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25 January 1966

SPACE EVENT REPORT

LUNA-6 -- 8 JUNE 1965

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
DIRECTORATE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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SPACE EVENT REPORT

LUNA-6 -- 8 JUNE 1965

SUMMARY

Luna-6, launched from the Tyuratam Missile Test Range [redacted] on 8 June 1965, failed in its mission to soft-land on the moon as the result of the failure of the midcourse-correction engine to shut off on command. Luna-6 is the eighteenth Soviet lunar probe attempt, of which only two are believed to have been completely successful.

Luna-6 was injected into a 65-degree near-earth parking orbit by the standard Soviet lunar and interplanetary launch vehicle [redacted] The probe was successfully ejected from parking orbit onto a lunar trajectory [redacted]

Thirty-three hours after launch the midcourse correction engine was ignited. When the engine failed to shut off, [redacted] causing the probe to fly short of the moon by 86,000 nautical miles, and putting it into orbit about the earth. [redacted]

DATA

Soviet Press Announcements

[redacted] Moscow, TASS International Service in English, 1053Z, 8 June 1965.

(Text) A space rocket was launched toward the moon from the Soviet Union today.

The Luna-6 automatic station is proceeding along a trajectory which is close to the calculated one. The flight of the automatic station to the moon for the trajectory selected will continue for about three and a half days. The launching was effected by means of a multistage rocket. The last stage of the rocket was first put in an intermediate orbit of an artificial earth satellite, and then it launched the automatic station, according to the fixed program, onto its trajectory toward the moon.

[redacted] Moscow, TASS International Service in English, 1053Z, 8 June 1965.

(Text) A space rocket was launched in the Soviet Union on 8 June under the program for the study of outer space and planets of the solar system.

The space rocket carries an automatic Luna-6 station, weighing 1,442 kilograms, which is provided with measuring and scientific instrumentation. The launching was carried out by means of a multistage rocket. The last stage of the rocket was first put in an intermediate orbit of an artificial earth satellite, and then it launched, according to the fixed program, an automatic station onto the trajectory toward the moon.

The flight of the automatic station to the moon for the trajectory selected will last about three and a half days. The switching-on of the telemetric measuring and scientific instrumentation will be done automatically, in conformity with the flight program, and also on radio command from the earth.

Tracking of the automatic Luna-6 station, determination of its trajectory parameters, and reception on the ground of scientific information will be effected by a special measuring complex. The automatic Luna-6 station is moving along a trajectory which is close to the calculated one.

By 1300 hours Moscow time on 8 June, Luna-6 was 21,000 kilometers from the earth over the ground point with the coordinates of 160 degrees 21 minutes East Longitude and 36 degrees 53 minutes North Latitude. All the flight instrumentation of the automatic Luna-6 station is functioning normally. The coordination and computing center is processing all the incoming data.

[redacted]: Moscow, TASS International Service in English, 1225Z, 9 June 1965.

(Text) The automatic station Luna-6, launched in the Soviet Union on 8 June, is continuing its flight to the moon. In the four communication periods with the station thus far, information has been received about its trajectory, the functioning of the onboard systems, and also scientific information.

Radio contact with the station is stable. All systems on board are functioning normally.

At 1600 hours Moscow time today, 9 June, Luna-6 will be 230,000 kilometers from the earth above the point on the earth's surface with the coordinates of 138 degrees 28 minutes East Longitude and 8 degrees 54 minutes South Latitude.

Further periods of radio communication with the probe will be according to schedule.

[redacted]: Moscow, TASS International Service in English, 1506Z, 10 June 1965.

(Text) The automatic Luna-6 station will pass at a distance of 160,000 kilometers from the moon. During a correction maneuver on 9 June, an engine was successfully started and operated, but it was not possible to switch it off. As a result the flight's trajectory deviated from the planned course.

Twelve communication sessions were held with the automatic station Luna-6 on 8 and 9 June. In the process of these sessions, on signals from the earth a check of the systems of the stations was effected, trajectory measurements were conducted, and telemetric information received.

During this period experiments were made for an improvement in the work of a number of systems of the station. The data received showed that the systems of radio control of the trajectory, radio control, and independent control guarantee normal function of the station. It was established that the astral orientation systems made it possible to effect all necessary maneuvers of the station. The measurements showed that the flight trajectory lies within the calculated deviations.

Toward the end of the day 9 June, during its correction maneuver, the Luna-6 systems performed normally the orientation, starting, and operation of the engine, but the command for switching off the engine was not fulfilled and the station's trajectory deviated from the planned course.

The station will pass at a distance of 160,000 kilometers from the moon.

There has been stable radio communication with the station. The testing of the station's systems as well as scientific experiments are continuing.

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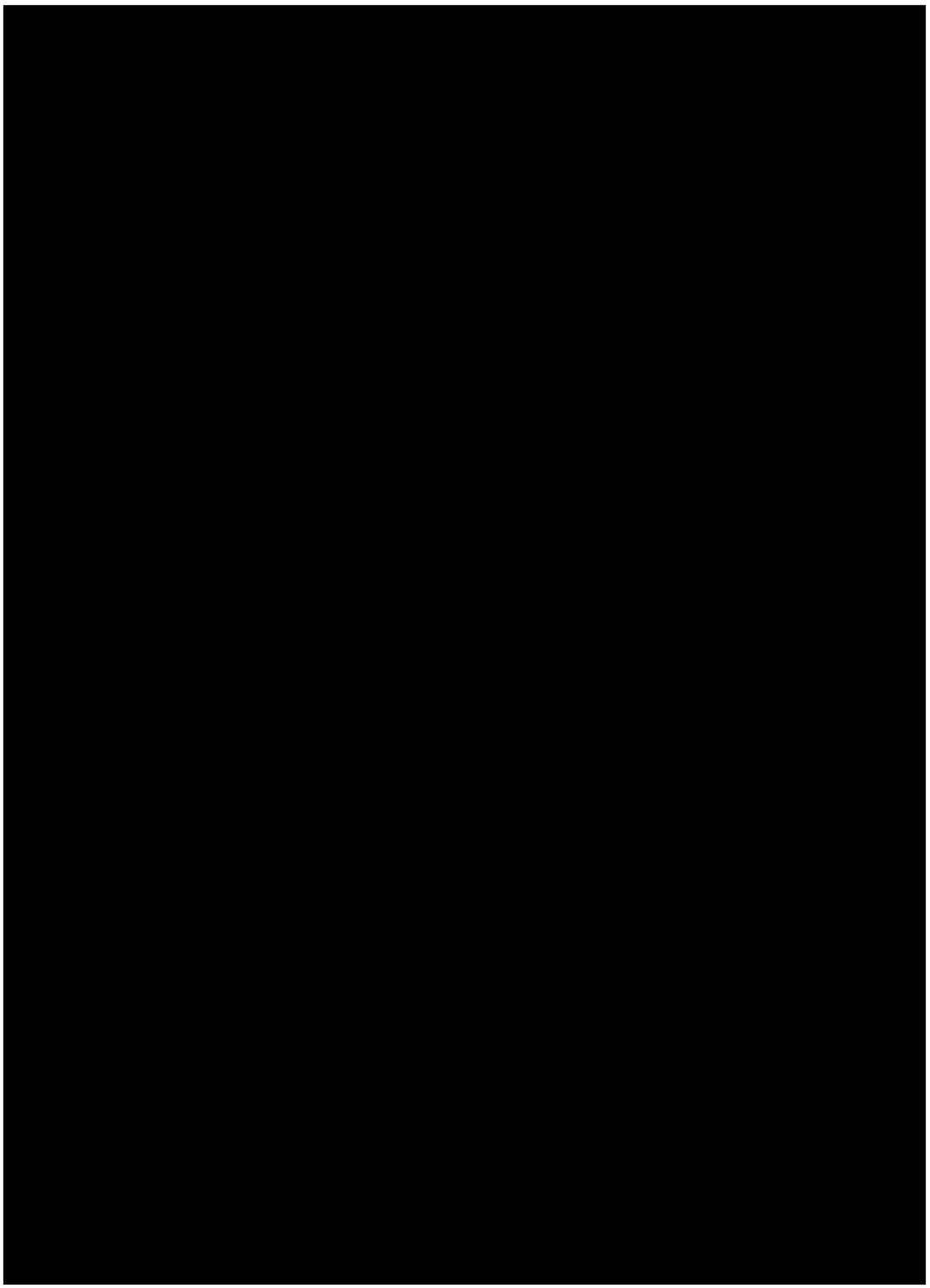

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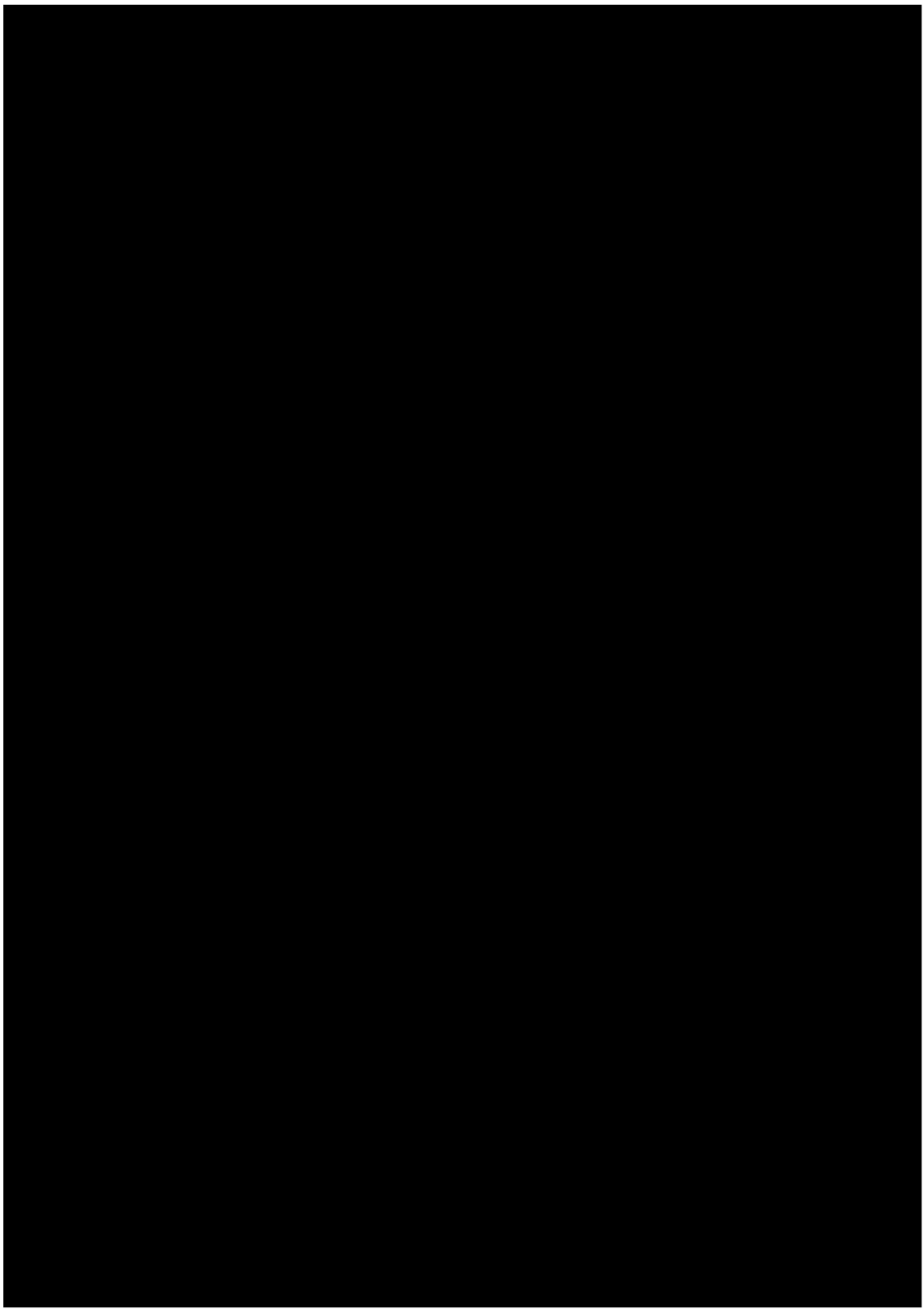

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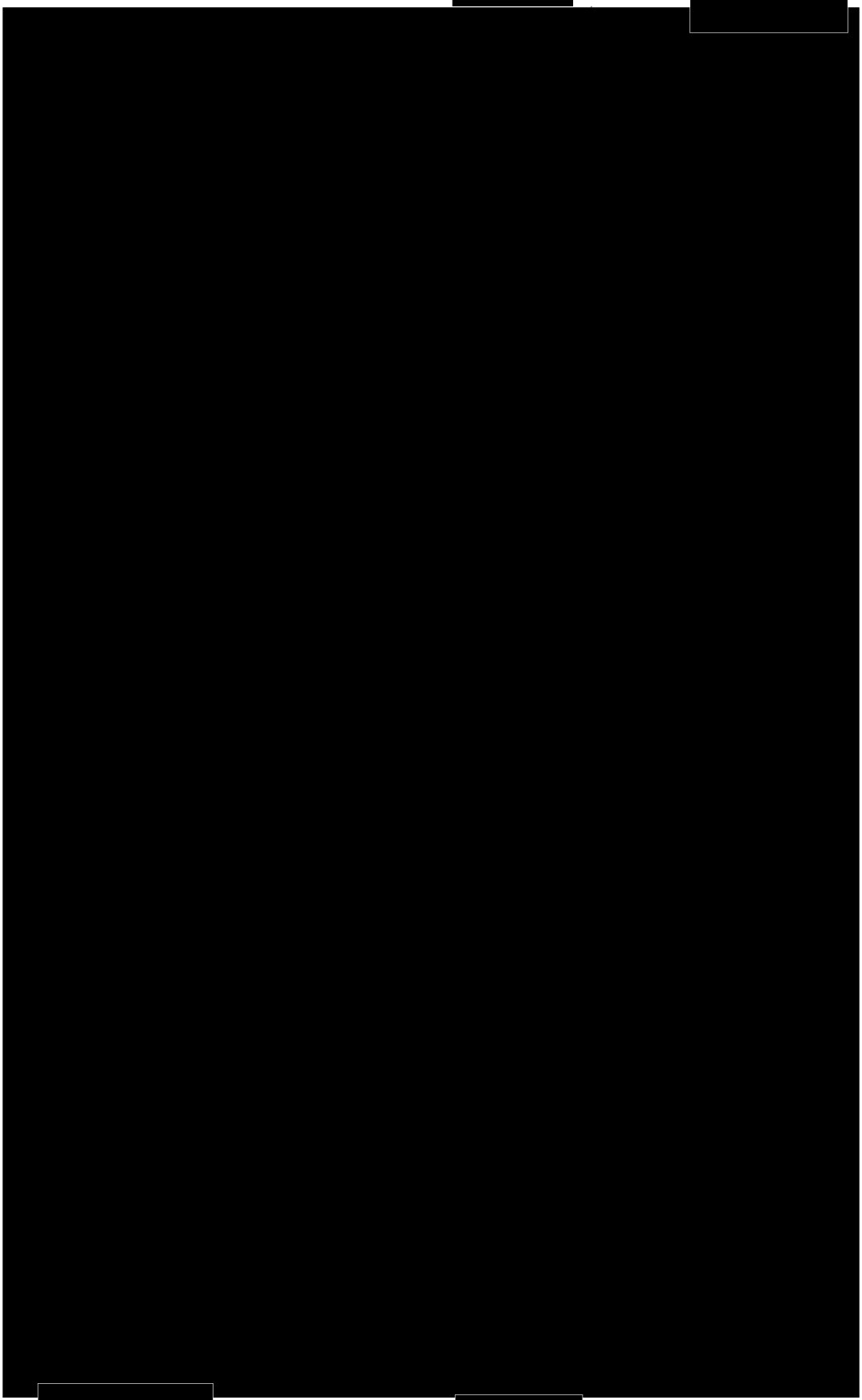

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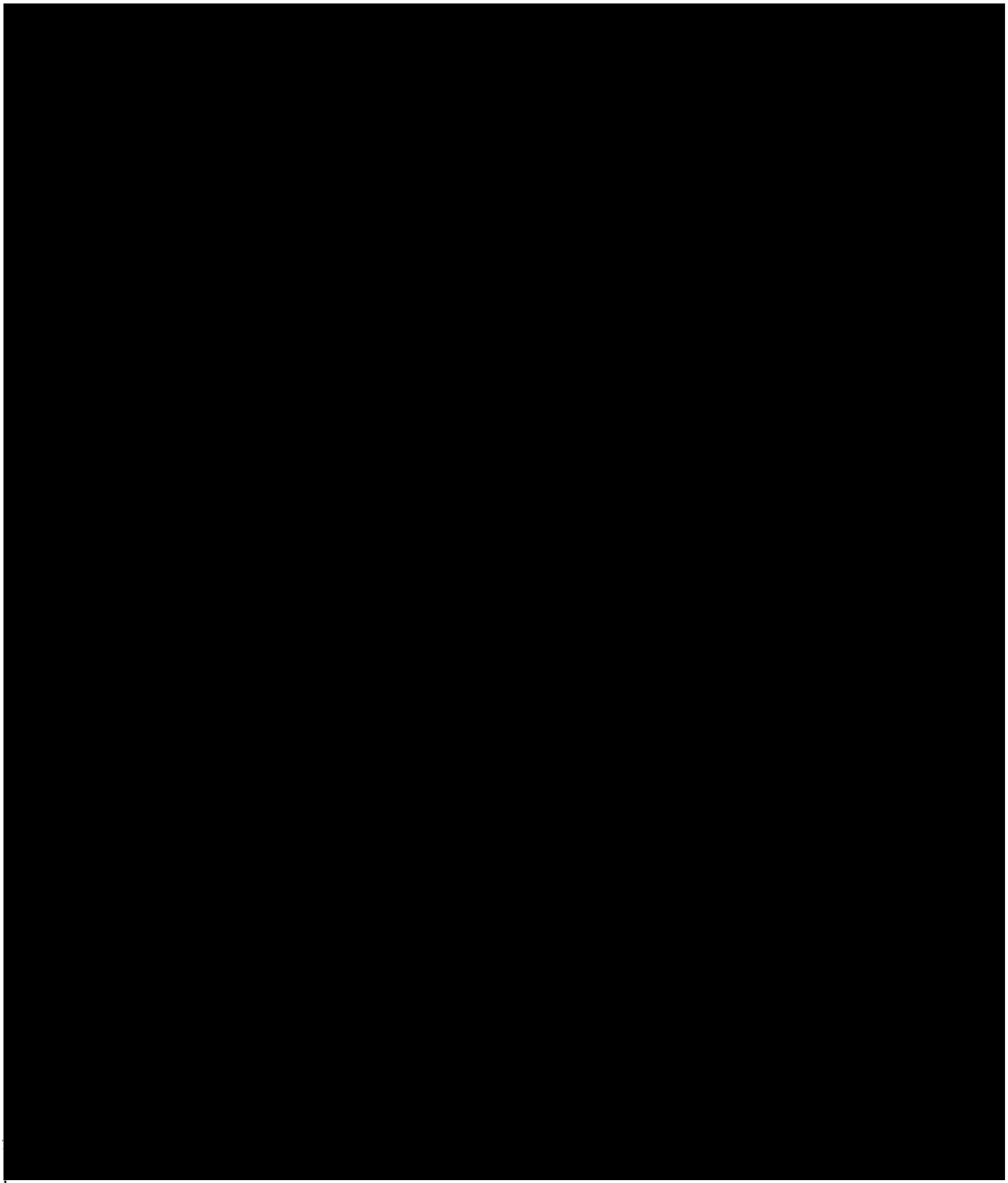

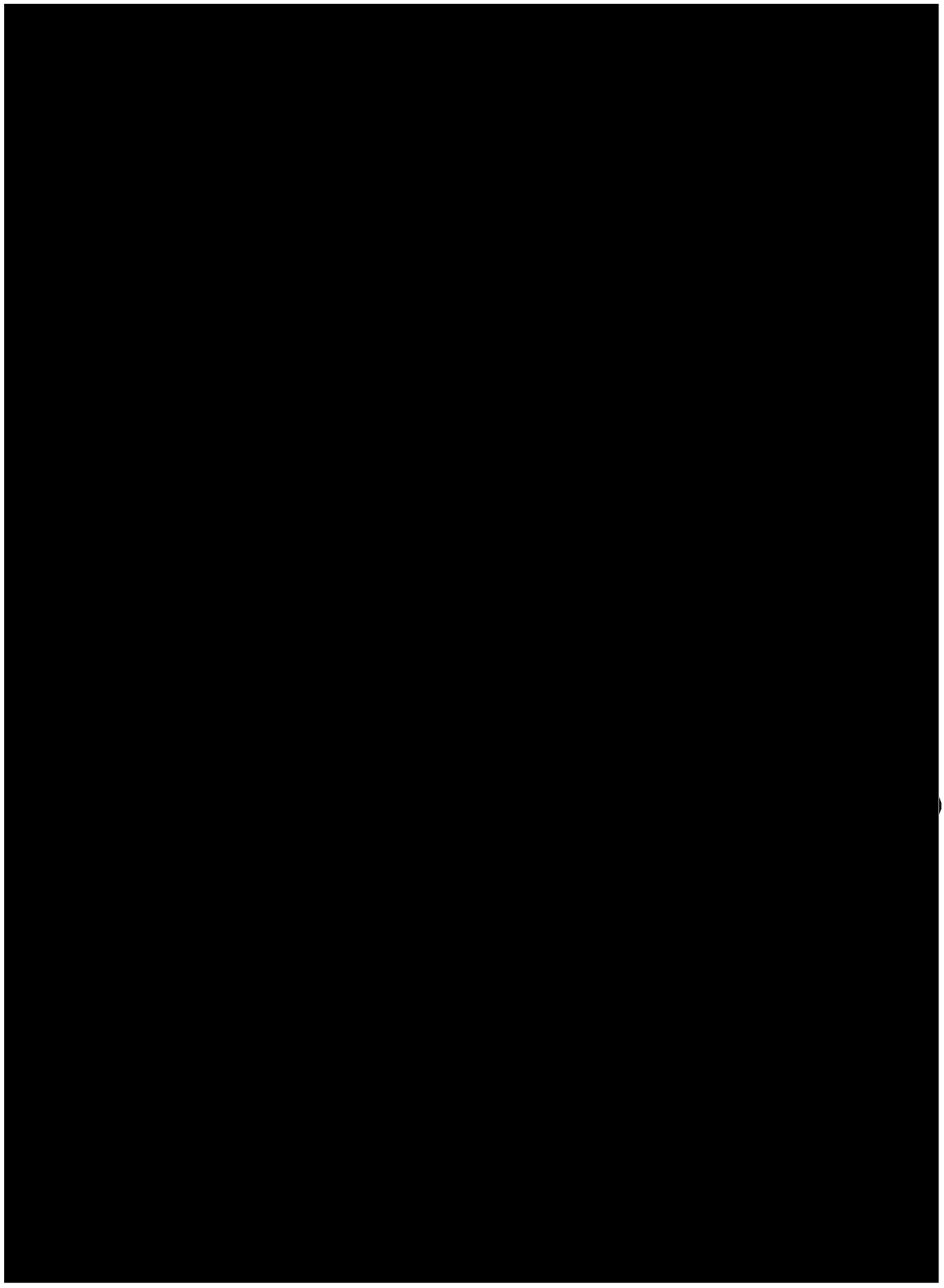

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