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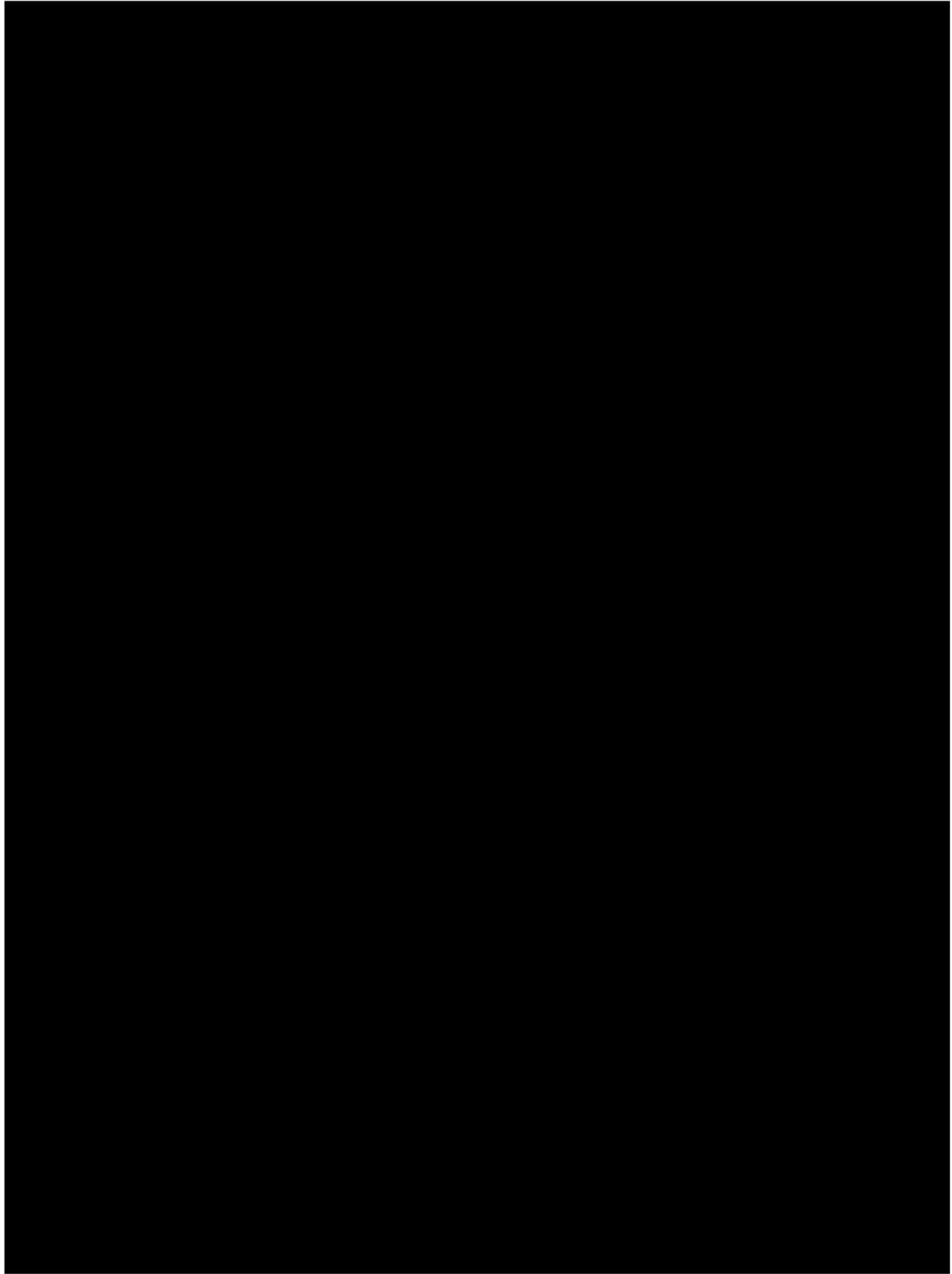
WEEKLY REVIEW

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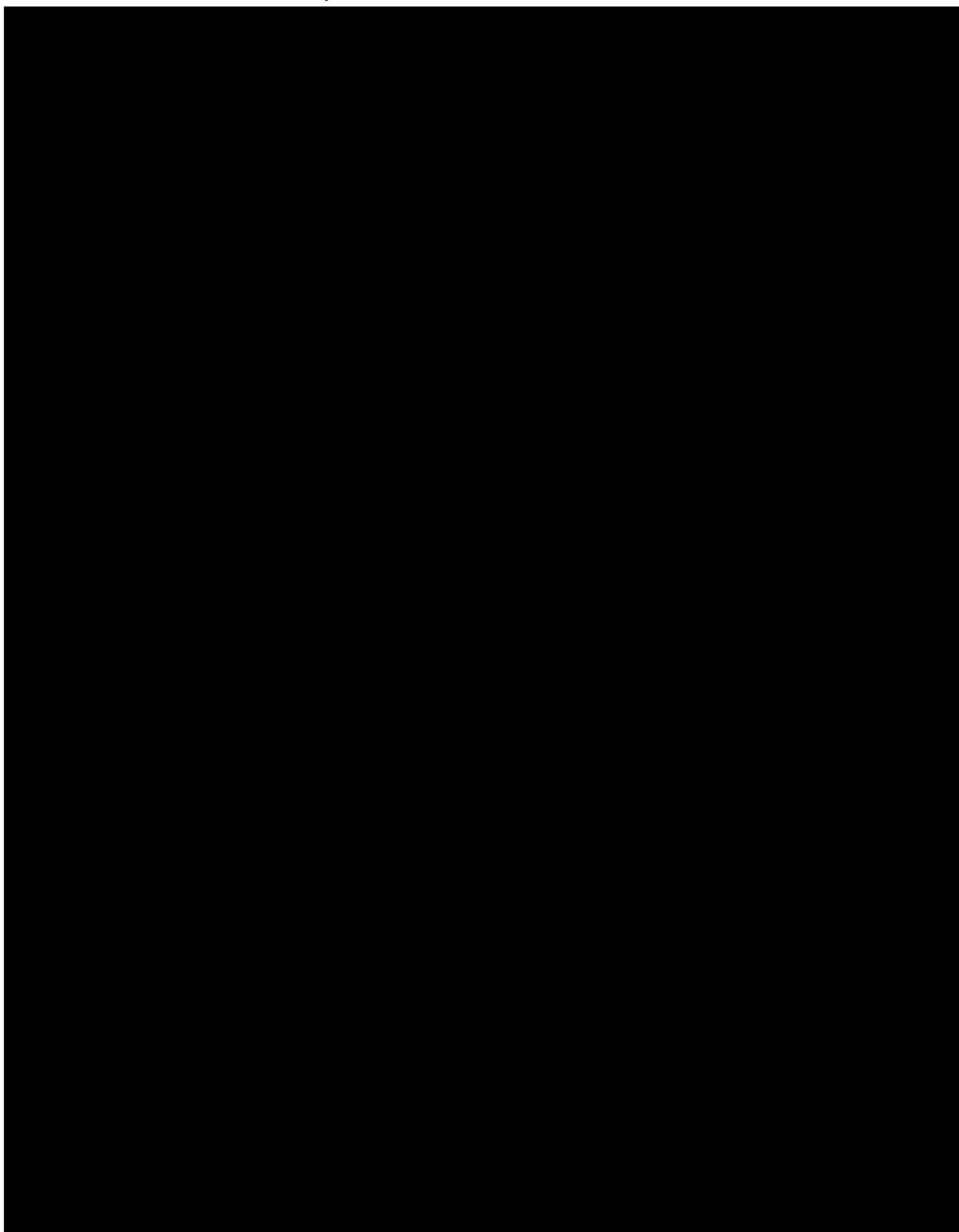
25 August 1967

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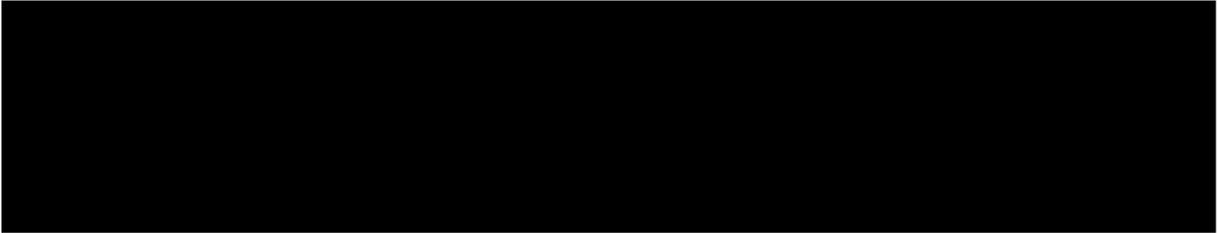
Page i

WEEKLY REVIEW

25 Aug 67



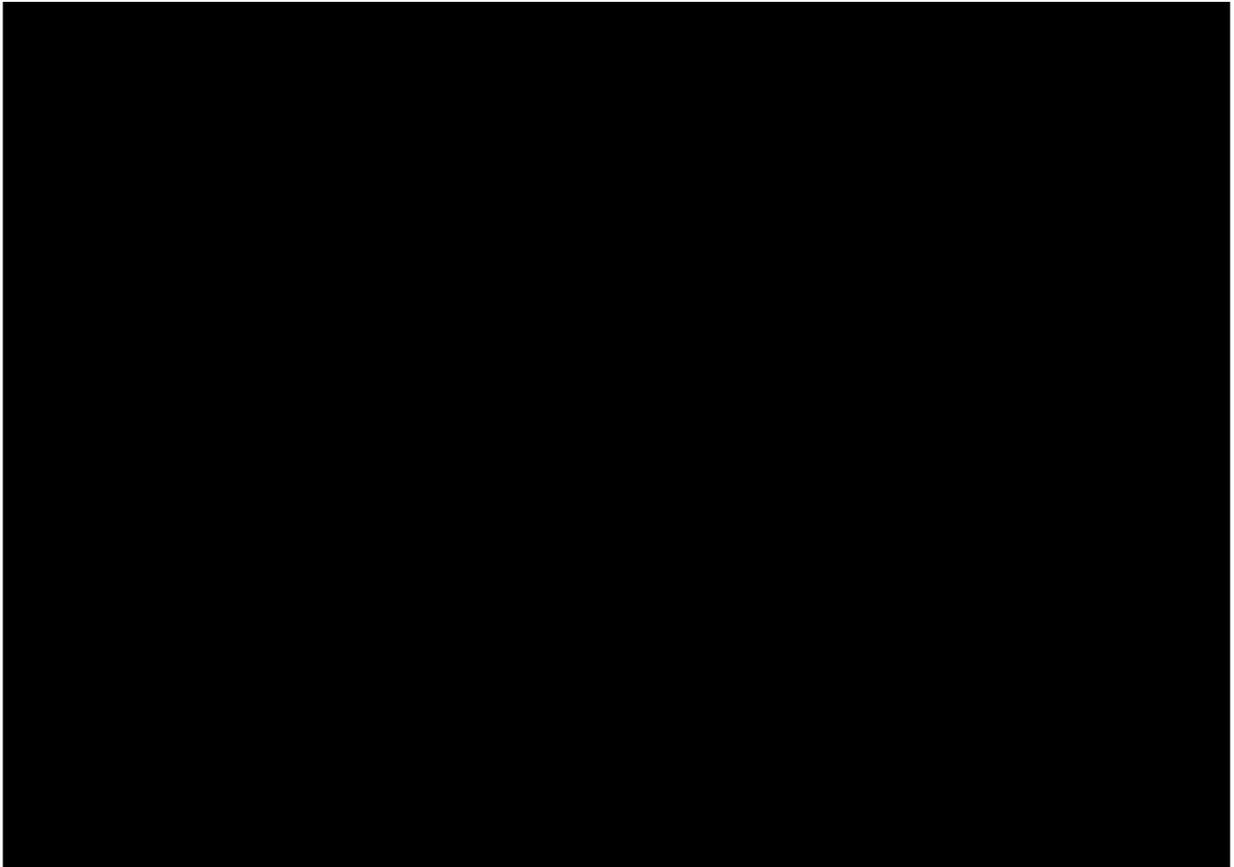
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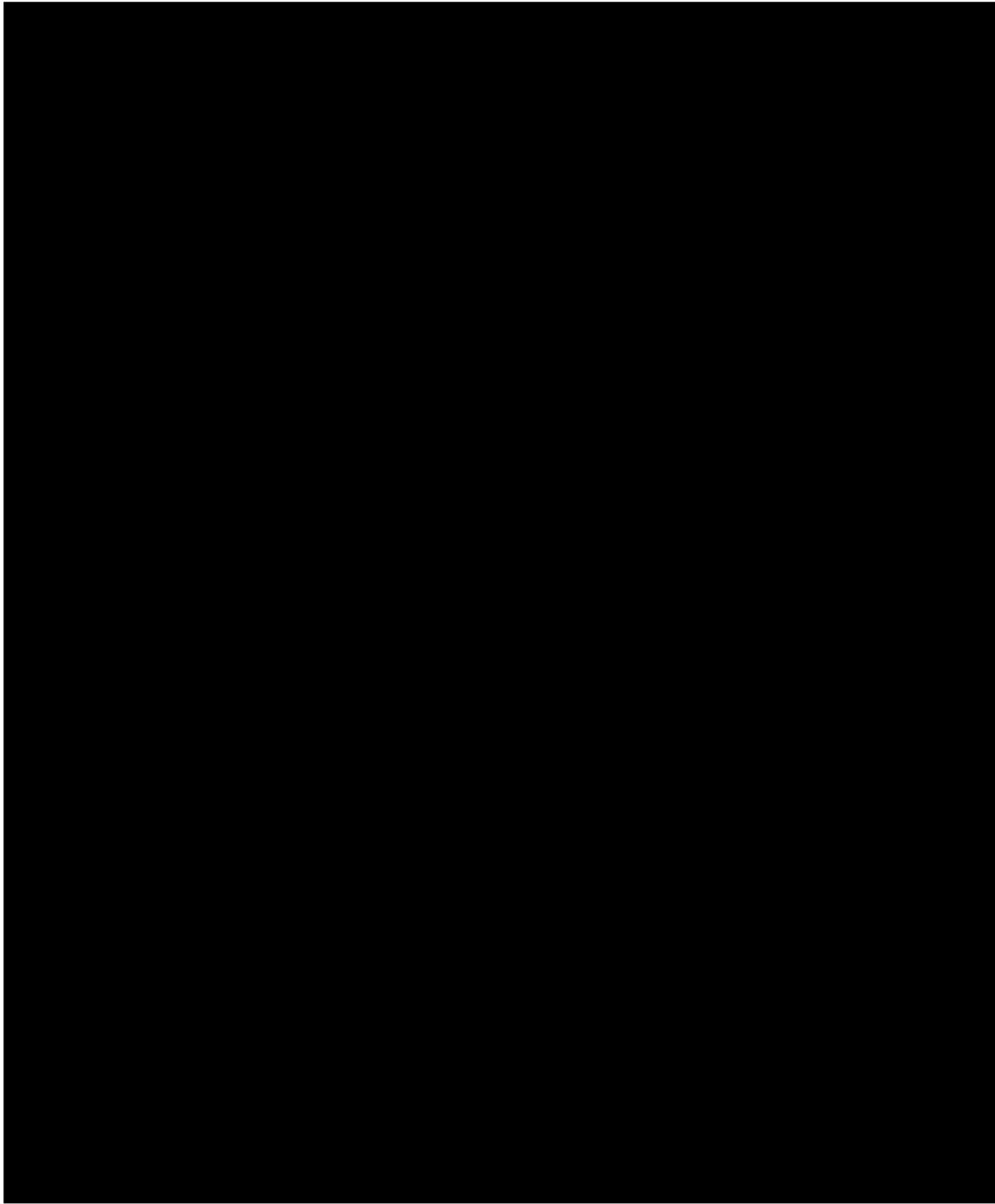
NEW TYPE OF SOVIET LUNAR MISSION EXPECTED

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A lunar probe capable of more complex missions than those performed by the Soviets to date is one of several launches indicated by the wide-scale deployment of the Soviet space event support fleet.



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NEW TYPE OF SOVIET LUNAR MISSION EXPECTED

A lunar probe capable of more complex missions than those performed by the Soviets to date is one of several launches indicated by the wide-scale deployment of the Soviet space event support fleet. A successful probe of this nature would give a much-needed boost to the USSR's sagging prestige in space developments.

There have been no Soviet lunar probes since last December, when Luna 13 made a semisoft landing on the moon. It is doubtful that technical difficulties with mission payloads have caused the stand-down. The two types of probes last year--capsules placed on the surface and orbiters--were generally successful, [REDACTED]

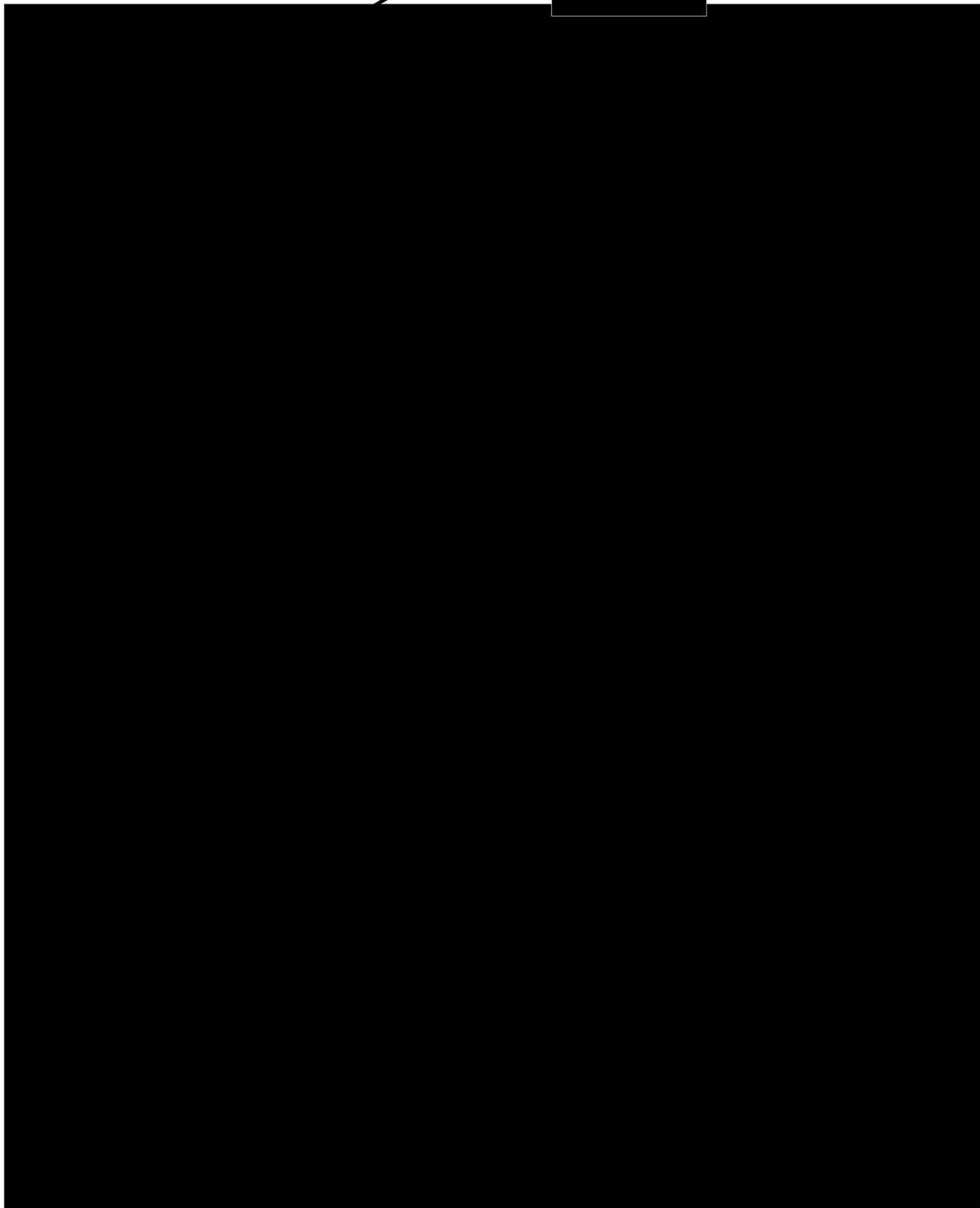
The Soviets probably are preparing for new types of lunar events. They might attempt a

soft landing similar to that achieved by the US Surveyors. The two probes the Soviets placed on the moon last year used a technique unsuitable for landing men or complex equipment.

It is possible that the USSR will attempt to have a spacecraft circle the moon and return to earth, a mission not planned by the US. Such a mission would be a logical precursor to a manned circumlunar flight, which Cosmonaut Pavel Belyayev told US astronauts in May is planned to precede a Soviet manned lunar landing.

For these more complex missions the Soviets probably will need a more powerful booster than the SL-6 used in previous launches. The period of inactivity during the past several months could reflect an adjustment to a larger launch vehicle. [REDACTED]

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