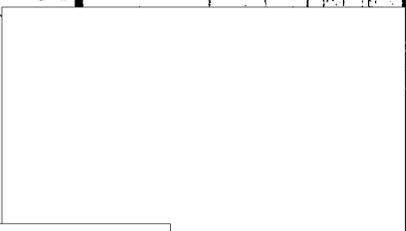
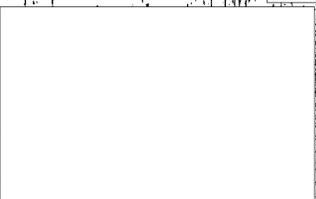


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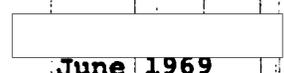
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DATE: 10-28-2009

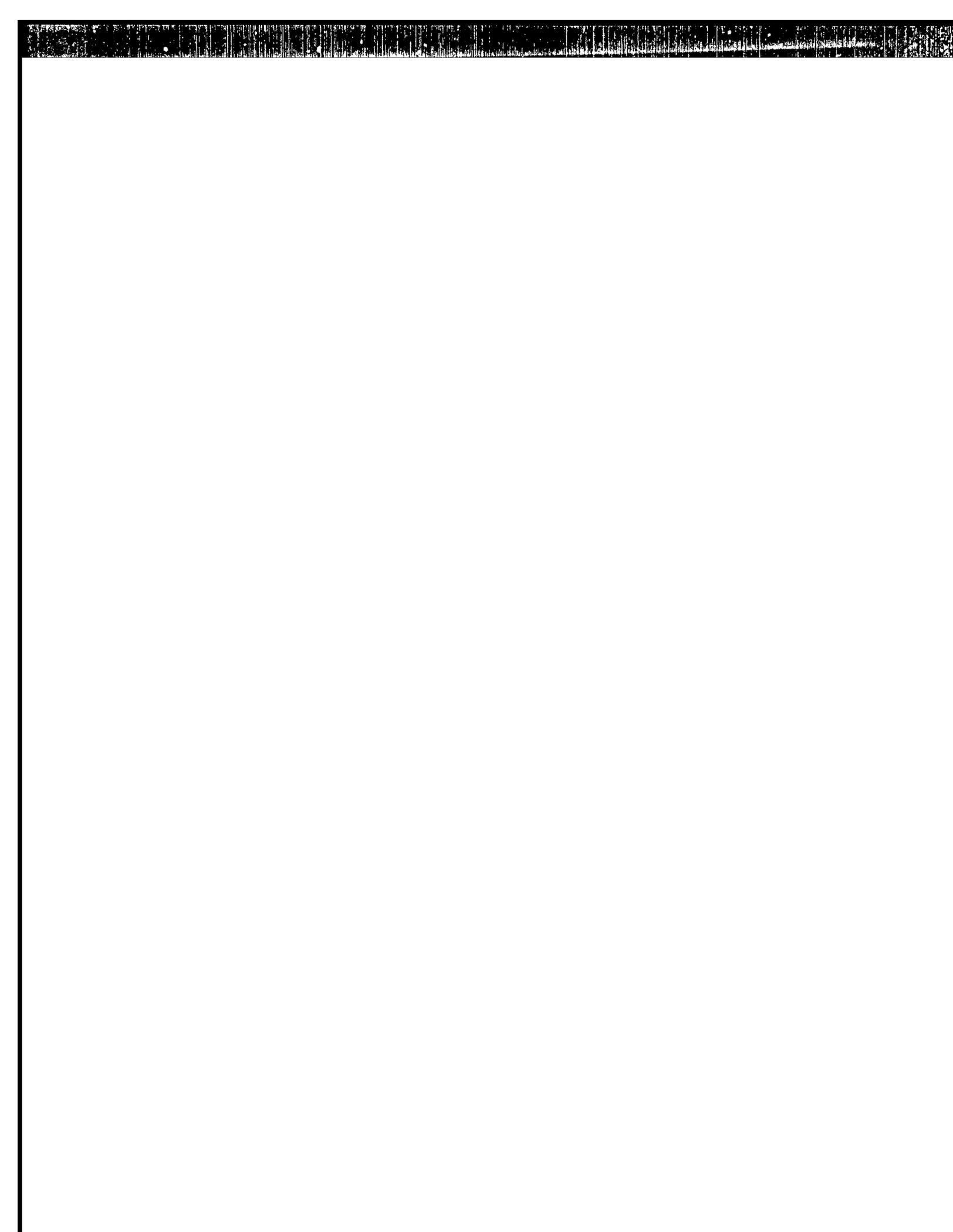


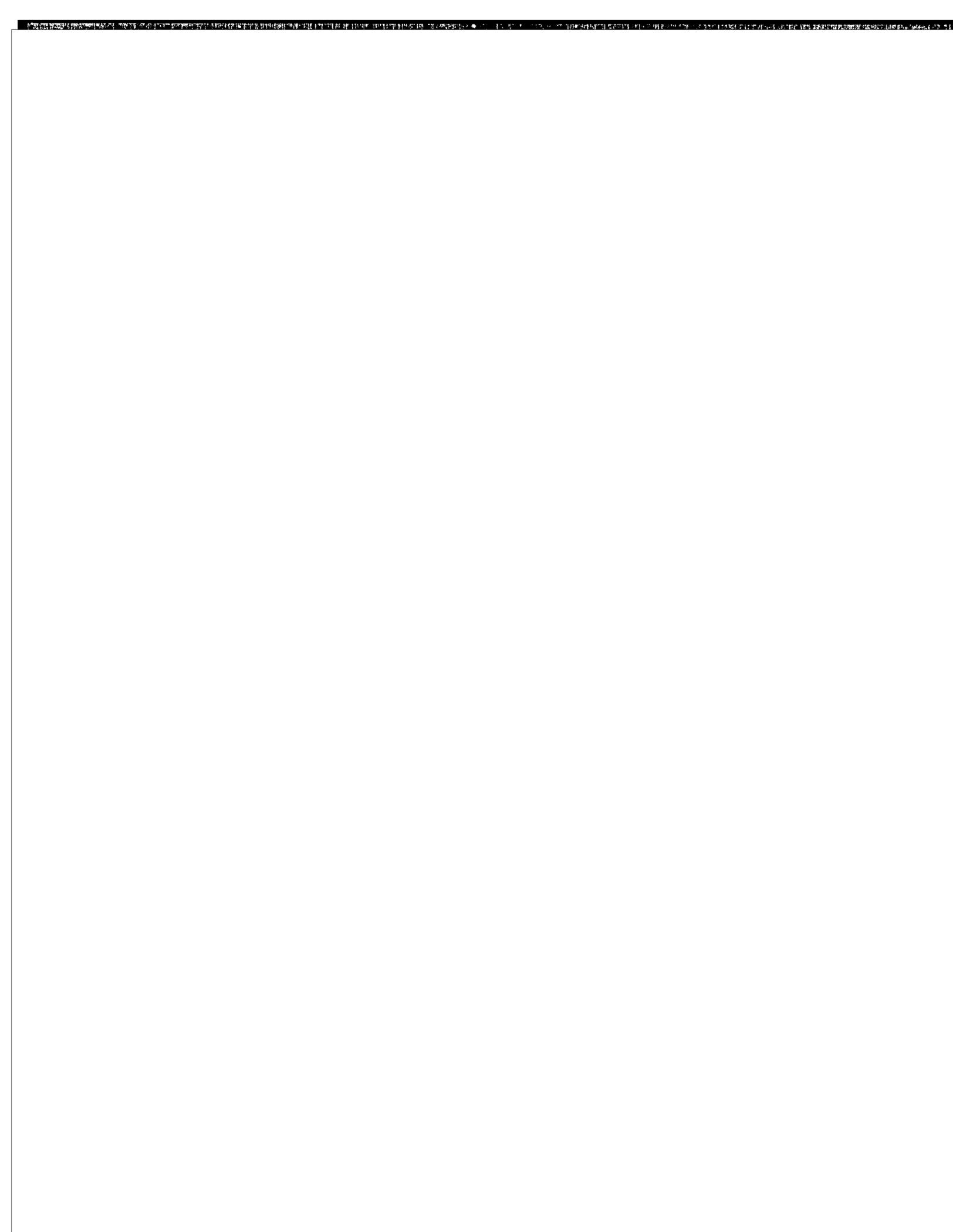
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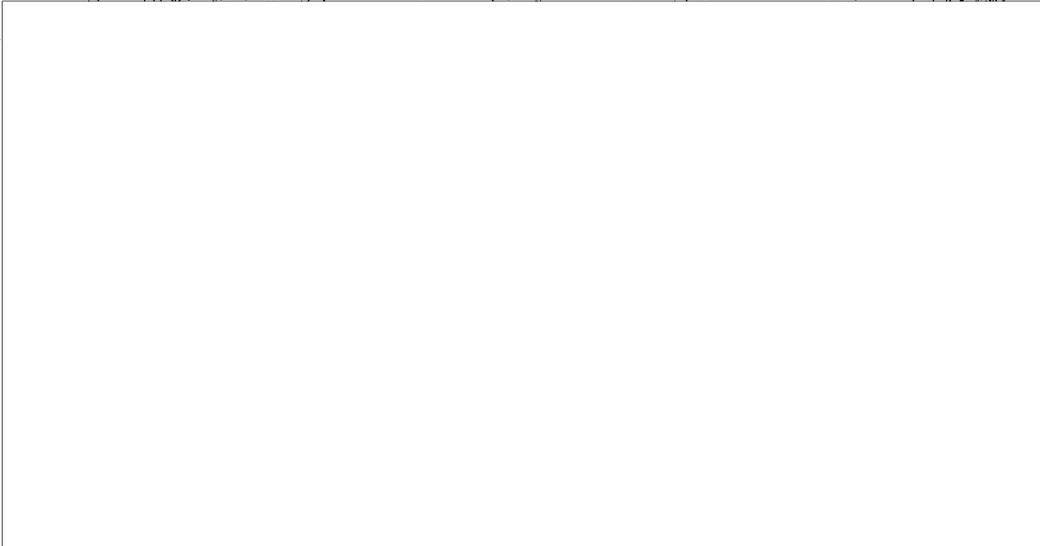




Reorientation of French Space
Policy

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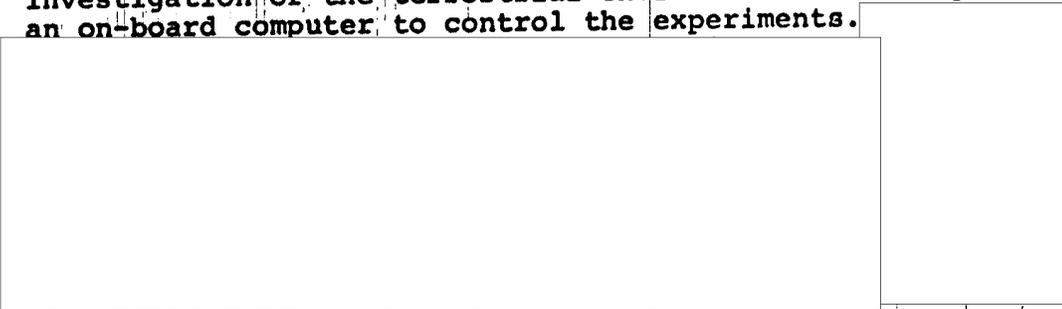
Budgetary constraints have forced French space officials to shift away from basic research toward applied R&D and technical innovation. One immediate result will probably be to keep space cooperation with the Soviet Union to a minimum.



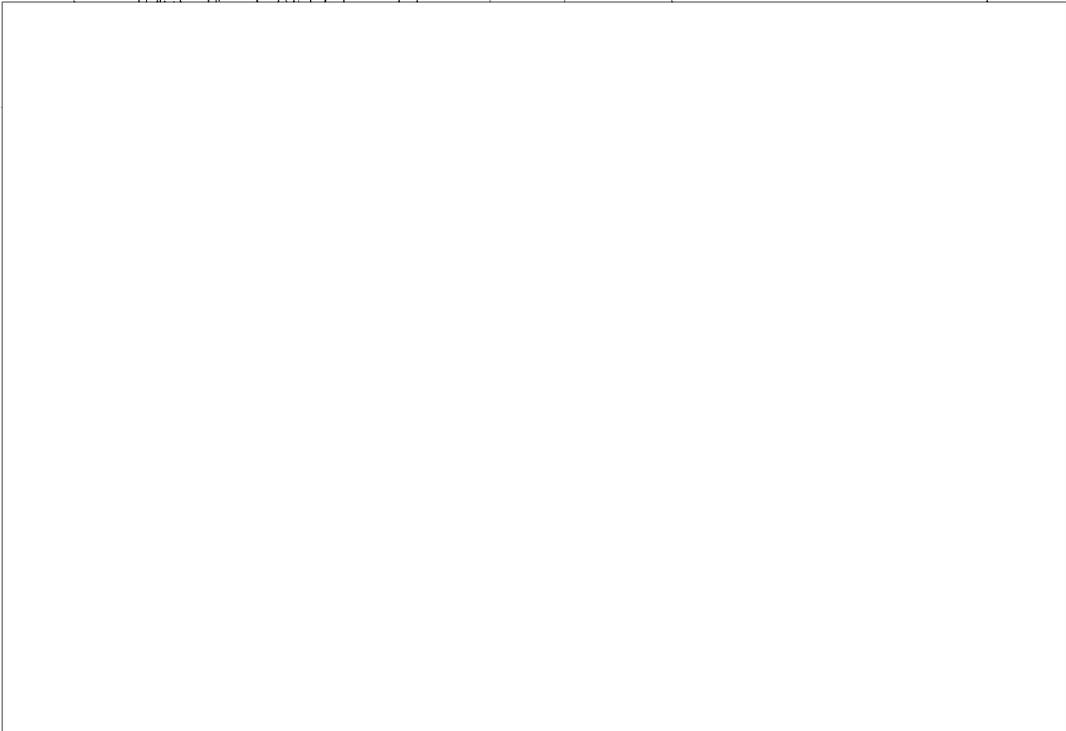
Reorientation of French Space Policy

The French space effort, as well as the entire field of scientific research in France, is shifting away from basic research toward applied R&D and technical innovation. Science Minister Robert Galley has implied that the scientific community must start paying its way by bringing greater economic, industrial, and political benefits to the nation. The National Center for Space Studies (CNES), he said, must give up "its scientific dream" and devote itself to telecommunications satellites and large launchers.

Reflecting this new policy, the government in February announced the cancellation of the French-Soviet satellite project Roseau. Although politically motivated, the project had the strong support and interest of scientists around the world as a unique and valuable investigation of the terrestrial environment utilizing an on-board computer to control the experiments.



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The only project not affected by budget cuts is the communications satellite project with West Germany, indicating that applied research has priority in the French space program. The real effects of this priority will be most evident in defining projects for the Sixth Scientific Research Plan (1971-75). Statements by CNES officials indicate that projects in the fields of meteorology, air traffic control, communications, and earth resources are being considered.



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