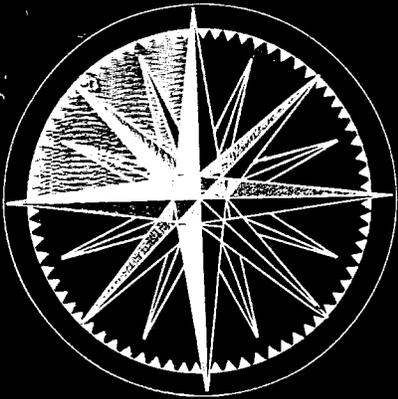


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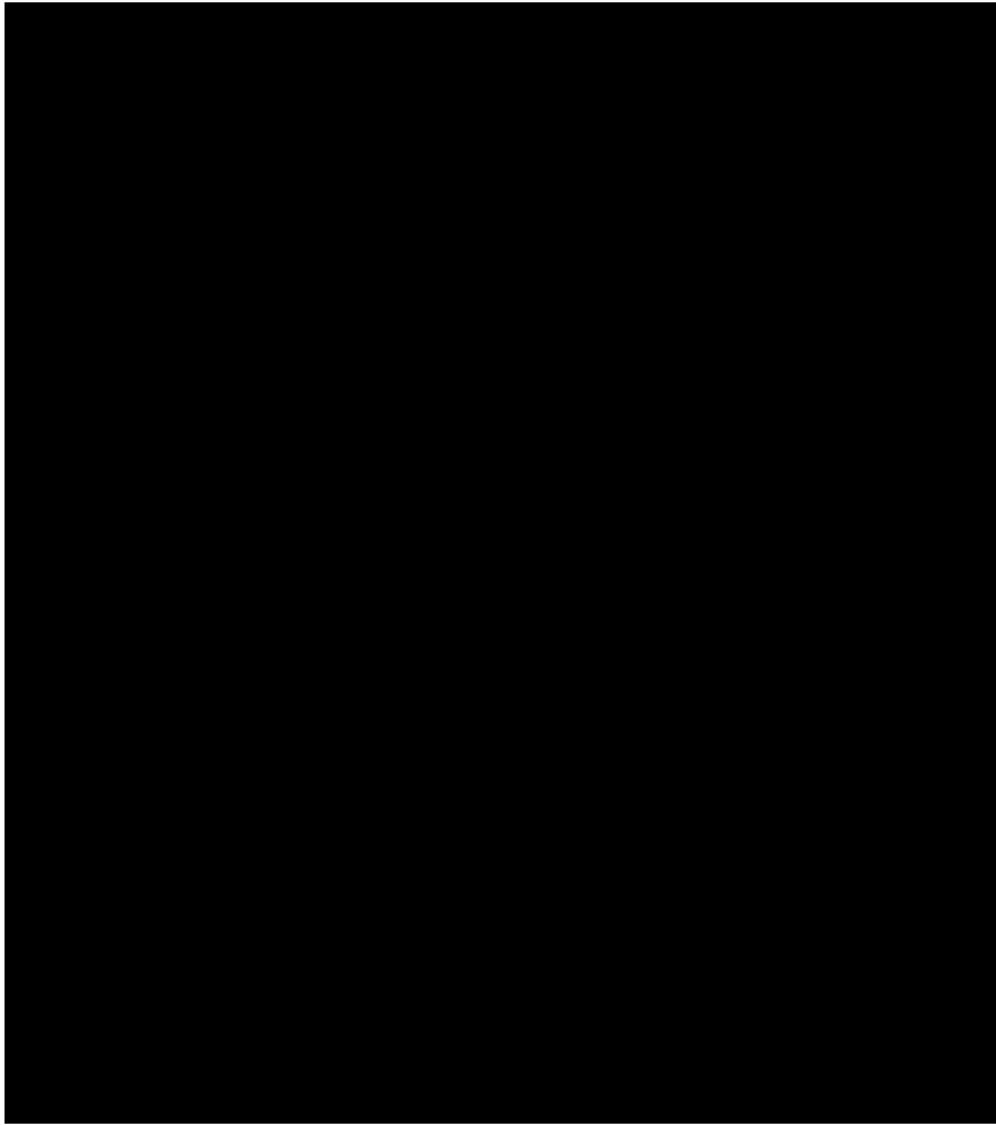
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY



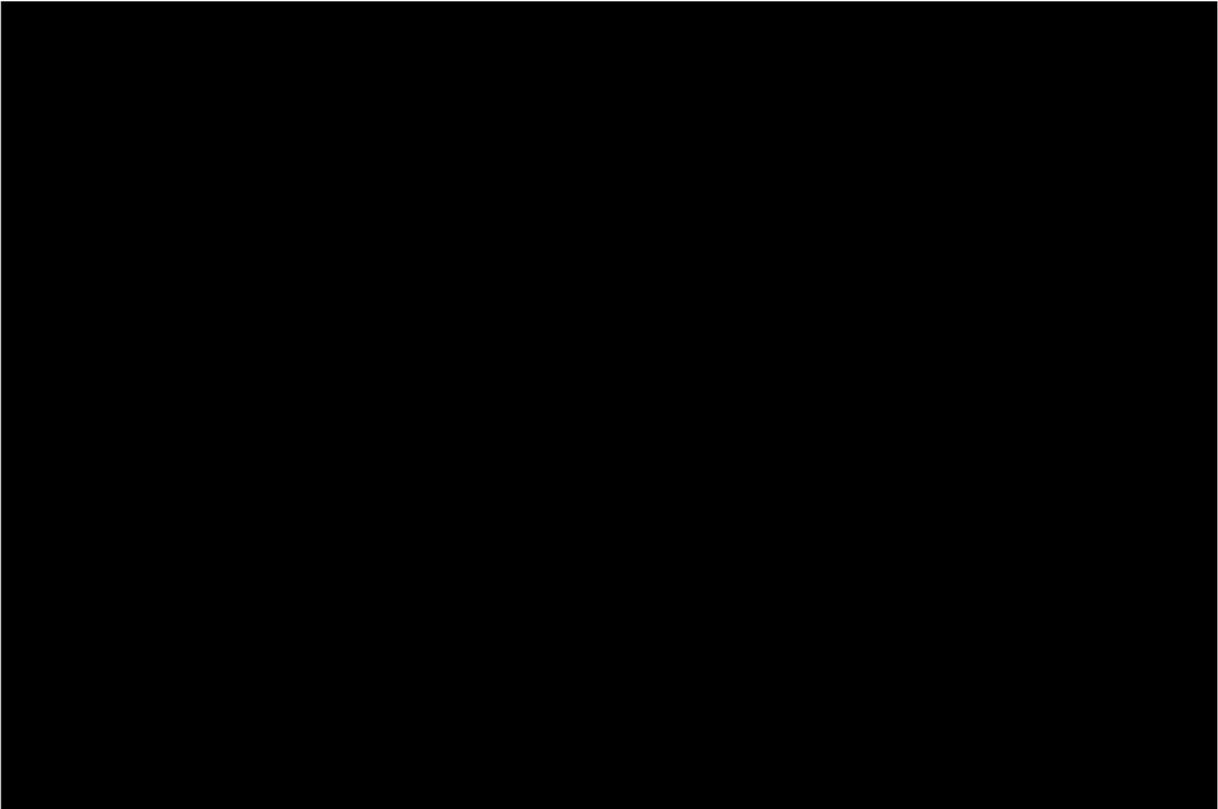
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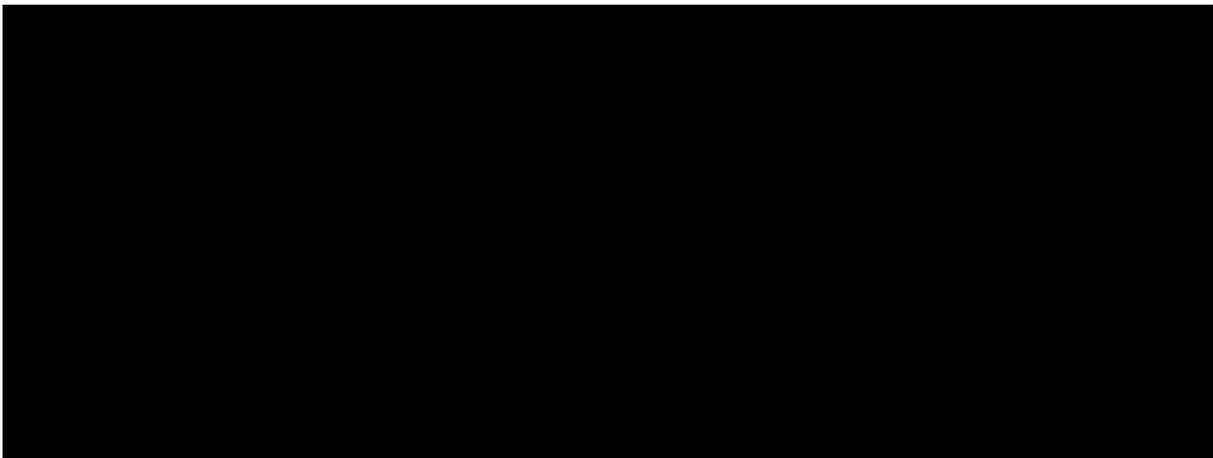
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SOVIET LUNAR SOFT-LANDING ATTEMPT AN APPARENT FAILURE

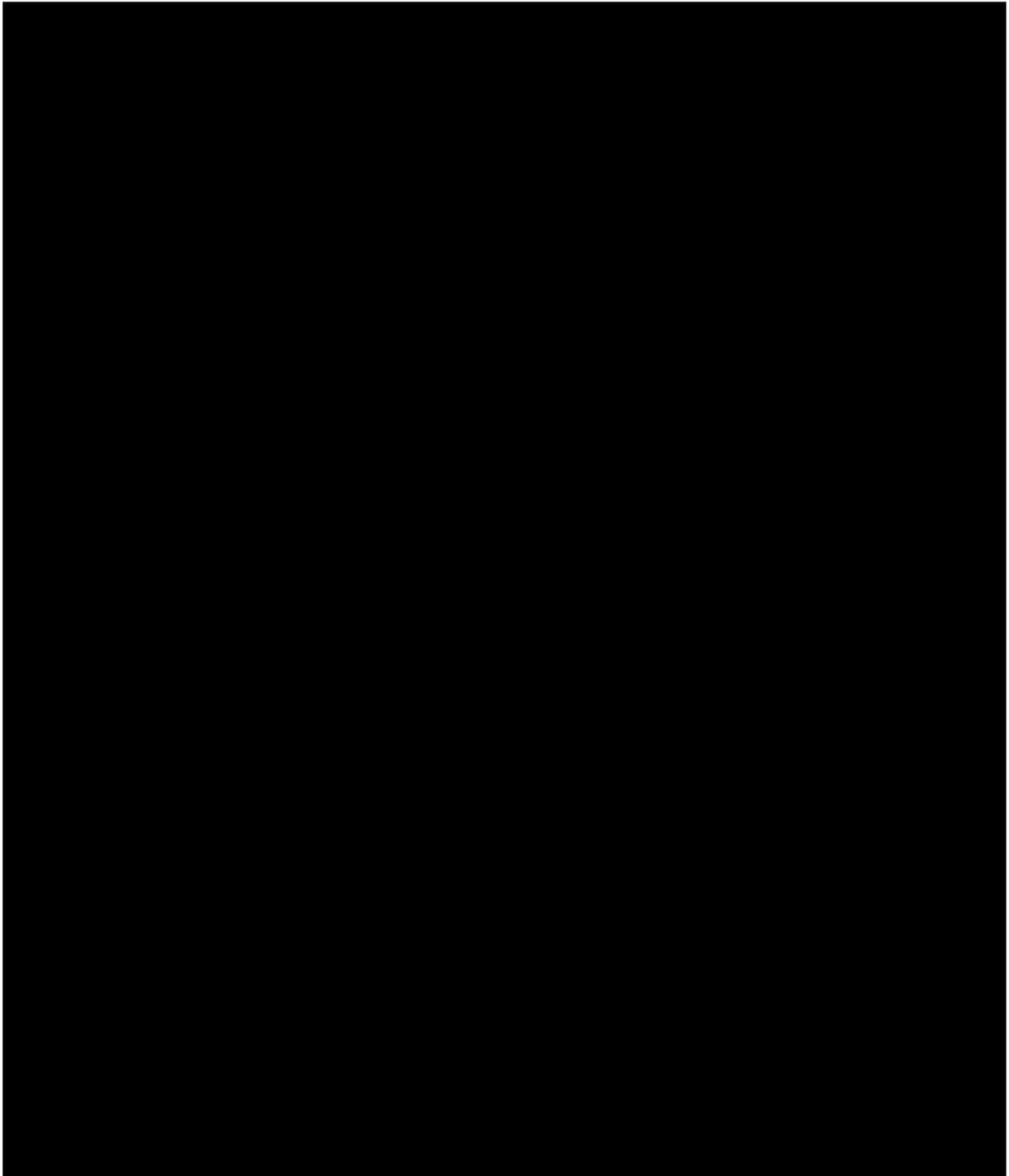
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The wording of the Soviet announcement of a "hit" and the loss of signals by Britain's Jodrell Bank monitoring facilities at about the time reported for the "hit" strongly suggest that the probe was destroyed on impact.



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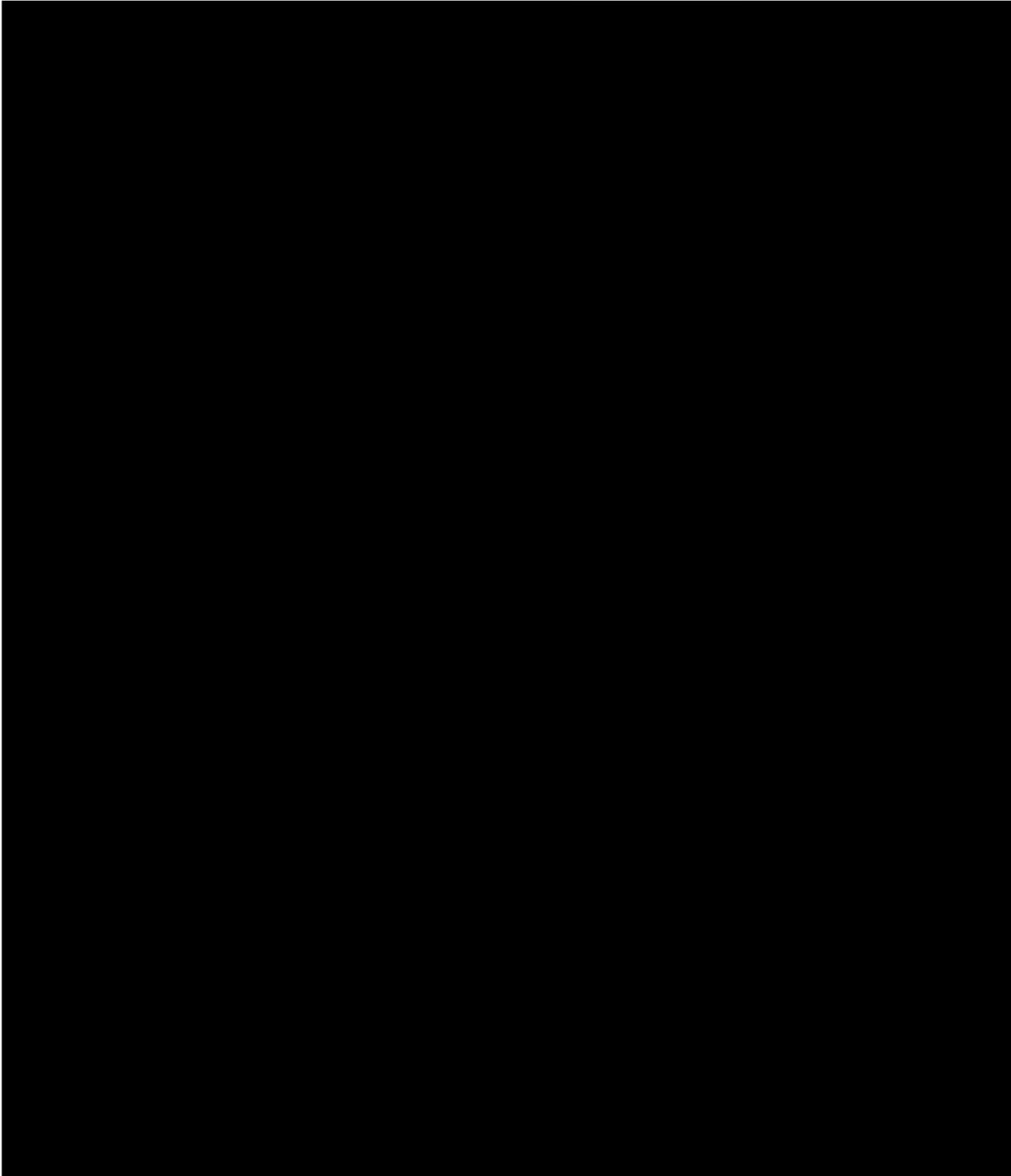


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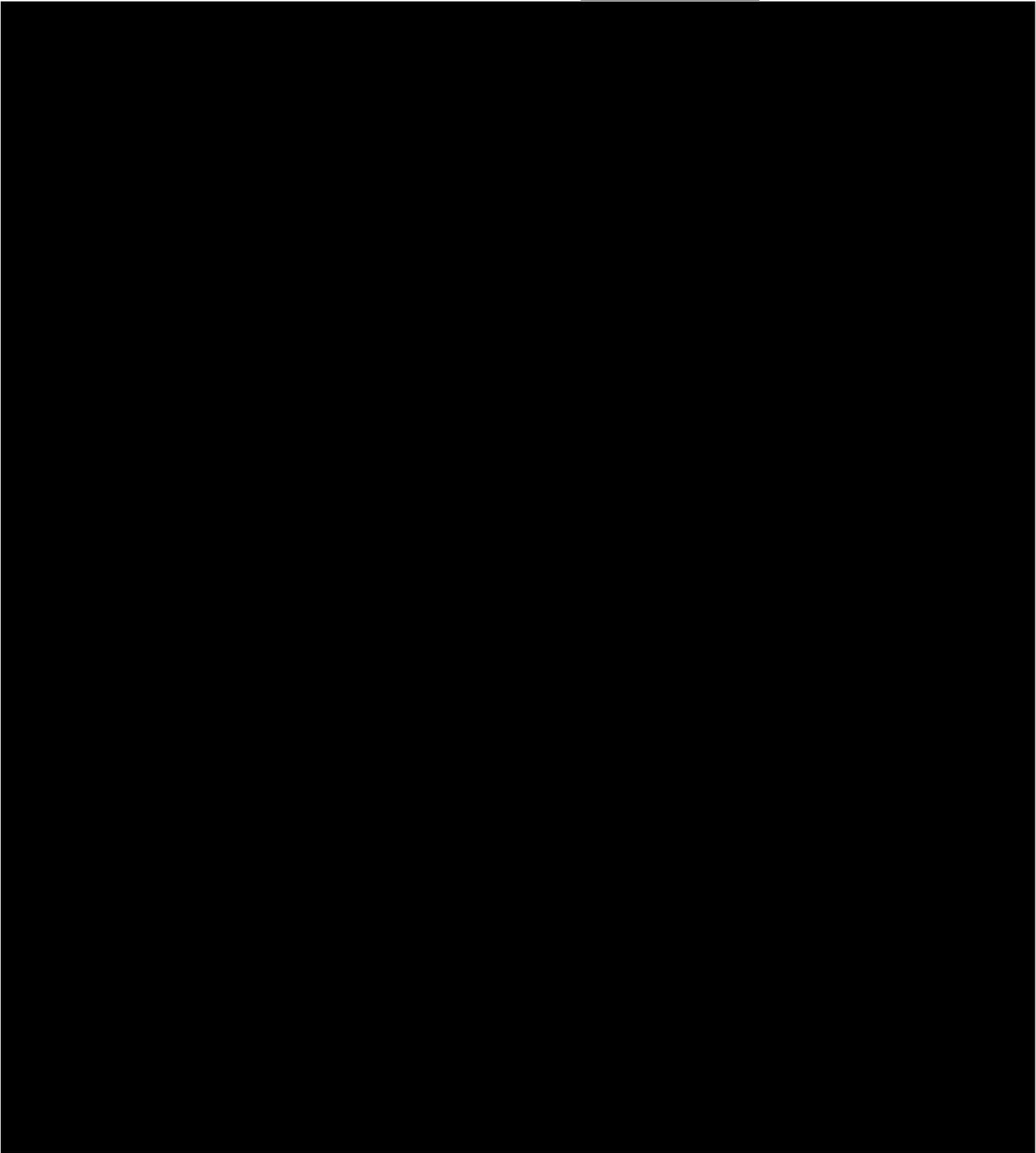
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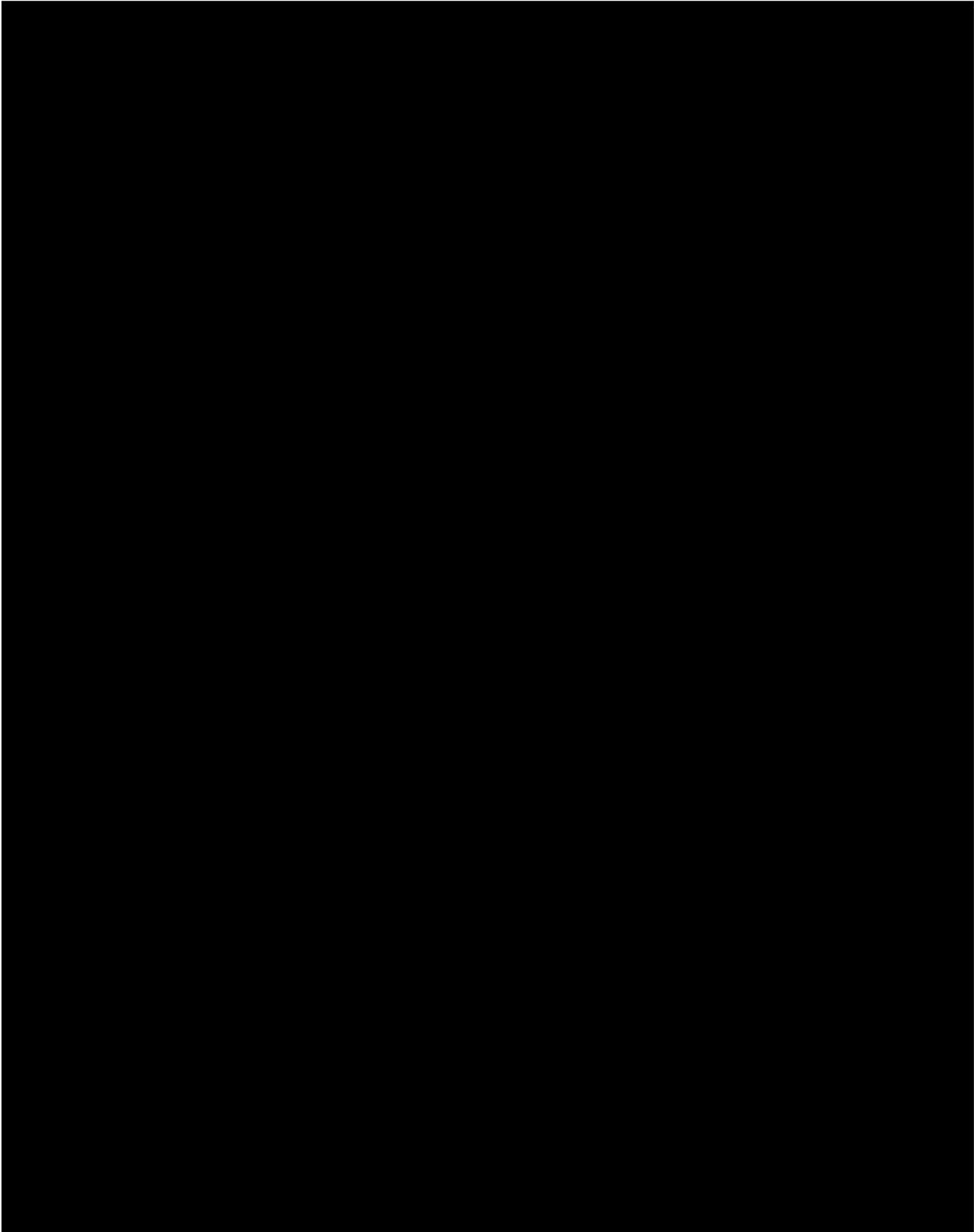
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The Communist World

SOVIET LUNAR SOFT-LANDING ATTEMPT AN APPARENT FAILURE

The Soviet lunar probe, designated Lunik-5, has apparently failed in an attempt to soft land instruments on the moon.

The Soviets have announced that Lunik-5, launched on 9 May, "hit" the moon in the area of the Sea of Clouds at approximately 3:10 p.m. EDT, 12 May. This use of the word "hit" and the loss of signals by Jodrell Bank monitoring facilities in England at about the reported time of the "hit" strongly suggest that the probe was destroyed on impact. Moreover, the

Soviets stated that the "flight and approach" of Lunik-5 provided "a great deal of information ...necessary for the further processing of a system for a soft landing on the moon's surface."

Despite this apparent Soviet attempt to conceal a failure to achieve a soft landing, Lunik-5 still represents at least a partial success in a program plagued by failure. Lunik-5 was the first to hit the moon of eight Soviet lunar probes using the earth parking orbit technique. [REDACTED]