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31 December 1981

Latin America Report

(FOUO 29/81)



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LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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COUNTRY SECTION

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

TIRADO LOPEZ ADDRESSES AGRARIAN LEADERS' MEETING

PA061705 Havana PRELA in Spanish 0215 GMT 5 Dec 81

[Text] Managua, 4 Dec (PL)--Victor Tirado Lopez, commander of the revolution, today urged all agrarian leaders of Latin America and the Caribbean to strengthen their unity and solidarity with Nicaragua and Cuba.

In a speech delivered at the opening session of the third meeting of Latin American and Caribbean rural workers organizations, Tirado pointed out the importance of joining forces in facing the threat of U.S. aggression.

At the opening session, Julio Bermudez, a Panamanian who is president of the (?co-ordinating commission), said that the meeting provided a good opportunity to analyze the agricultural sector's experience, the workers' difficult conditions particularly.

The peasant leaders held prior meetings in San Jose, Costa Rica and in Havana, Cuba.

Rene Penalver, secretary general of the Cuban Agricultural and Livestock Workers Union, was among the speakers at the first meeting.

The representative of 342,000 (?members) of this organization said that the meeting is being held at a time of tension, when the deafening sounds of imperialist language" are threatening the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Penalver said that Nicaragua and Cuba have been the target of a continuous campaign of lies, orchestrated by the United States "to justify a possible military aggression and intervention in El Salvador."

After stating that the Cuban revolution has ridiculed all of the "baseless and fictional statements" regarding the alleged deployment of troops to El Salvador, he said that his country's people do not fear any threat and are prepared to defend themselves.

Analyzing the critical situation of the peasants in the area, he said that "only a few of the agrarian reforms applied in the major part of our America have definitely solved the agrarian problems."

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

CASTRO MESSAGE TO UN SUPPORT PALESTINIANS

PA291844 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1726 GMT 29 Nov 81

["Pool" item]

[Text] Havana, 29 Nov (PL)--President Fidel Castro sent a message to UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity With the Palestinian People.

The text of the message is as follows:

"In the name of the Cuban Government and people, I wish to express our warm greetings to the people of Palestine and to their sole legitimate representative, the PLO, on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity With the Palestinian People.

"On this memorable day, I want to reiterate that the Cuban people, together with all of the world's progressive forces, continue to offer their support to and full solidarity with the just struggle of the heroic Palestinian people.

"The celebration of 29 November as the International Day of Solidarity With the Palestinian People responds to the wish of the UN General Assembly, expressed in its resolution No 23/40, and proves that the international community is convinced that oppression has been perpetrated against the people of Palestine since 1947, with the division of Palestinian territory into two states, established in Resolution No 181 (II), and the dispersion imposed on the Palestinian people since that division.

"Since its foundation, the nonaligned movement, together with the United Nations and other international organizations and forums, the cause of the long-suffering people of Palestine. [sentence as received]

"Repeated declarations and resolutions insist that the Palestine issue is the cause of conflict in the Middle East, establish the outlines for a just and lasting peace in that explosive region and denounce and strongly condemn the aggressive and expansionist nature of Zionism, unconditionally supported by imperialism, and a permanent threat to international peace and security.

"In this context, the agreements of the sixth summit of the nonaligned movement, held in Havana in September 1979, as well as subsequent nonaligned declarations issued at the New Delhi ministers conference and at the recent ministers plenum

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in New York, daily gain more impact in their condemnation of the Camp David agreements and the Egyptian-Israeli treaty as reflecting a policy designed to further reinforce the positions of the Zionist regime and to protect the U.S. interests in the area, directly attacking the most fundamental rights of Arab peoples, particularly those of the Palestinian Arab people.

"Cuba, along with the world's progressive forces and nations, believes that an end should be put to the war of extermination against the Palestinian people and that greater respect for and fulfillment of the decisions contained in the resolutions of the United Nations, the OAU and the nonaligned movement should be demanded, to stop the continuous acts of aggression by which Israel, with U.S. economic, political and military support, attempts to smash the just struggle of the Palestinian people to achieve the return of their lands occupied by the Zionists after three successive wars, between 1948 and 1956 and in 1967.

"The people and government of the Republic of Cuba join the international condemnation of the savage Israeli bombings of peaceful Iraqi and Lebanese nuclear research centers, which again emphasize the high degree of aggressiveness that Zionist policy has impressed upon the attacks against both the heroic Palestinian people and other Arab peoples as well.

"In order to carry out its imperialist plans in the Middle East, the United States counts upon Israel and is looking for new allies, faithful servants and guardians of its economic, strategic and military interests in the area, and instruments through which it can attack the peoples' aspirations, without apparent consideration for the fact that the situation there is becoming increasingly dangerous for the region and for the entire world.

"Imperialist policy--which is hegemonist, racist and Zionist--is unjust to the Arab peoples and, with even greater aggressiveness, to the Arab people of Palestine, heedless of the thousands of voices that have been raised at various international forums in support of the concept that a just and lasting peace in the Middle East can only be achieved with the recognition of and full respect for the right of the Palestinian people to establish their own definite homeland and with the recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

"On this important occasion we wish to say once again that the just cause of the Palestinian people may always depend upon our people's unending support and full solidarity in the persevering struggle they are waging against imperialism and Zionism to achieve the right to self-determination, the right of refugees to return home and the right to create an independent state of Palestine on Palestinian land."

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

U.S. AGGRESSIVE POLICIES DENOUNCED

PA250334 Havana PRELA in Spanish 2241 GMT 24 Nov 81

[Excerpt] Panama City, 24 Nov (PL)--Cuba today denounced the aggressive policy of U.S. governments for the past 20 years against that country, during a meeting held here of the Latin American Economic System (SELA).

In the face of the current hostile attitude of the government of President Ronald Reagan, the people and government of Cuba reiterate their determination to defend their country's sovereignty to the ultimate consequences, states a report submitted by the Cuban delegation to SELA plenary session.

The meeting, underway at the technical level, will draft the document setting the Latin American strategy for the United States.

These documents will be analyzed over the weekend by the foreign ministers of SELA member nations, many of which have voiced a critical stance toward Washington's policy.

In submitting its document, Cuba enumerates a number of U.S. actions against the Cuban economy, mentioning the following:

The trade ban between the two countries; trade limitations on U.S. subsidiaries in other countries; pressure applied against those countries trading with Cuba; the ban on U.S. citizens importing merchandise containing Cuban products from other countries; the unilateral annulment of treatment as a most favored nation; and the restrictive provisions in the 1975 trade law, among others.

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EL SALVADOR

MORALES EHRLICH BONN STATEMENT REPORTED

PA281932 Havana PRELA in English 1826 GMT 28 Nov 81

[Text] Bonn, Nov 29 (PL)--Antonio Morales Ehrlich, member of the Salvadorean Christian Democrat Military Junta, declared here that his regime will not agree to a dialogue with the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR), that is proposing a political solution to the conflict in El Salvador.

In statements to the press, Morales admitted that there are strong, insistent demands from abroad that the Salvadorean military junta negotiate with the opposition forces of the FDR and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN).

He alleged that the denunciations and protests throughout the world owing to the genocide that the Salvadorean junta is committing are due to supposed misinformation.

In spite of international press circles of the most varied trends having denounced repeatedly the violations of human rights in El Salvador, Morales argued that it is merely "a publicity campaign."

As regards the assassinations of the bishop of San Salvador, Oscar Arnulfo Romero, four U.S. nuns and several members of the FDR leadership, Morales pointed out that "no one has been able to prove who committed these crimes."

There is, however, a large amount of evidence, including that of an ex-U.S. ambassador, which pins the murders on the junta without a shadow of a doubt.

A spokesman of the Ministry of Economic Cooperation of the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) declared Thursday that the aid for development to El Salvador will be suspended while the present situation should last. This was communicated to the junta's foreign minister, Fidel Chavez Mena, who visited Bonn last week.

However, Morales said that it was unaware of this statement, that was published in the West German press, and he claimed that in his country "there is a climate of peace."

Although in recent days countries like Holland, Denmark, Sweden, Ecuador, Peru and Panama have given their support to the French-Mexican initiative that the

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Salvadorean regime negotiate a political solution with the FDR, Morales said that the military junta will not do this.

Neither does it accept the demand of the socialist international and the West German Social Democracy Party reiterated Monday this week by Hans Wischneski, for political solutions to the Salvadorean problem.

In the press conference, Morales avoided replying to questions on the recent report published by the United Nations on the massacres that the Salvadorean junta is committing.

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COUNTRY SECTION

GUATEMALA

BRIEFS

MORE BODIES FOUND--San Jose, 17 Dec (PL)--At least 21 bodies were found in the past few hours in various parts of Guatemala where repression has intensified. Ten bodies were found on the "Alaska" Peak and near the town of San Lorenzo, Suchitepequez. A woman and an approximately 11 year-old boy were among those found. The other bodies were found in the southern sector of Guatemala City and the towns of Santa Cruz del Quiche, Valle Nuevo, San Marcos Jacopilas, Agua Escondida and Montserrat. So far, only the bodies of Juan Lopez, Isabel Barillas, Alfredo Lopez, Leon Bat, Diego Mendoza, Julian Pascual Ramos and Antonio Palopo have been identified. The macabre discovery occurred a few days after 32 other bodies were found in the region of Chimaltenango. [Text] [PA172106 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1627 GMT 17 Dec 81]

ARGENTINE NEWSMAN REPORTEDLY ARRESTED--Mexico City, 10 Dec (PL)--Baldomero Alvarez Rios, executive secretary of the Latin American Journalists Federation [FELAP], today confirmed that Valentin Deigo Ferrat, an Argentine newsman who was visiting Guatemala on a professional mission, was arrested by the police of that country. The FELAP stressed that Ferrat, international coordinator for the System for Editorial Information and Promotion [Sistema de Informacion y Promosion Editorial--SIPE] is being tortured and demanded his immediate release. For this reason, it demanded the solidarity of national organizations of journalists in Latin American and the Caribbean. Alvarez Rios recalled that Ferrat is also a distinguished member of the International Organization of Journalists and the Association of Foreign Correspondents in Mexico [Asociacion de Corresponsales Extranjeros en Mexico--ACEM]. [Text] [PA120234 Havana PRELA in Spanish 0235 GMT 11 Dec 81]

PEOPLES FRONT DELEGATION VISITS MEXICO--Mexico City, 24 Nov (PL)--The Guatemala people will struggle until they achieve the overthrow of the military regime of Gen Romeo Lucas Garcia and the establishment of a revolutionary government in Guatemala, a delegation of the 31 January Peoples Front (FP-31) has said here. The FP-31 delegation, which arrived in Mexico City to meet with leaders of various Mexican political, union and student organizations, indicated that the regimes of Argentina, Chile and Israel are "responsible for the fratricidal massacre in Guatemala because they supply military advice and modern weapons, including herbicides and napalm, to the Lucas Garcia dictatorship." Alba Maria Esteves, Carlos Humberto Rojas, Antonio Calel and Francisco Rodriguez, members of the delegation, told the local press that they are on an international tour to make the public aware of and to obtain solidarity for the insurrectional struggle of the Guatemala people. [Text] [PA250442 Havana PRENSA in Spanish 1507 GMT 24 Nov 81]

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COUNTRY SECTION

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA SENDS CONDOLENCE LETTER TO FIDEL CASTRO

PA061533 Havana PRELA in Spanish 0159 GMT 6 Dec 81

[Text] Managua, 5 Dec (PL)--Commander Danile Ortega, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, today sent a message to Cuban President, Fidel Castro, condemning the murder of internationalist teacher, Aguedo Morales Reina.

The text of the letter sent by Ortega to Fidel Castro is as follows:

Commander in Chief, Fidel Castro Ruz, Havana

Dear Commander:

Once again a brave and unselfish Cuban patriot has been murdered on Nicaraguan soil. The blood of our brother, teacher Aguedo Morales Reina, has bathed our soil and we soak up that blood with sorrow but above all with hope. The Cuban teachers are helping us, with tenacity and at great risk, to overcome the state of cultural prostration that we inherited from the dictatorship and the many decades of imperialist domination in Nicaragua.

Those who carried out this crime and those who support their actions surely believe that they are one step closer to their objective of making us abandon our principles and forcing the Cuban teachers who are assigned all over our country to leave. There is nothing farther from reality because they will never accomplish this. The teachers, the government and the people of Cuba have shown their determination to continue this fraternal and historic cooperation with our revolution, and for our part, we once again reiterate our unyielding will to continue welcoming them to our territory.

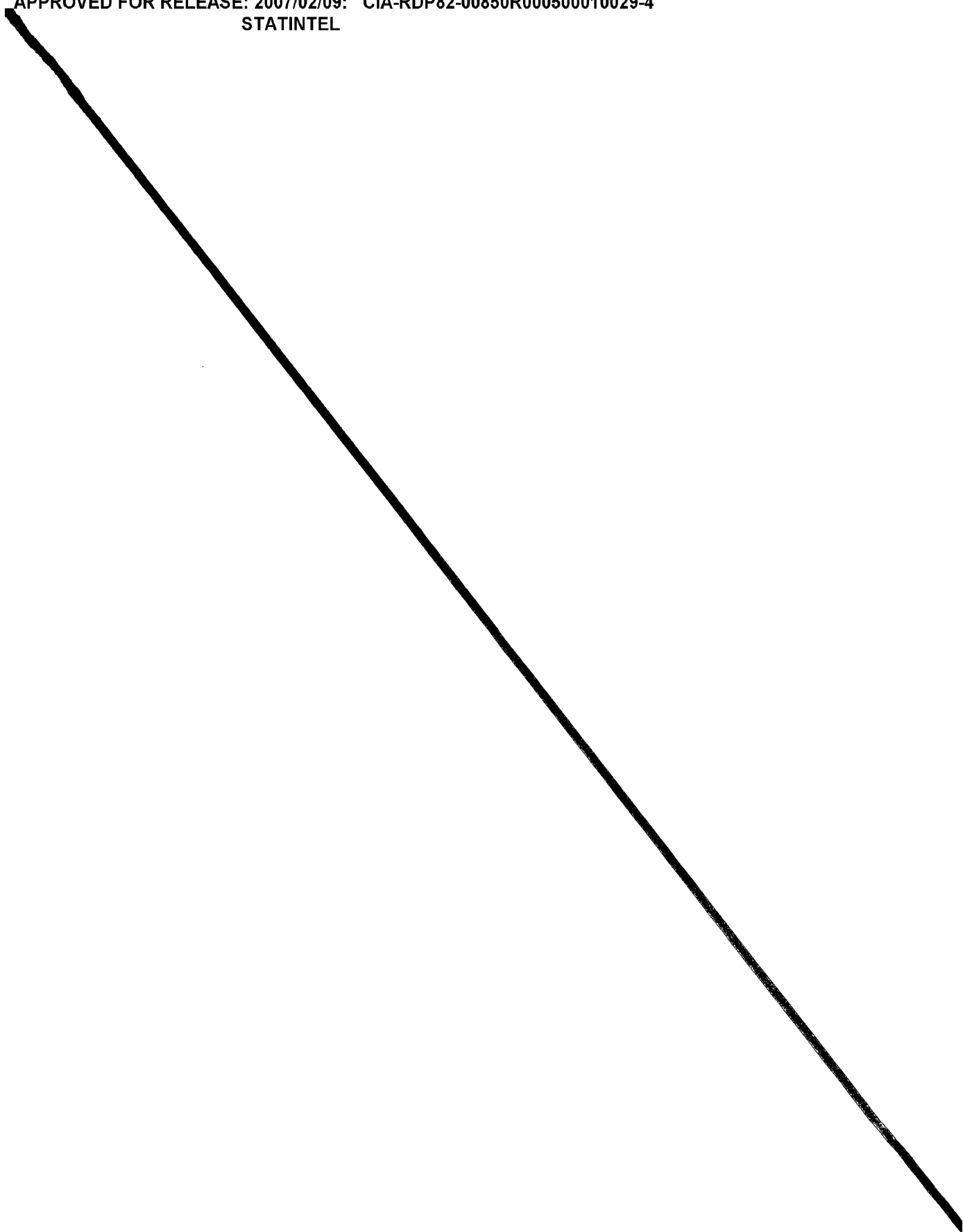
This new crime, like the past crime in which two Cuban teachers were murdered by a counterrevolutionary group, will not remain unpunished. We make a vow to the people of Nicaragua and the people of Cuba.

Dear Commander, please accept from the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction and from our people, our most sincere repudiation of this criminal act and our profound solidarity.

[Signed] Daniel Ortega Saavedra

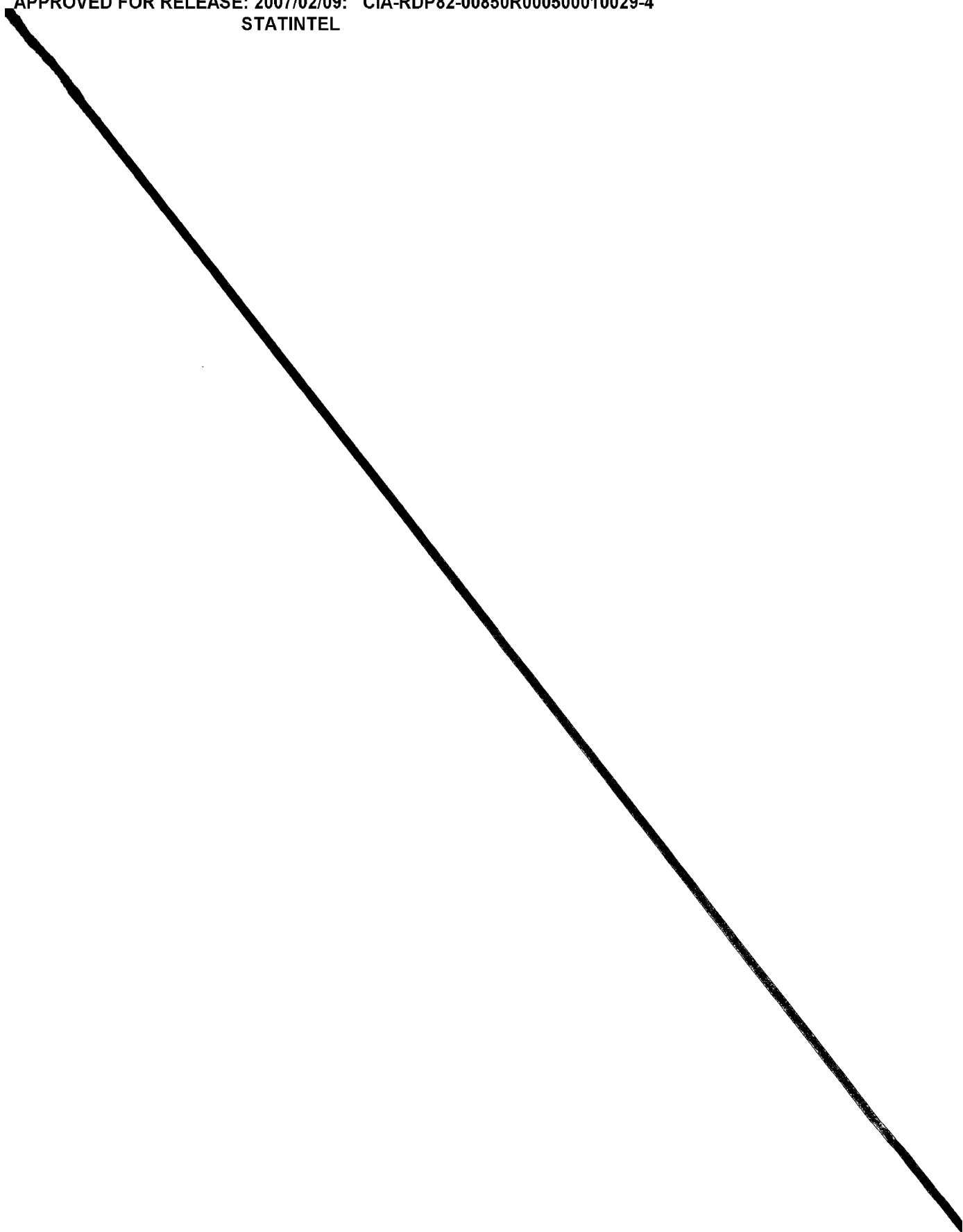
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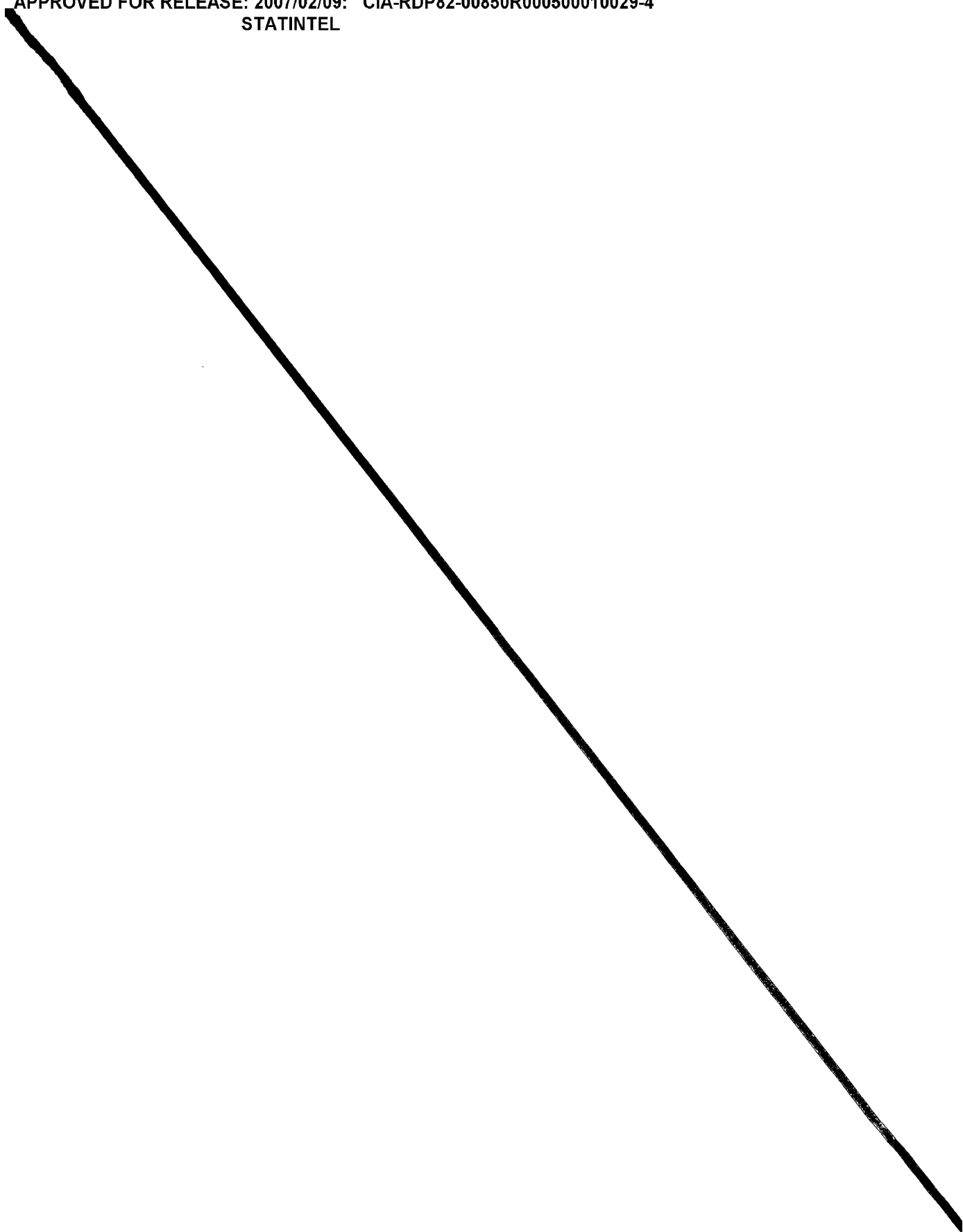
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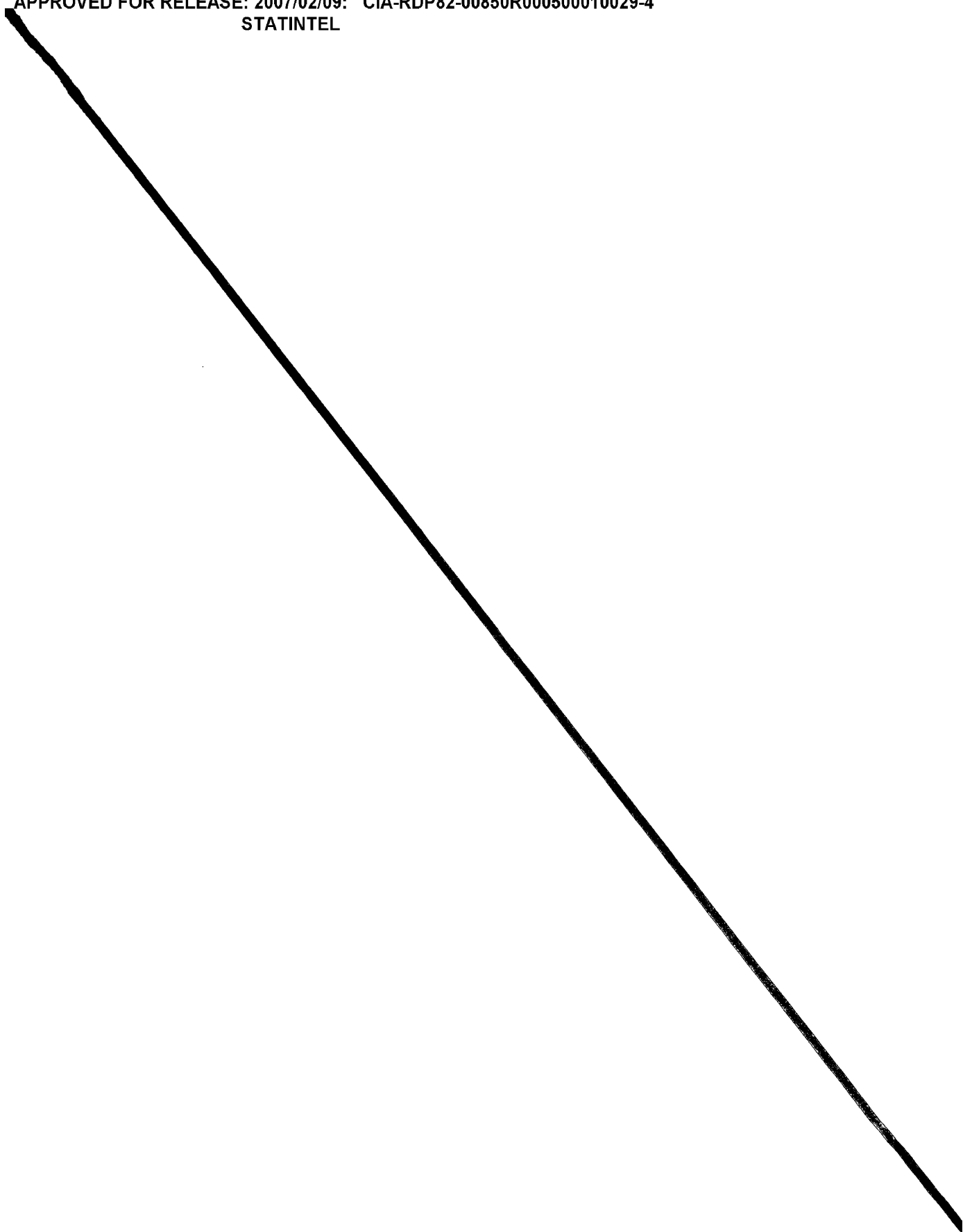
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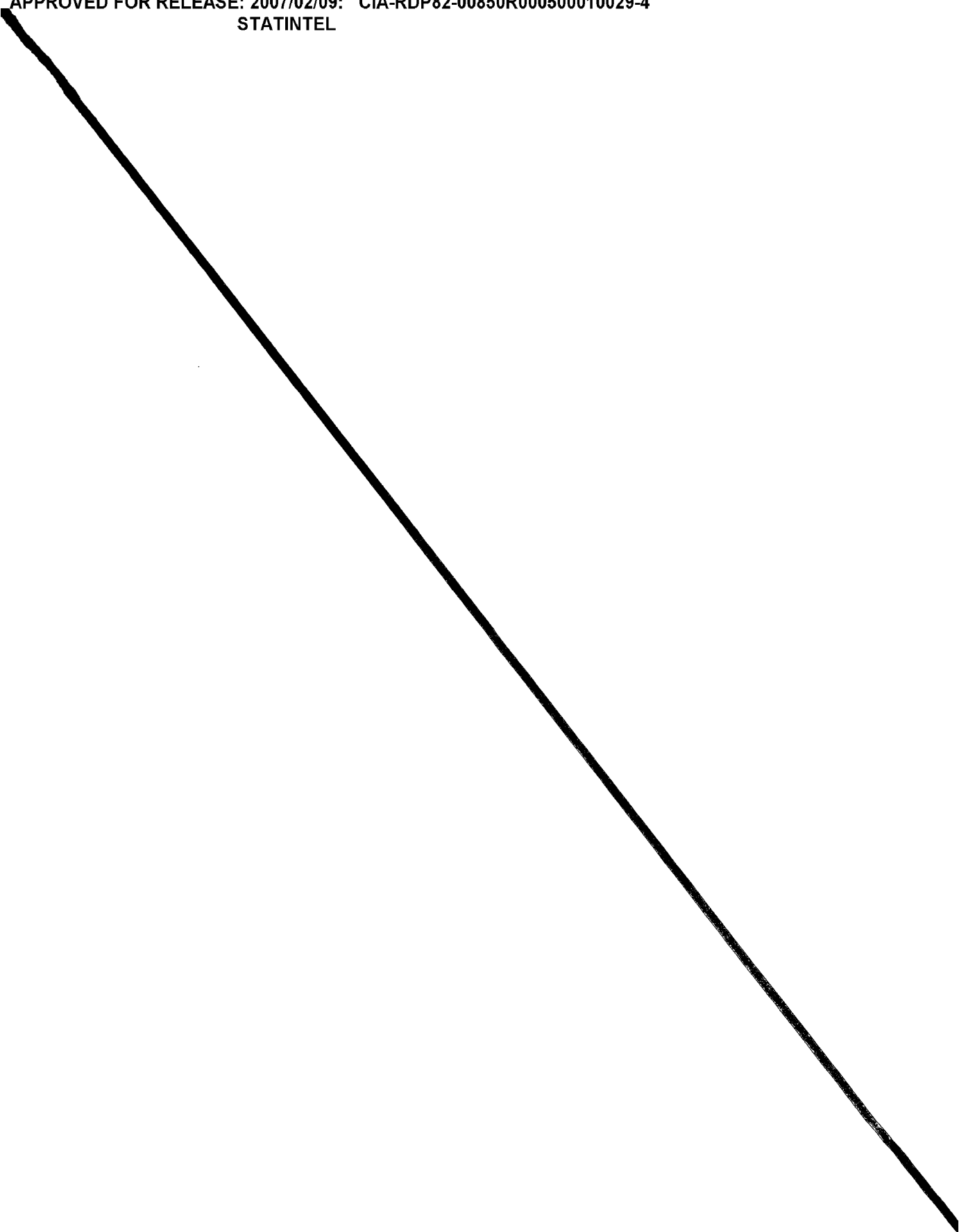
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