

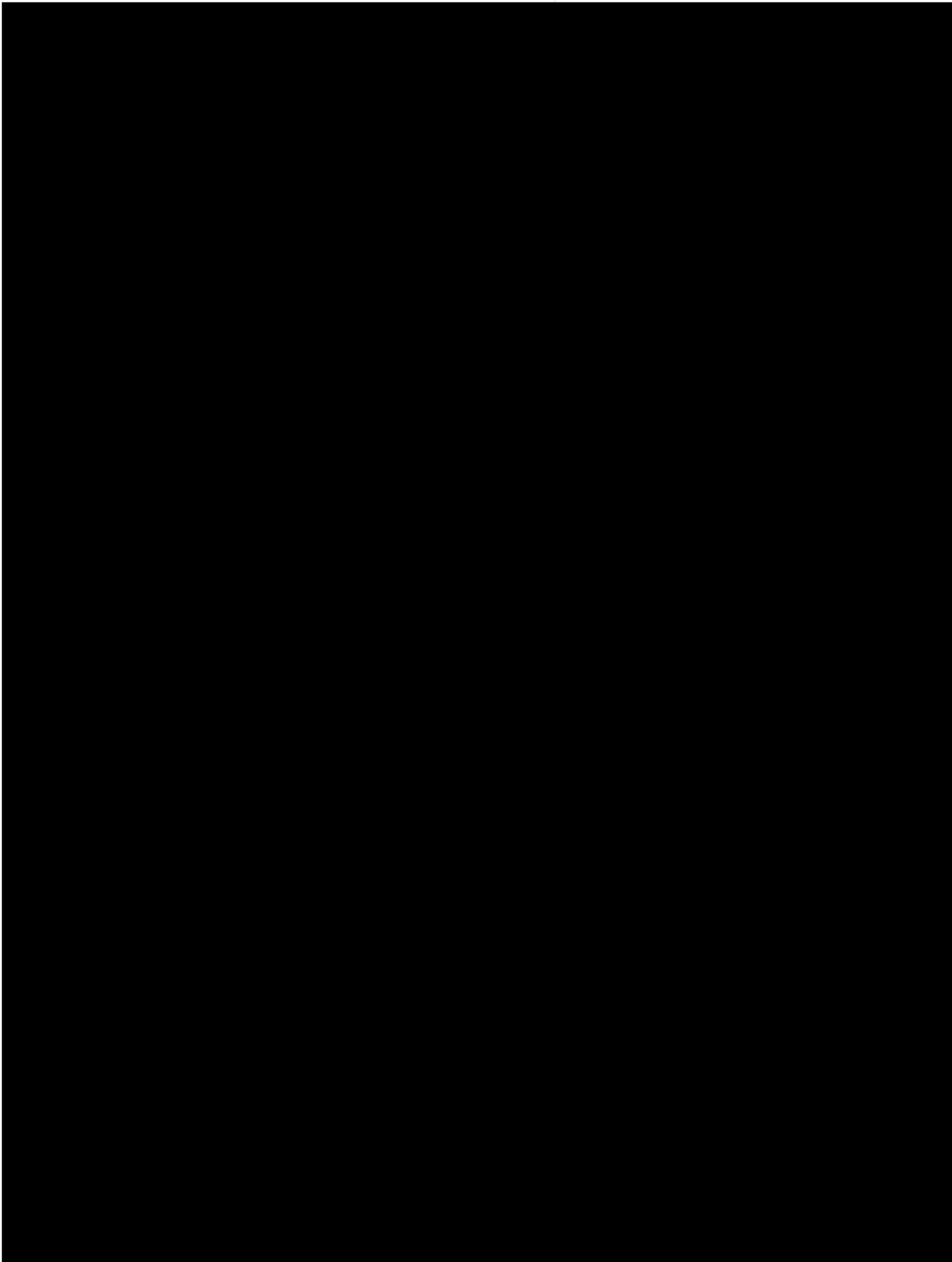
INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS SITUATION REPORT [REDACTED]

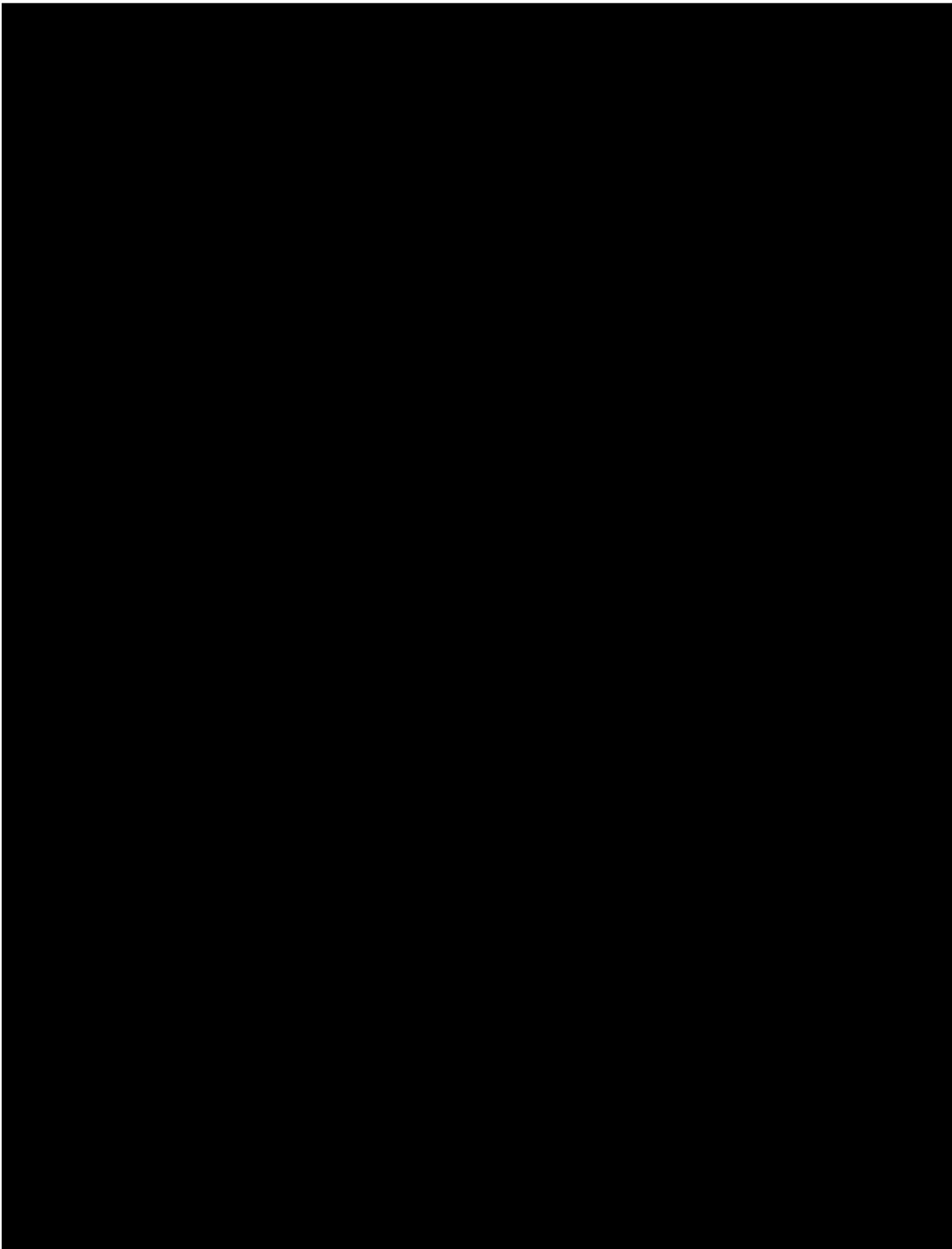
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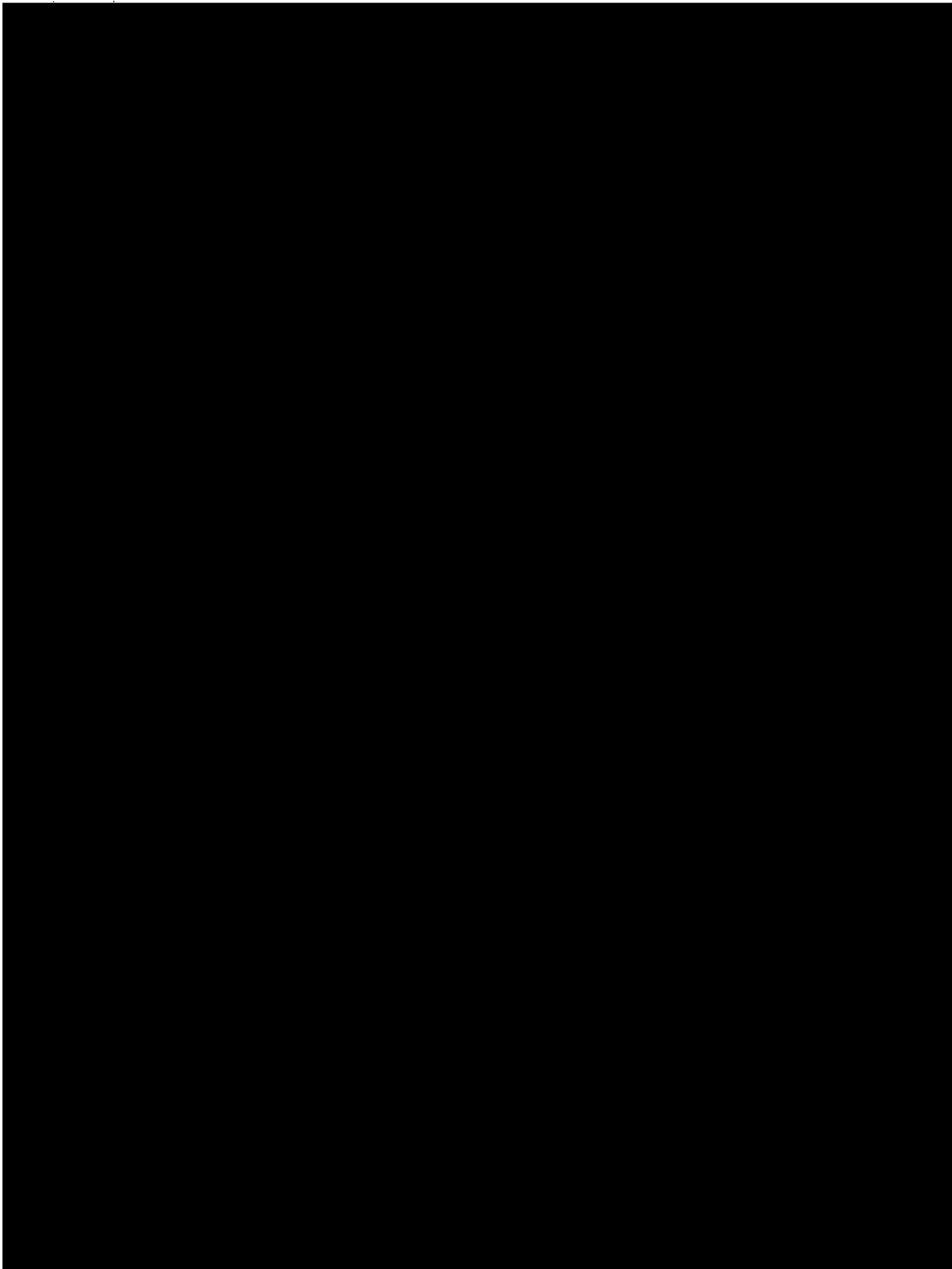


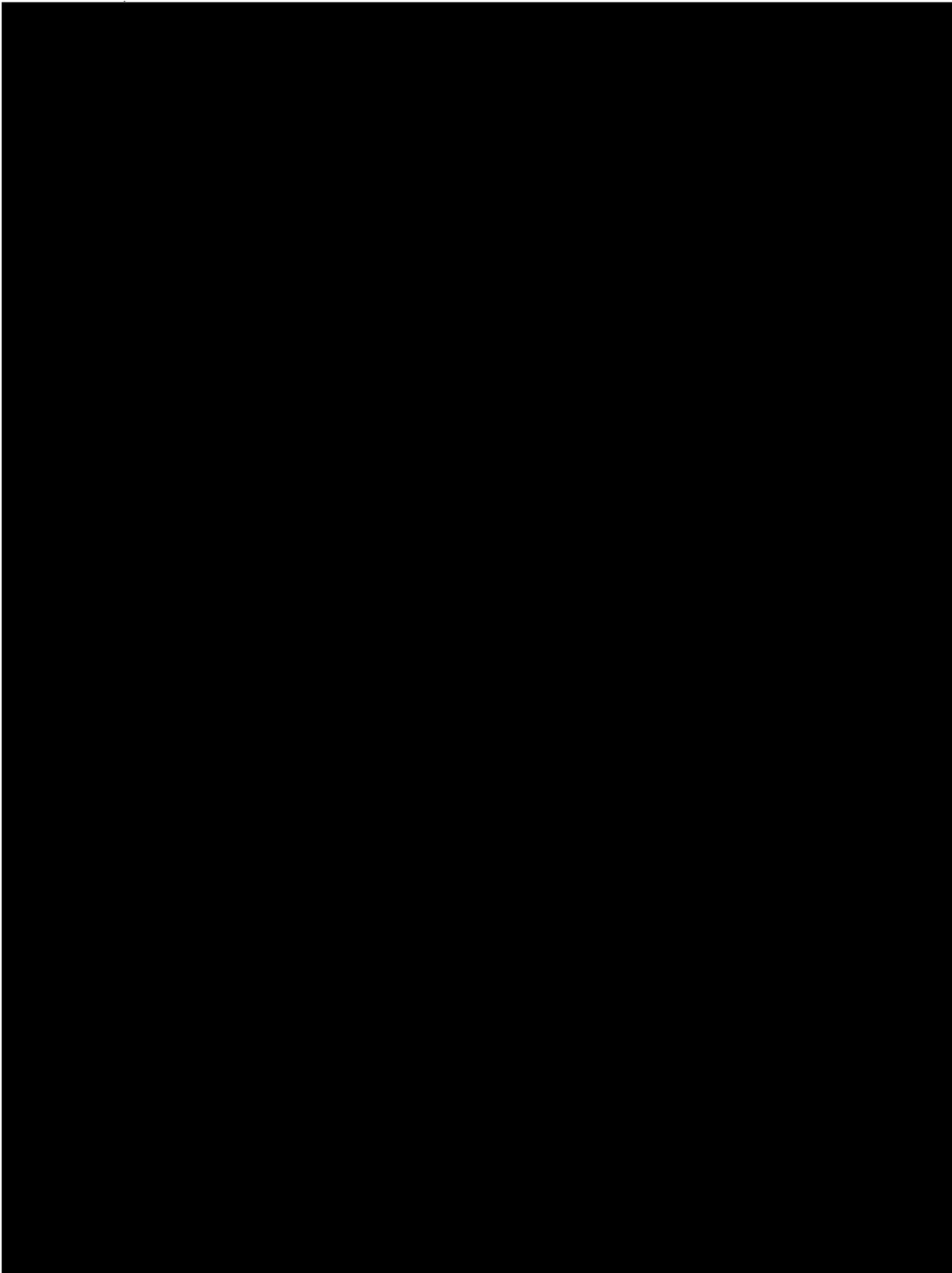
ITEM 3. COLOMBIAN OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION INCREASING [REDACTED]

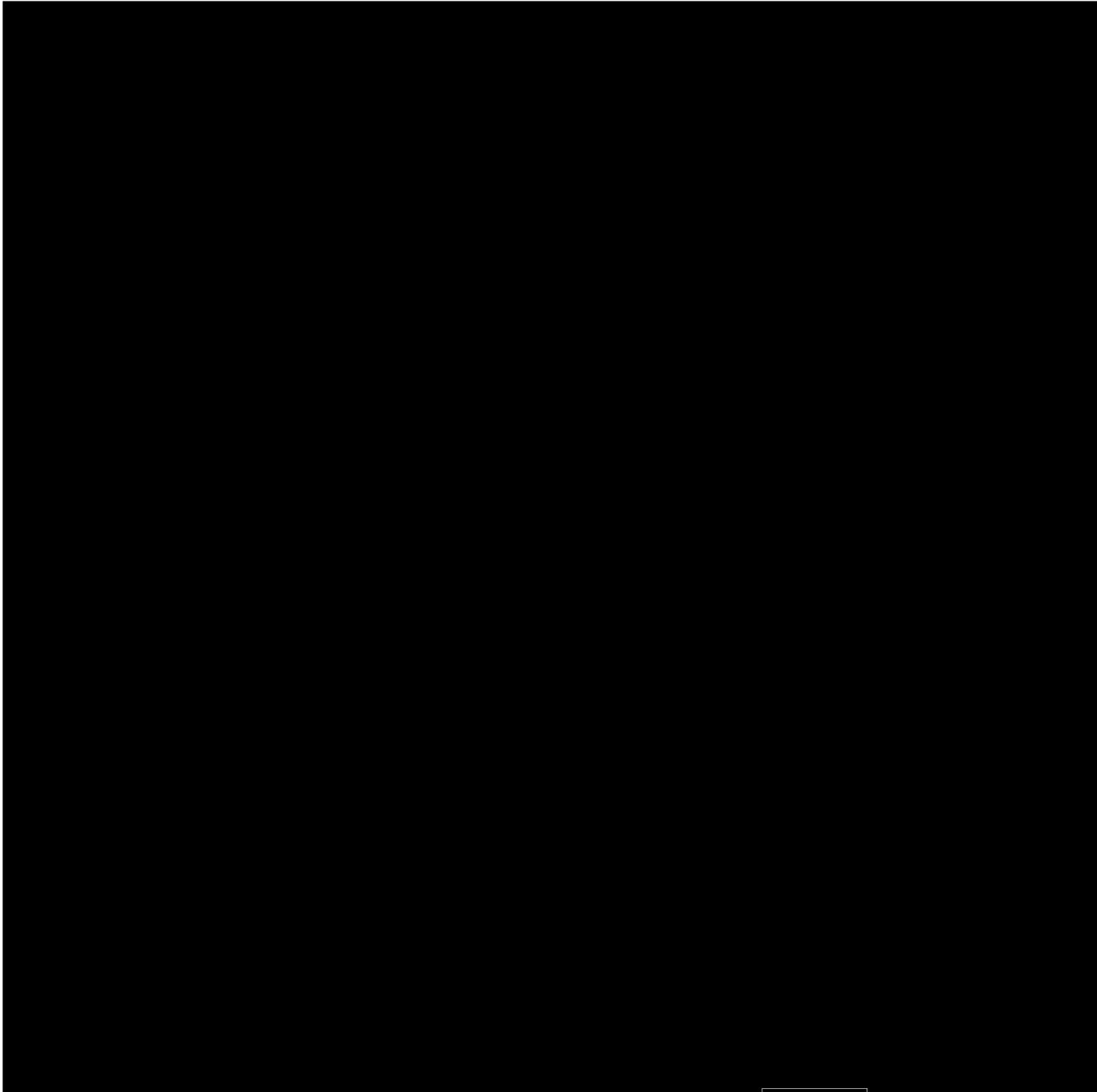




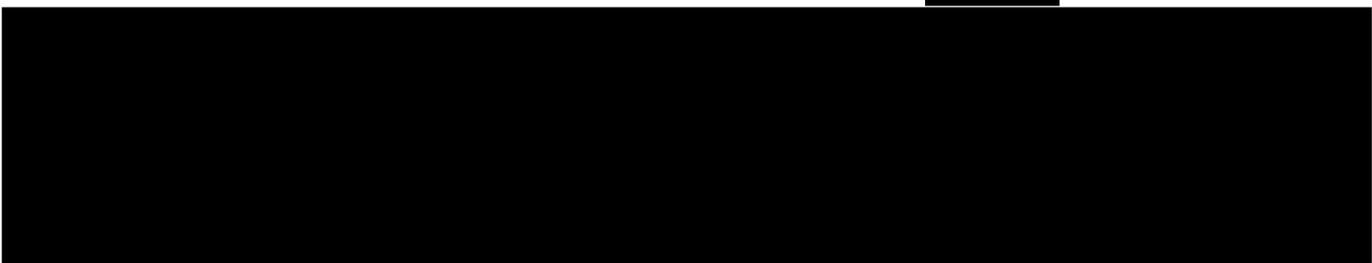
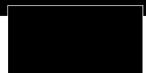


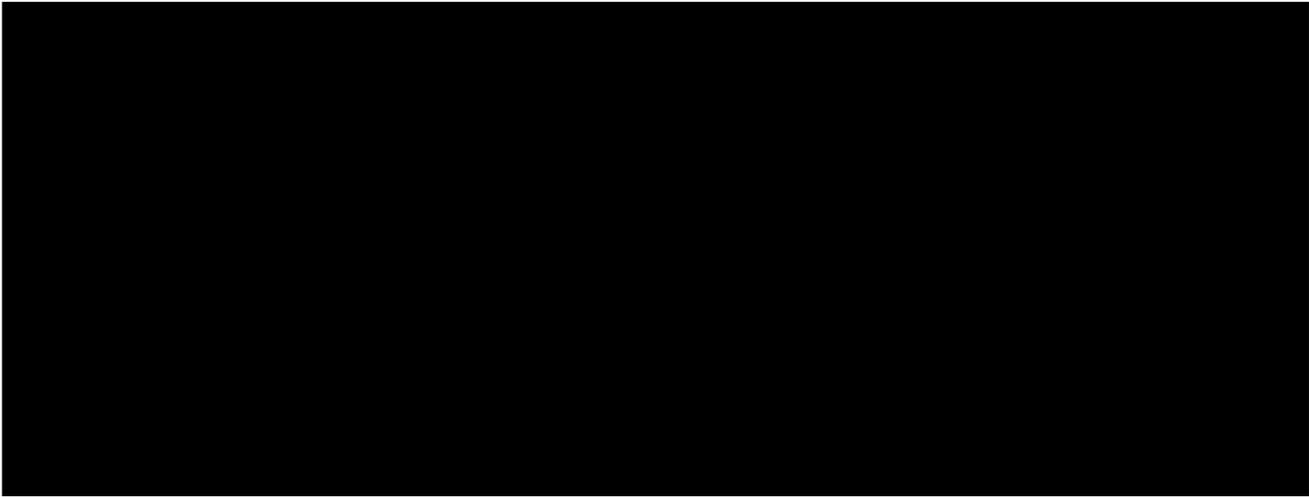




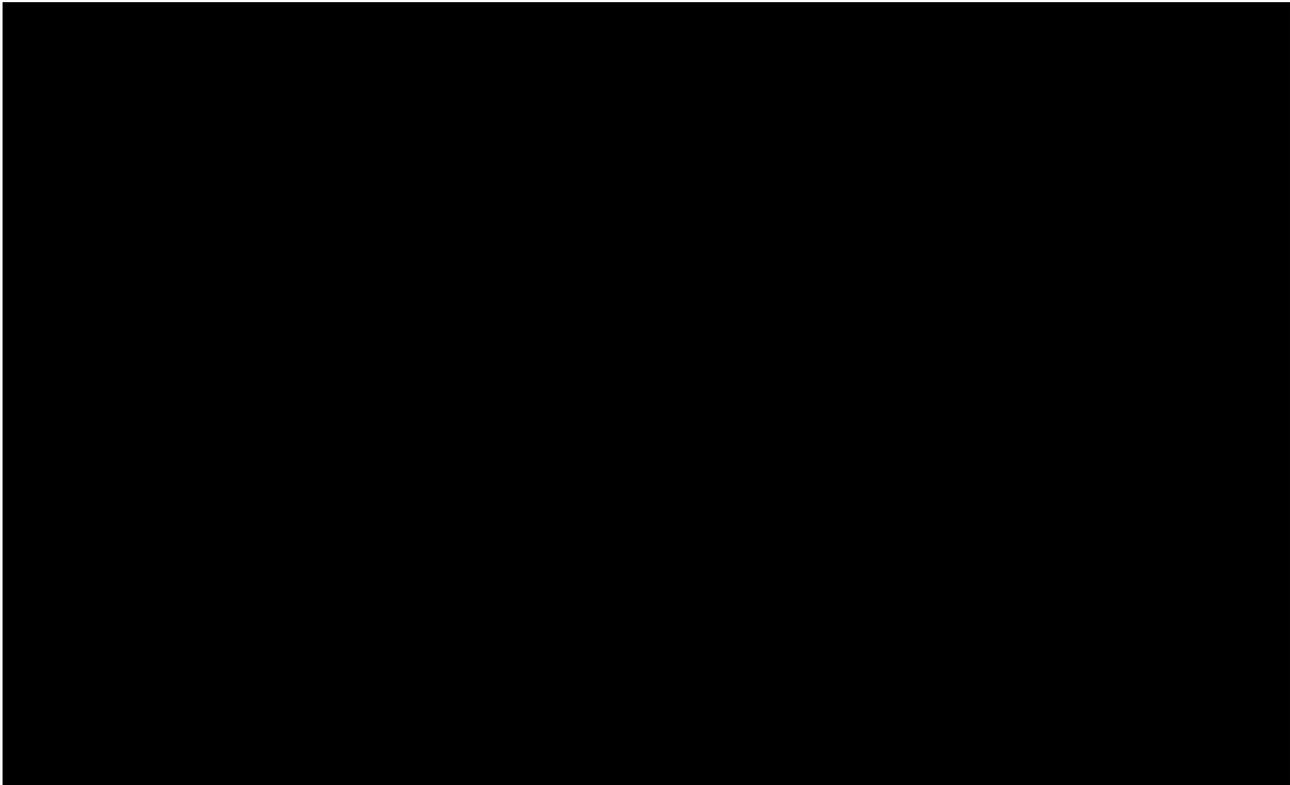


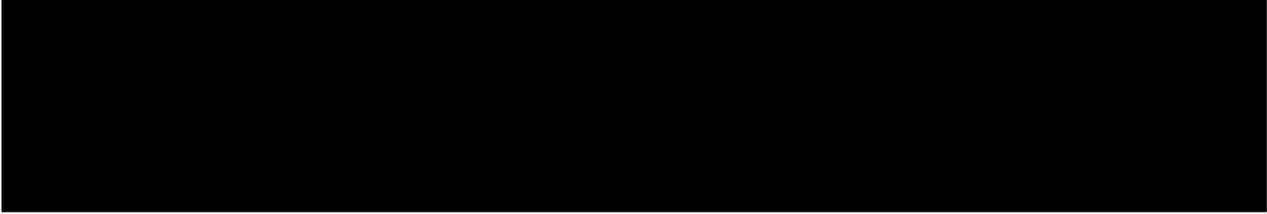
ITEM 3. COLOMBIAN OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION INCREASING





THE OPIUM PLANT CAN BE GROWN THROUGHOUT MOST OF COLOMBIA. ONLY THE IMMEDIATE ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC COASTAL AREAS AND THE HIGHER ELEVATIONS OF THE ANDES ARE NOT AGRONOMICALLY SUITABLE FOR POPPY CULTIVATION. OPTIMUM CONDITIONS FOR POPPY CULTIVATION ARE FOUND ALONG THE SLOPES OF THE ANDES BETWEEN 1,500 AND 3,000 METERS ELEVATION--AREAS WITH FERTILE SOIL, ADEQUATE RAINFALL, AND FAVORABLE TEMPERATURES. POPPY IN COLOMBIA CAN BE GROWN AS AN ANNUAL PLANT WITH ABOUT A FOUR-MONTH GROWTH CYCLE, PERMITTING THREE CROPS PER YEAR FROM A SINGLE FIELD. WE BELIEVE THAT THE PROFITS FROM SUCH A CULTIVATION CYCLE ARE ALMOST CERTAINLY GREATER THAN THOSE REALIZED FROM THE PERENNIAL COCA CROP, WHICH REQUIRES A MUCH LONGER TERM INVESTMENT. [REDACTED]





MAJOR DRUG GROUPS INVOLVED

GROUPS PREVIOUSLY FOCUSED ON THE COCAINE TRADE, INCLUDING SOME FROM CALI AND MEDELLIN, ARE GETTING INTO THE HEROIN BUSINESS.



WHILE THE REASONS FOR THIS GROWING INTEREST IN HEROIN ARE NOT YET CLEAR, WE SUSPECT THAT SOME COLOMBIAN COCAINE TRAFFICKERS ARE SEEKING TO DIVERSIFY THEIR BUSINESSES. A NUMBER OF TODAY'S LARGE COCAINE SMUGGLING GROUPS STARTED IN THE 1970S BY TRAFFICKING IN MARIJUANA, AND AS INTERDICTION AND ERADICATION PRESSURES BUILT UP AGAINST THAT TRADE AND THE US COCAINE MARKET EXPLODED, COCAINE EMERGED AS A MORE LUCRATIVE MARKET.



