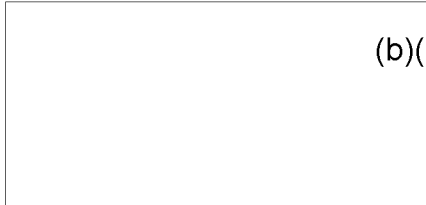




Director of
Central
Intelligence

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National Intelligence Daily (Cable)

18 October 1982

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CPAS NIDC 82-243C

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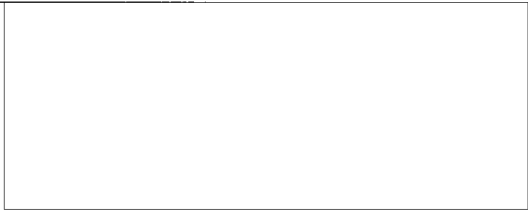
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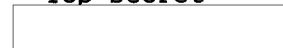
El Salvador: *Guerrilla Offensive Continues* 1



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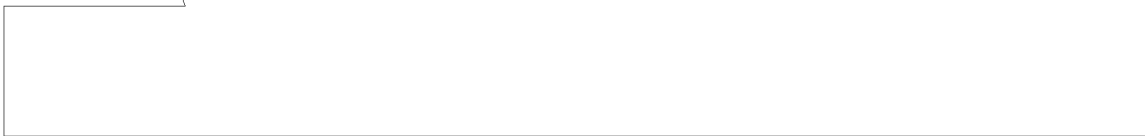
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EL SALVADOR: Guerrilla Offensive Continues

Guerrillas still occupy some towns in the north and are staging harassing attacks in various parts of the country, but their offensive appears to have peaked. 


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Attacks against economic targets continue, especially in Usulután Department. Small government outposts and public utilities in and around the capital have also been struck. 




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the intensity of guerrilla operations has passed its peak. With the exception of some airstrikes and sporadic clashes near guerrilla-held towns in northern Chalatenango and Morazan Departments, military forces have avoided hasty counterattacks. In contrast to past practice, military leaders are taking more time to plan their tactical response and have focused greater attention on securing key bridges and installations.// 

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//As of Saturday, the military was claiming to have killed 153 guerrillas and to have suffered 122 casualties, according to the press. The US defense attache reports that as many as 16 of the Air Force's 20 UH-1H helicopters are not operational, mostly because of maintenance problems. One helicopter was destroyed in an accident, and another has been damaged by enemy fire.// 

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Comment: Guerrilla forces are likely to keep up offensive activities in various parts of the country, at least for the next several days. Salvadoran estimates appear correct, however, that enemy operations are leveling off. The guerrilla efforts do not constitute a serious threat to the armed forces. 

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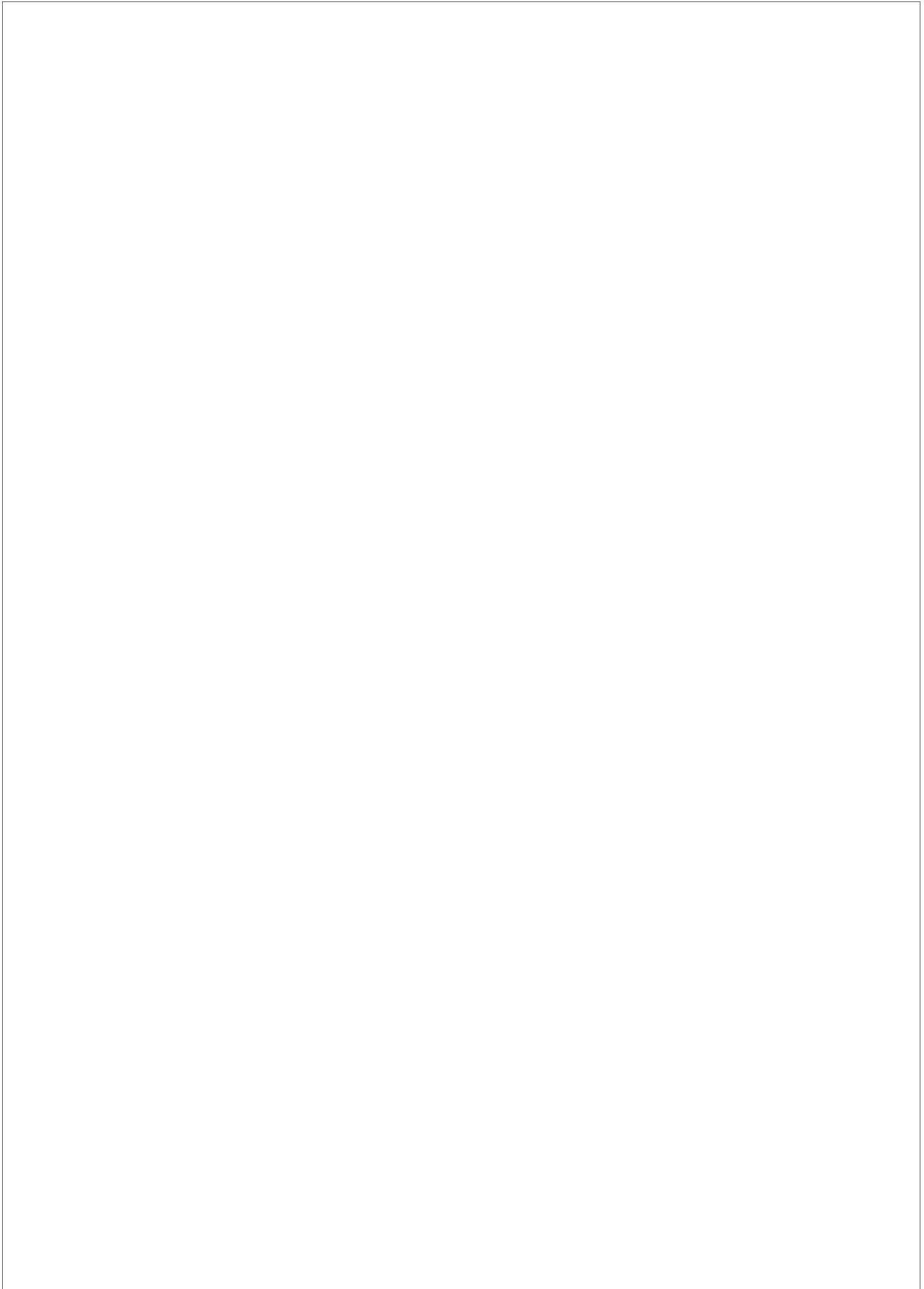


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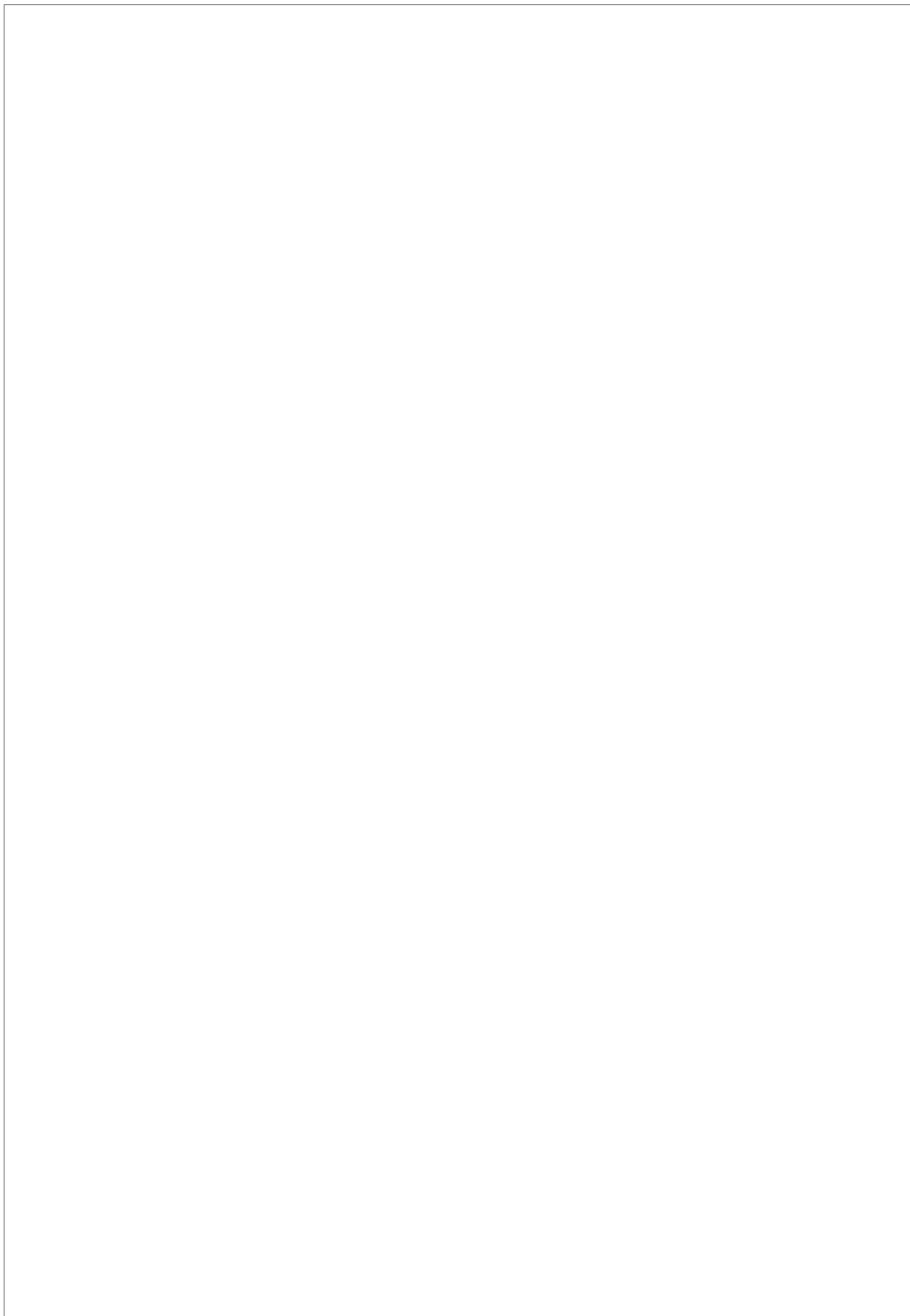
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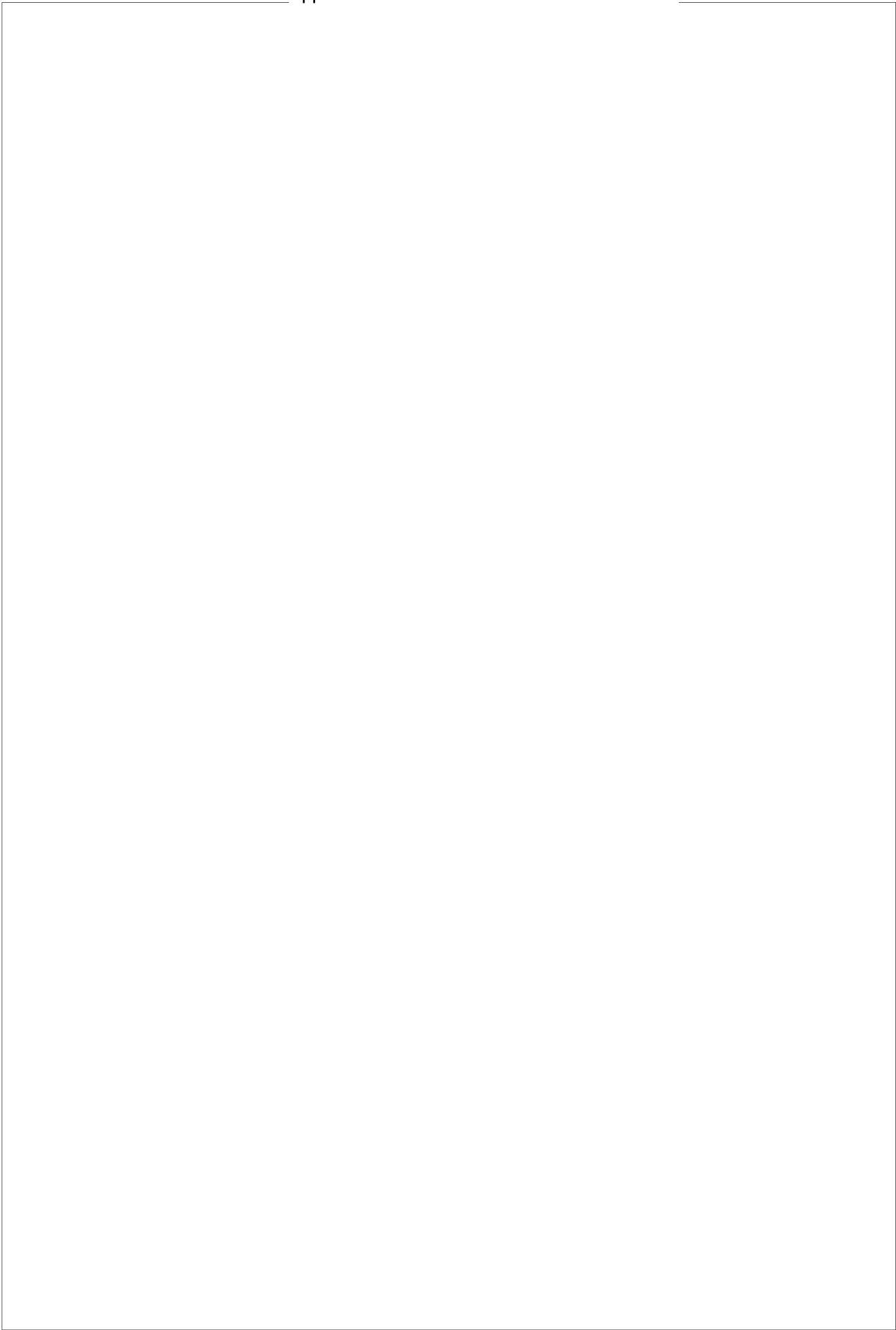












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