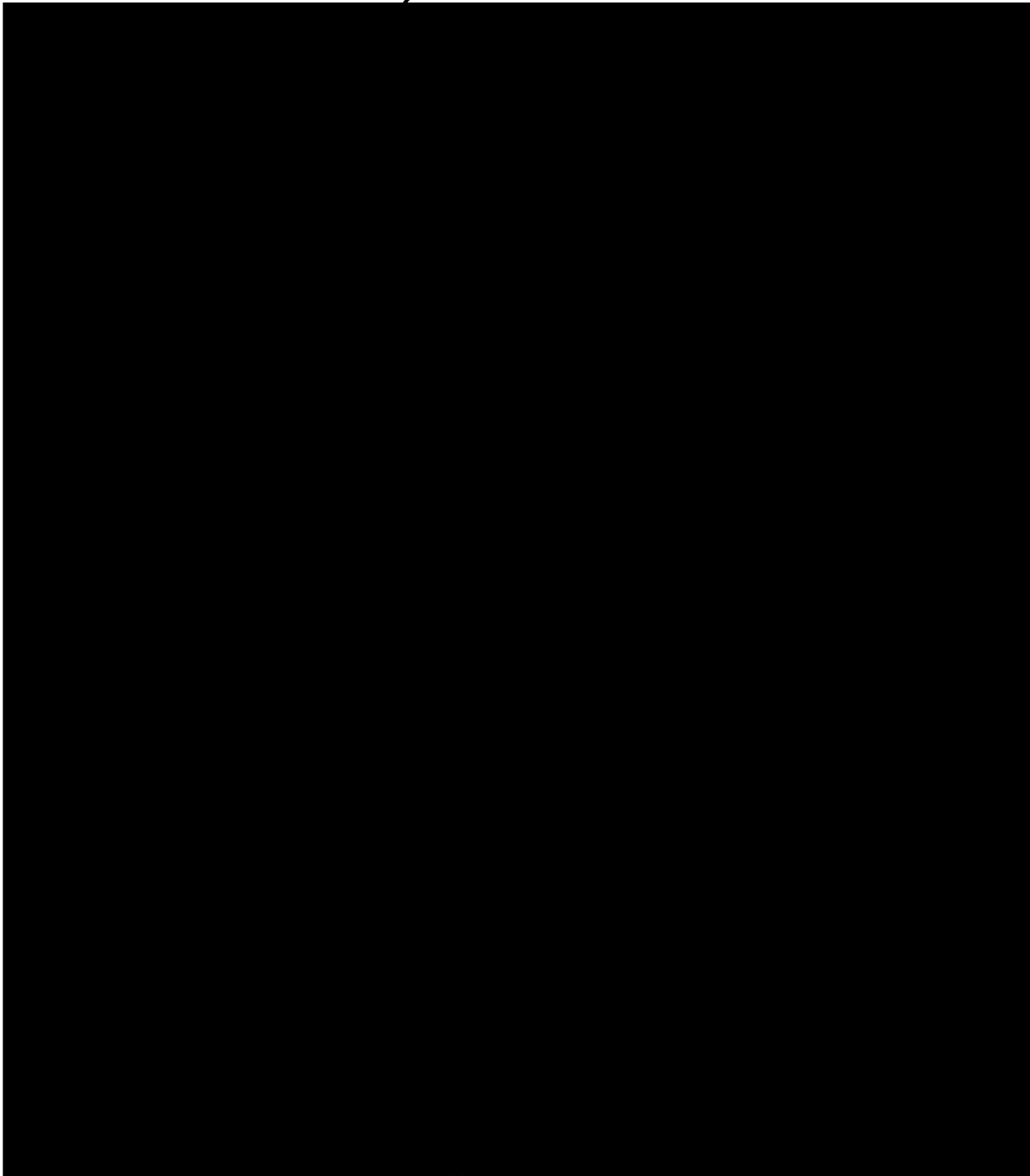
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FROM: DDI/O/CPAS.

BODY

SUBJECT: HERewith SUPPORT CABLE FOR LATIN AMERICA BRIEF OCPAS LAB 90/254 FOR 31 OCTOBER 1990.

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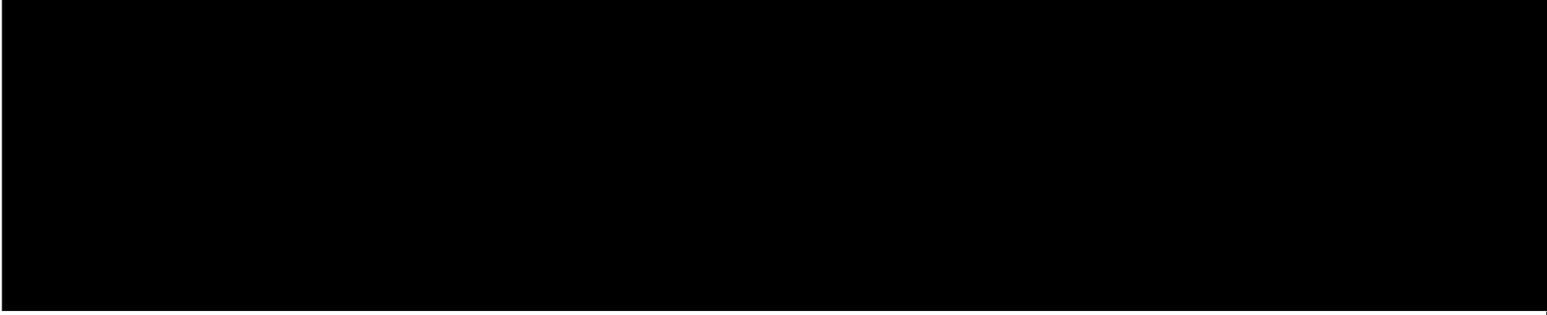
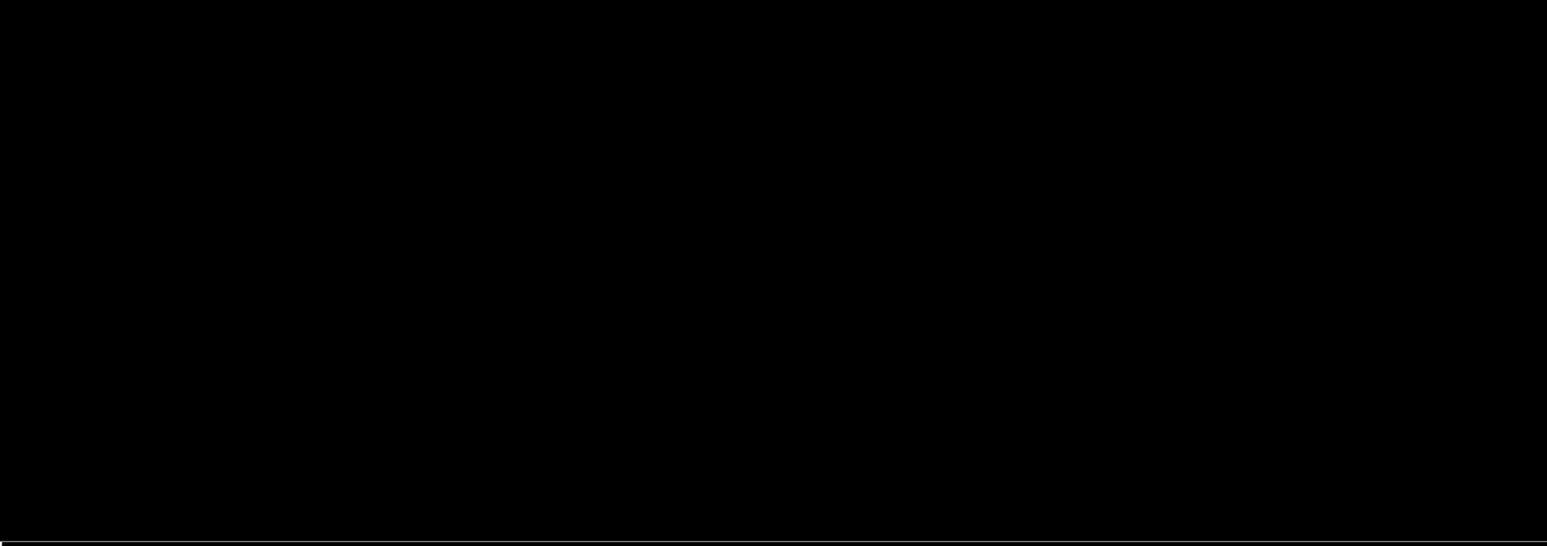
1. HAITI: POLITICAL POLARIZATION INCREASING [REDACTED]

1. HAITI: POLITICAL POLARIZATION INCREASING [REDACTED]

THE PRESIDENTIAL BIDS OF LEFTIST PRIEST ARISTIDE AND FORMER DUVALIERIST MINISTER LAFONTANT HAVE HEIGHTENED MILITARY RESTIVENESS AND PROSPECTS FOR PARTISAN VIOLENCE. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT ARISTIDE'S LAST-MINUTE DECISION TO ENTER THE CROWDED FIELD AND COUNTER LAFONTANT LED TO A SURGE IN VOTER REGISTRATION, WHICH NOW EXCEEDS 70 PERCENT OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS. LAFONTANT, WHO EXPECTS TO BE PREVENTED FROM RUNNING UNDER A CONSTITUTIONAL BAN ON DUVALIERIST PARTICIPATION, REPORTEDLY IS ORGANIZING A MASSIVE PROTEST. [REDACTED]

COMMENT: THE PLOTTERS ALMOST CERTAINLY ARE OVERESTIMATING ARISTIDE'S PROSPECTS. SUCH MISPERCEPTIONS PROBABLY WILL MAKE MANY OFFICERS MORE TOLERANT OF FAR-RIGHT VIOLENCE AGAINST THE LEFT AND LESS WILLING TO DEFEND THE DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION. IF LAFONTANT'S DEMONSTRATION BECOMES VIOLENT, AS IS LIKELY, IT MIGHT PROVIDE CONSPIRATORS A PRETEXT FOR SEIZING POWER. [REDACTED]

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