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National Intelligence Daily for Saturday, 30 September 1989

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Summary:

The CIA's National Intelligence Daily for 30 September 1989, describes the latest developments in Lebanon, Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union, Philippines, the United States, Greece, Hungary, El Salvador, Panama, Thailand, and Nicaragua.

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

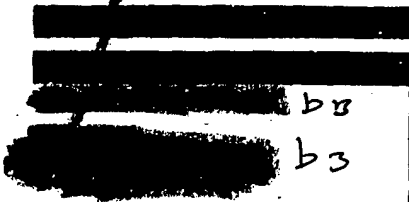
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Director of Central Intelligence

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY

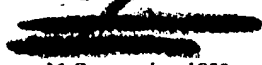
Saturday, 30 September 1989



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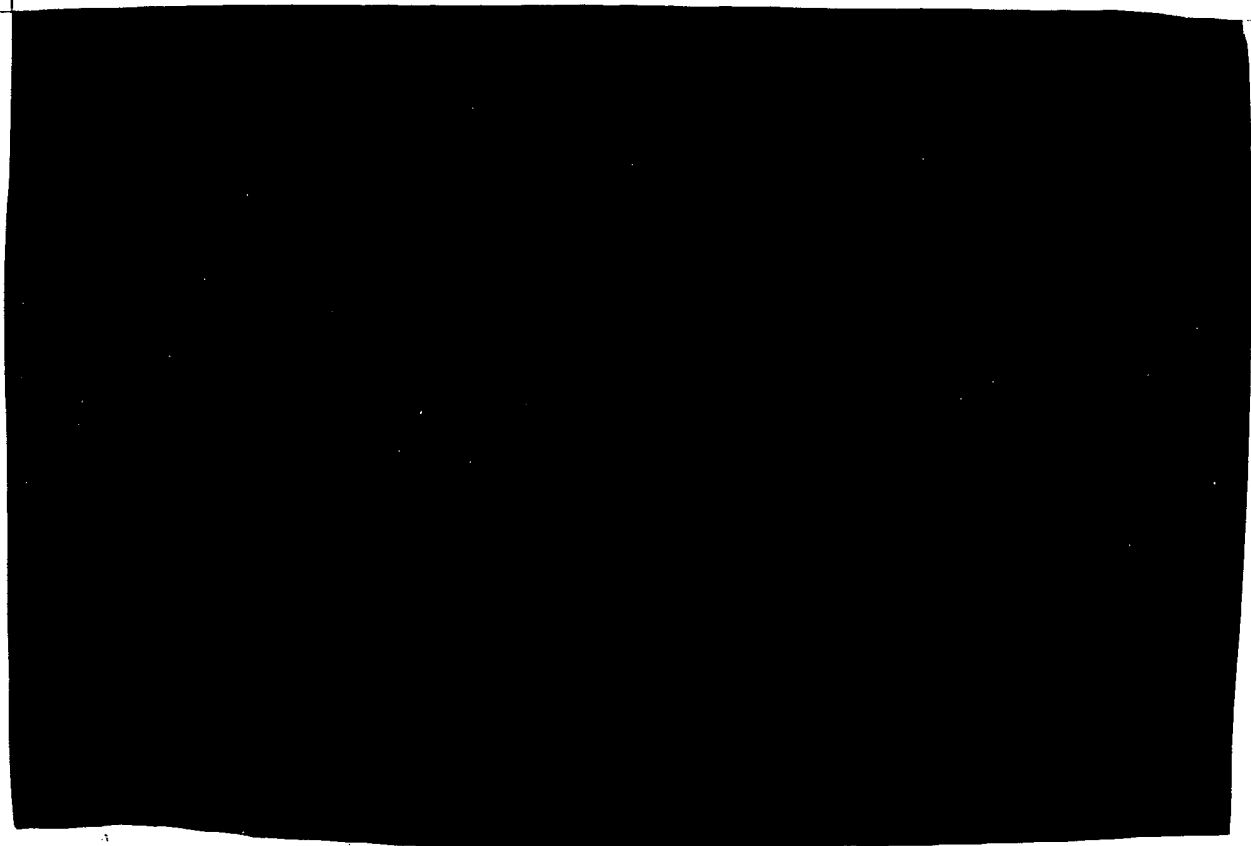
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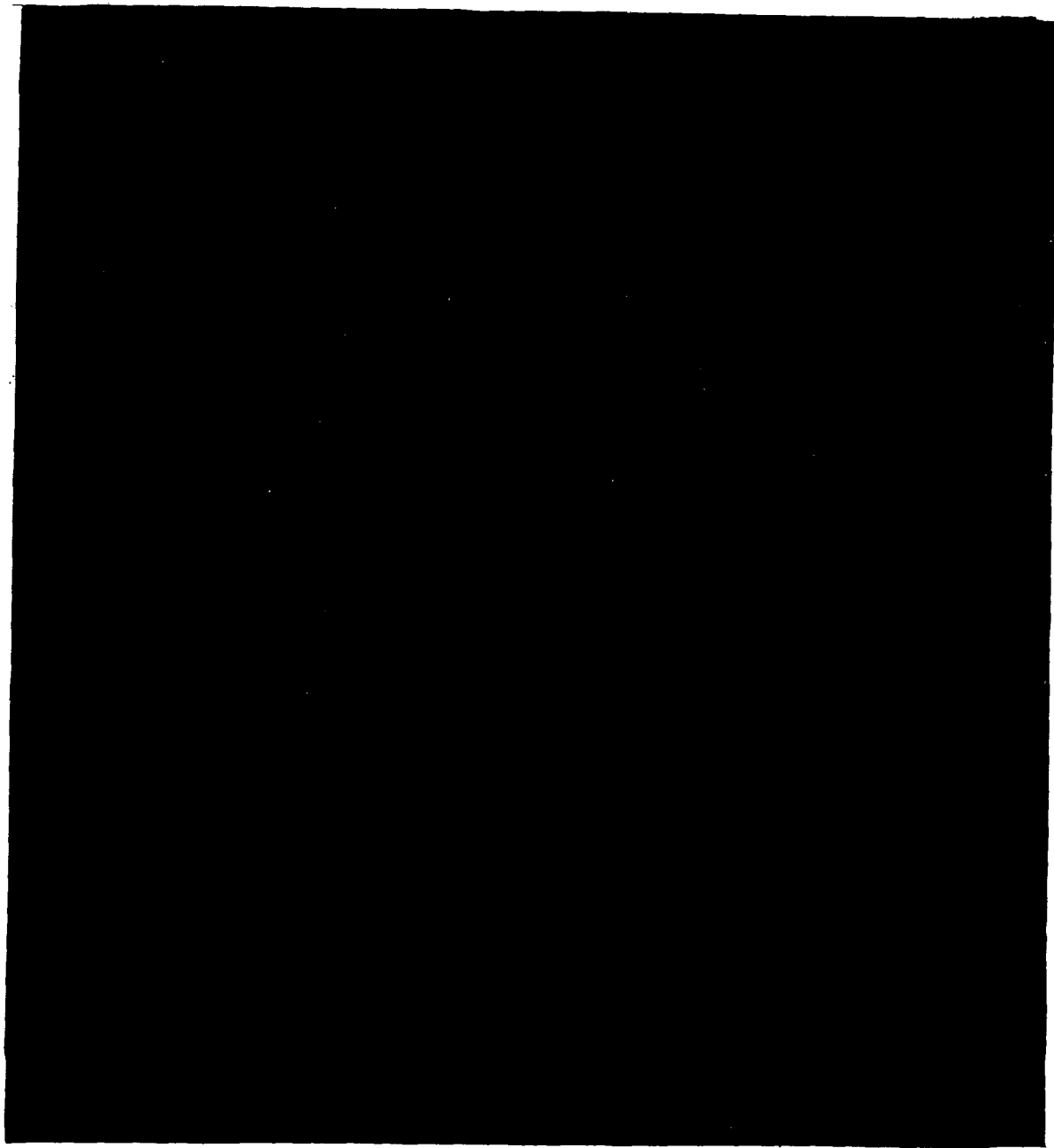


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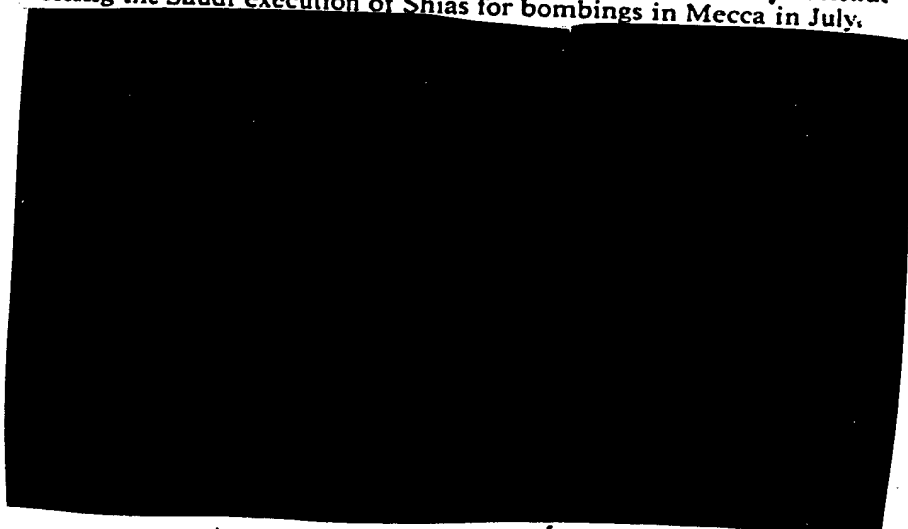
LEBANON:

Lebanese Assembly Meets in Saudi Arabia

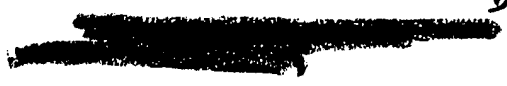
Lebanese legislators are meeting in At-Taif, Saudi Arabia, today under Arab League auspices to discuss political reform; prospects for reconciliation are at best lackluster.

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The 73 surviving members of Lebanon's 99-member National Assembly were elected in 1972, and pressure on these elderly delegates by the country's powerful militias has increased markedly in the past week. Hizballah radio warned Shia legislators not to attend, citing the Saudi execution of Shias for bombings in Mecca in July.



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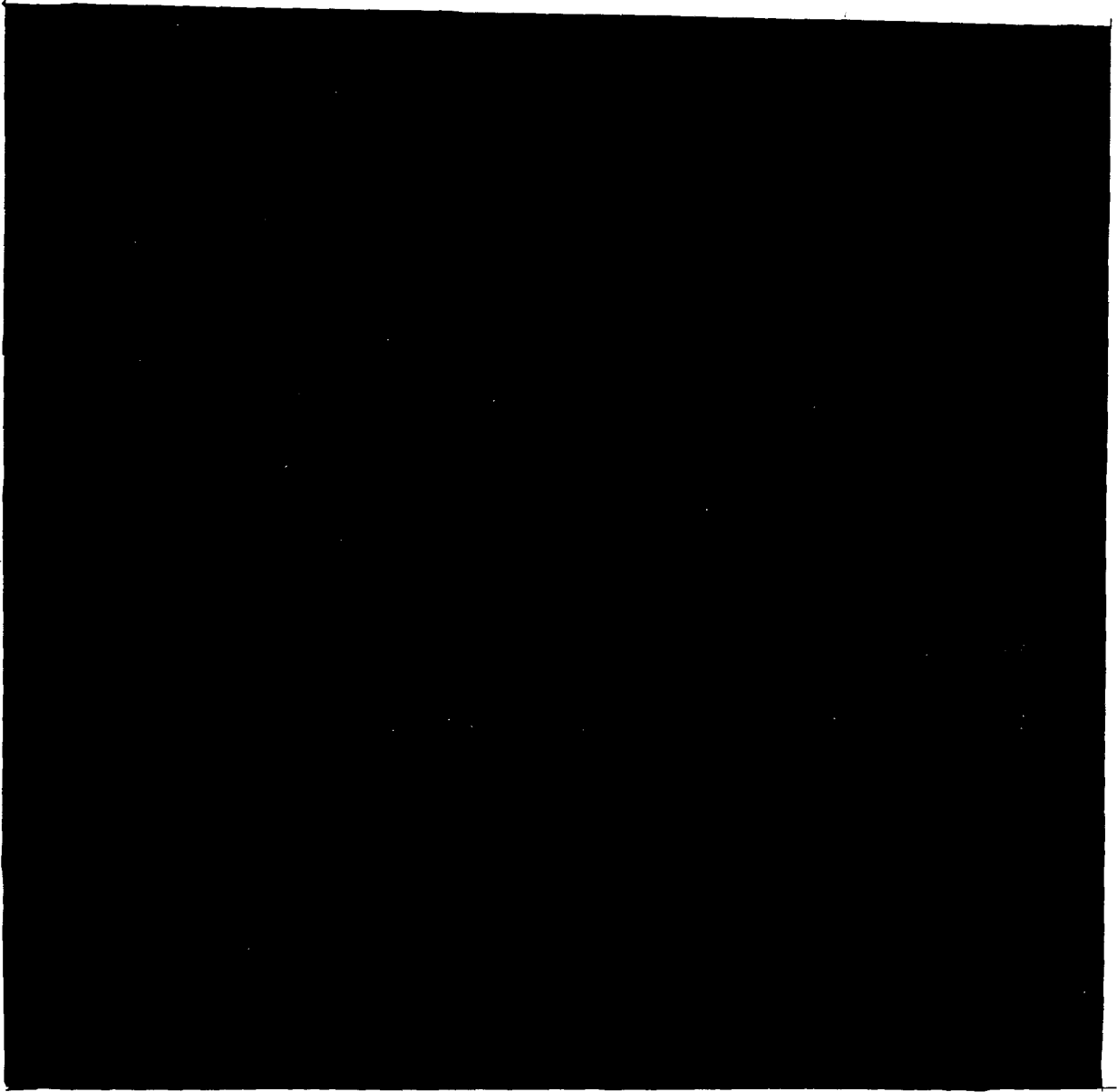
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EUROPE:****East Germans Still Voting With Their Feet**

The continuing stream of East German refugees threatens to further embarrass the country's leadership during next week's 40th anniversary celebrations, and Bulgaria may have begun enforcing travel restrictions less strictly than East Berlin would like. [REDACTED] b3

By Friday there were more than 2,500 East Germans in Bonn's Embassy in Prague and 600 in the Mission in Warsaw. The well-connected East German lawyer Wolfgang Vogel, who successfully resolved previous sit-ins, so far has failed to persuade the refugees to return home in exchange for permission to emigrate legally after six months. [REDACTED] b3

Bulgarian officials recently decided not to repatriate an East German couple seeking to emigrate illegally to the West through Greece: the two were removed from the border area and released. [REDACTED] b3
[REDACTED] Earlier this year Sofia allowed an ethnic German couple from Romania to emigrate to West Germany in response to Bonn's request for assistance, claiming its assistance was provided on a one-time only basis. [REDACTED] b3

[REDACTED] b3 [REDACTED] Vogel's failure may compel the East German leadership to acquiesce in a face-saving evacuation of would-be emigres to the West under Red Cross auspices. Without new East German restrictions on travel within the Bloc, however, would-be emigres will continue to use Bonn's Missions as escape routes. The Czechoslovaks and the Poles maintain that the issue concerns only the two Germans, although Czechoslovakia recently has been turning back East Germans at the Hungarian border to help halt the emigration flow. [REDACTED] b3

It is unclear whether Bulgaria's tight border policy may be changing, but any such change would be significant because a growing number of East Germans—nearly 300,000 in 1987—vacation in Bulgaria and would quickly see it as another potential exit. Sofia almost certainly wants to avoid the negative publicity Czechoslovakia got for its forced repatriation of East Germans and probably has an interest in encouraging increased financial aid from Bonn. [REDACTED] b3

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USSR:

Critical of Renewed German Reunification Debate

Moscow's strongly worded efforts to dampen the revival of the reunification issue in West Germany show both its continuing deep opposition and its concern about the explosive potential of such discussions at a time of reform and uncertainty in Eastern Europe.

In his speech to the UN General Assembly on Tuesday, Foreign Minister Shevardnadze claimed forces of "revanchism" are trying to revise and destroy the postwar realities in Europe. He explicitly evoked the spectre of Nazi Germany and warned against encouragement of this trend. [REDACTED] b3
 also criticized West German discussion of reunification: one called East Germany an "inalienable link" in the Warsaw Pact and cautioned Bonn not to try to exploit its current problems to destabilize and annex it. [REDACTED] b3

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[REDACTED] The Soviets have hinted for more than two years that their thinking on intra-German relations is evolving, but the recent revival of the reunification issue has caused them to underline forcefully their fundamental opposition to it, even at the risk of offending the West Germans. Memories of World War II are still politically potent in the USSR. Moscow also shares the concerns of its East European allies and many West European countries about the political and economic clout of a united Germany and the possible reopening of European territorial disputes. [REDACTED] b3

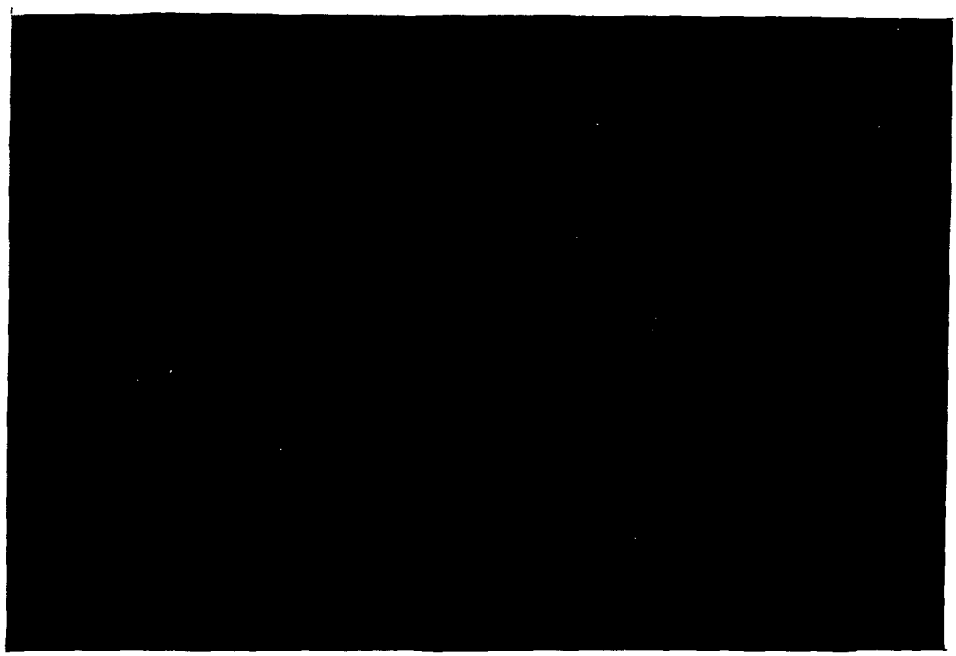
The Soviets probably are particularly anxious to reassure the East German regime of undiminished support while it must cope with a massive exodus and growing domestic discontent. Moscow's longer term agenda with West Germany, however, is served by hints of flexibility on the German question. When the current furor abates, the Soviets probably will again soft-pedal their opposition to reunification and push discussion of improved political and economic relations between the two Germanys in a common European home. [REDACTED] b3

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30 September 1989

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~~Top Secret~~ b3**PHILIPPINES-US: Preparing for Bases Negotiations**

President Aquino's agreement this week to begin negotiations with Washington in December on a new US military bases agreement sets the stage for more intensive public debate and political maneuvering over US access beyond 1991. [REDACTED] b3

Liberal Party head and Senate President Salonga, who had advocated closing the bases as soon as the current agreement expires in 1991, announced his party now favors a gradual phaseout by 1996. In response, 12 of the 23 Senate members endorsed a nonbinding resolution urging that no extension be permitted. Liberal Party stalwarts have backed away from Salonga's position and are calling for an orderly dismantling of the bases. [REDACTED] b3

House Speaker Mitra had recently challenged the Senate to agree to a referendum on a new bases agreement before voting on it. A number of senators, including Salonga and members of Mitra's own party, rejected his proposal, claiming the Constitution allows a referendum only after the Senate has ratified an agreement. Many senators are criticizing Aquino's statement that she favors a nonbinding sampling of public opinion before the Senate considers any draft agreement. [REDACTED] b3

b3 [REDACTED] Mitra probably hopes a referendum would reflect public opinion polls showing nationwide support for a new agreement, thereby offsetting the senators' antibases rhetoric and undermining the Senate's insistence that it alone will decide the bases' future. Although most senators probably judge that an immediate withdrawal of the bases would hurt the economy, a consensus is growing in the legislative and executive branches that the bases should be gradually dismantled. [REDACTED] b3

Aquino's trip to Washington in November will be the next focus of maneuvering on the bases issue by politicians, other interest groups, and the Communists. [REDACTED]

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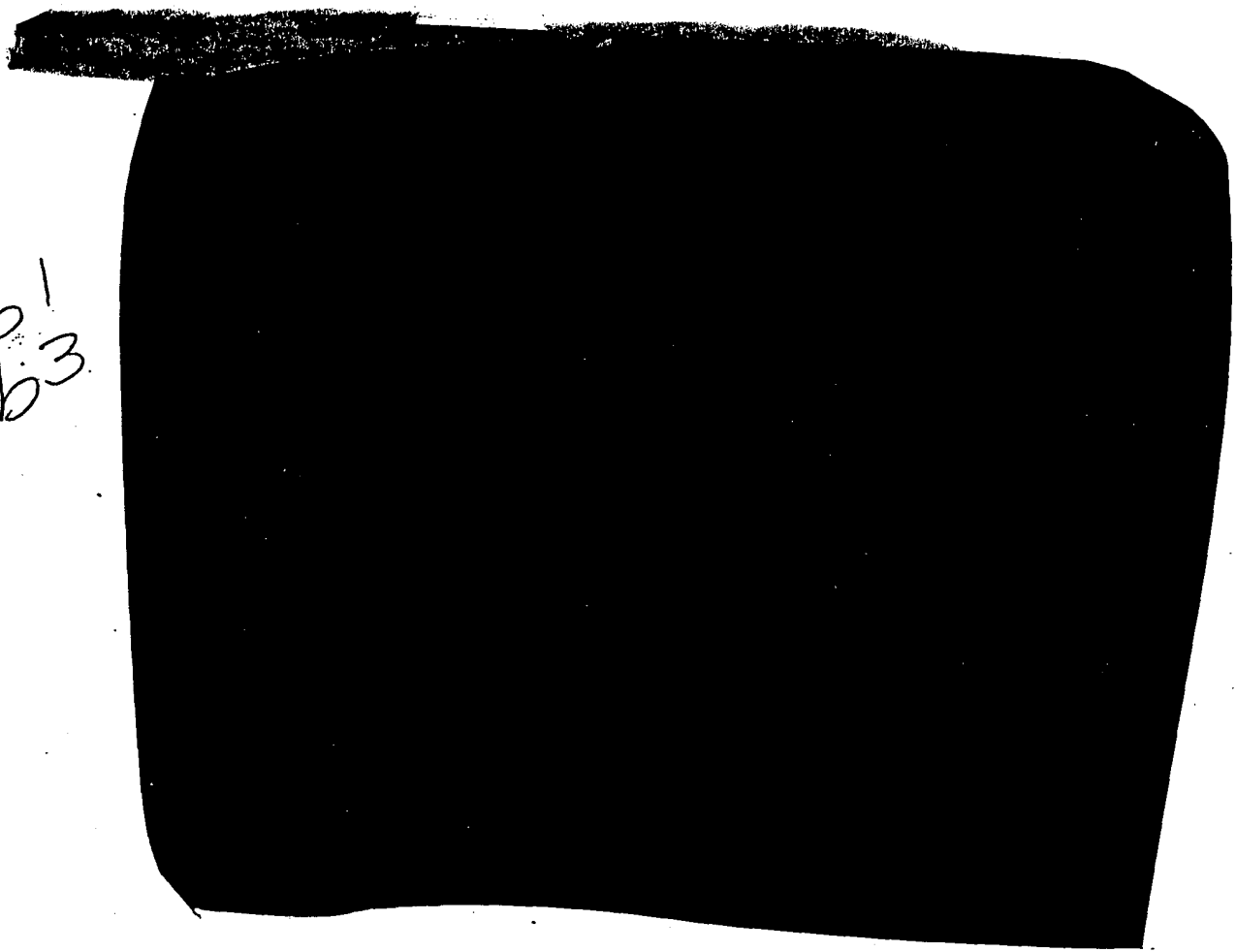
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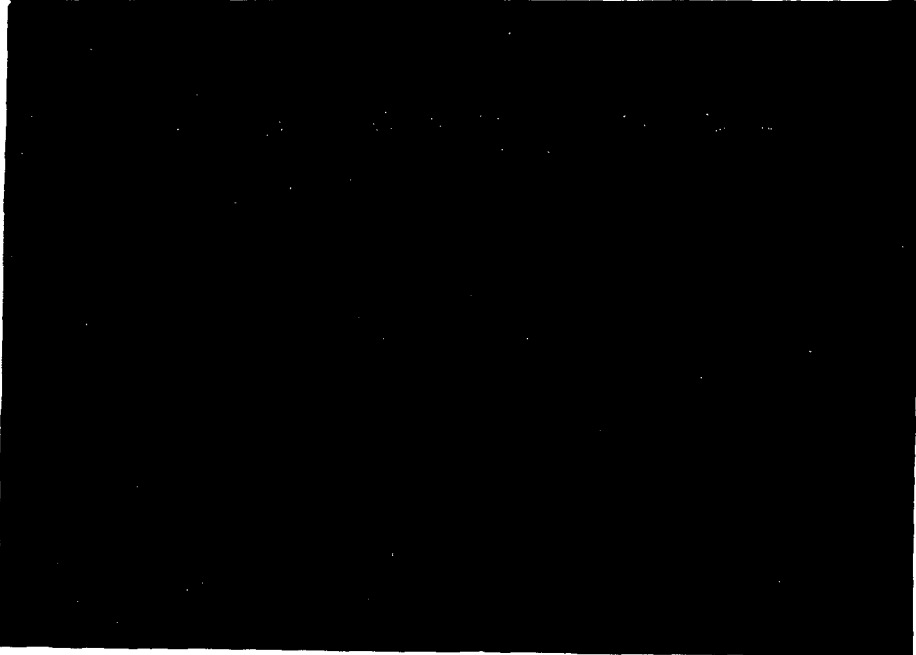


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GREECE: Conservatives, Communists Block Socialist Ploy

Conservative New Democracy and its coalition partner, the Communist-led Left Alliance, apparently have made a deal to block Socialist party (PASOK) efforts to change the election law before the 5 November legislative election. On Thursday the parliament debated a PASOK proposal to abolish a provision that favors larger parties. The Alliance indicated it would not oppose procedural obstacles by ND to prevent a vote on the law. [redacted] This was in return for an ND promise not to change the law to favor larger parties if it wins in November or if a deadlock in the presidential election next March precipitates a legislative election in the spring. [redacted]

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[redacted] ND's promise is almost certainly a quid pro quo for Alliance support. While the Alliance would benefit from a more proportional election law, it wants to avoid a conflict with ND that could harm its carefully cultivated image of respectability. The Alliance may believe that the ND will cke out a majority and that its deal with ND will prevent the implementation of an even less proportional system that would reduce the Alliance's legislative representation. ND's skillful maneuvering averts a legal change that would make it nearly impossible to win a majority. [redacted]

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HUNGARY-USSR: Pozsgay Seeking Gorbachev's Blessing

Hungary's leading Communist reformer, Presidium member Imre Pozsgay, travels to Moscow this weekend on the eve of the Hungarian Communist party congress to seek President Gorbachev's approval for his platform. It will be the first meeting between the two. ~~SECRET~~

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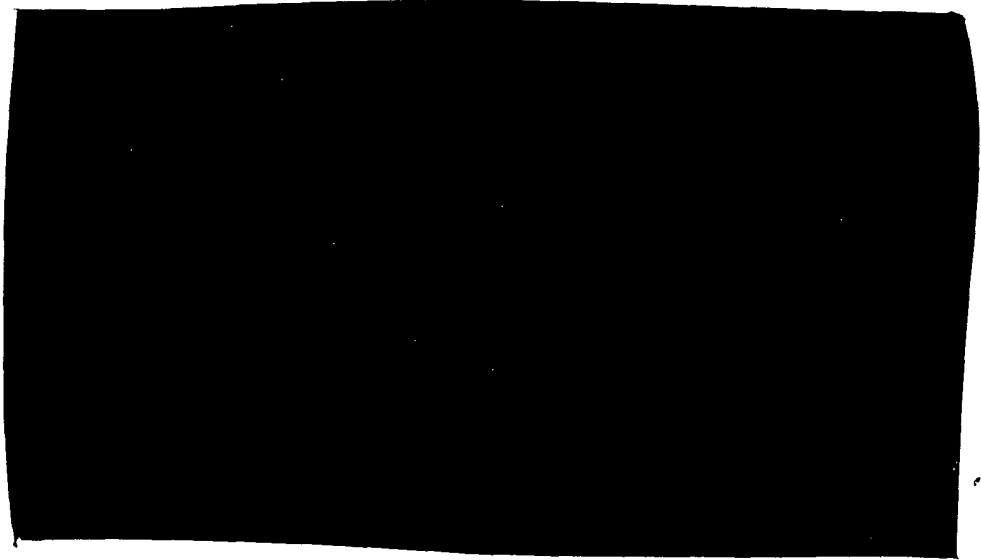
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~~SECRET~~: Pozsgay has sought a meeting with the Soviet leader for some time and, at the party congress set to begin on 6 October, will try to portray the visit as an endorsement of his reform policies. Moscow undoubtedly is uneasy about some of Pozsgay's views and will use the visit to probe his intentions: Pozsgay is likely to be elected President in late November. In particular, Gorbachev will seek reassurance that Pozsgay will help protect the Communist party's prerogatives in key sectors such as defense and internal security and keep Hungary in the Warsaw Pact.

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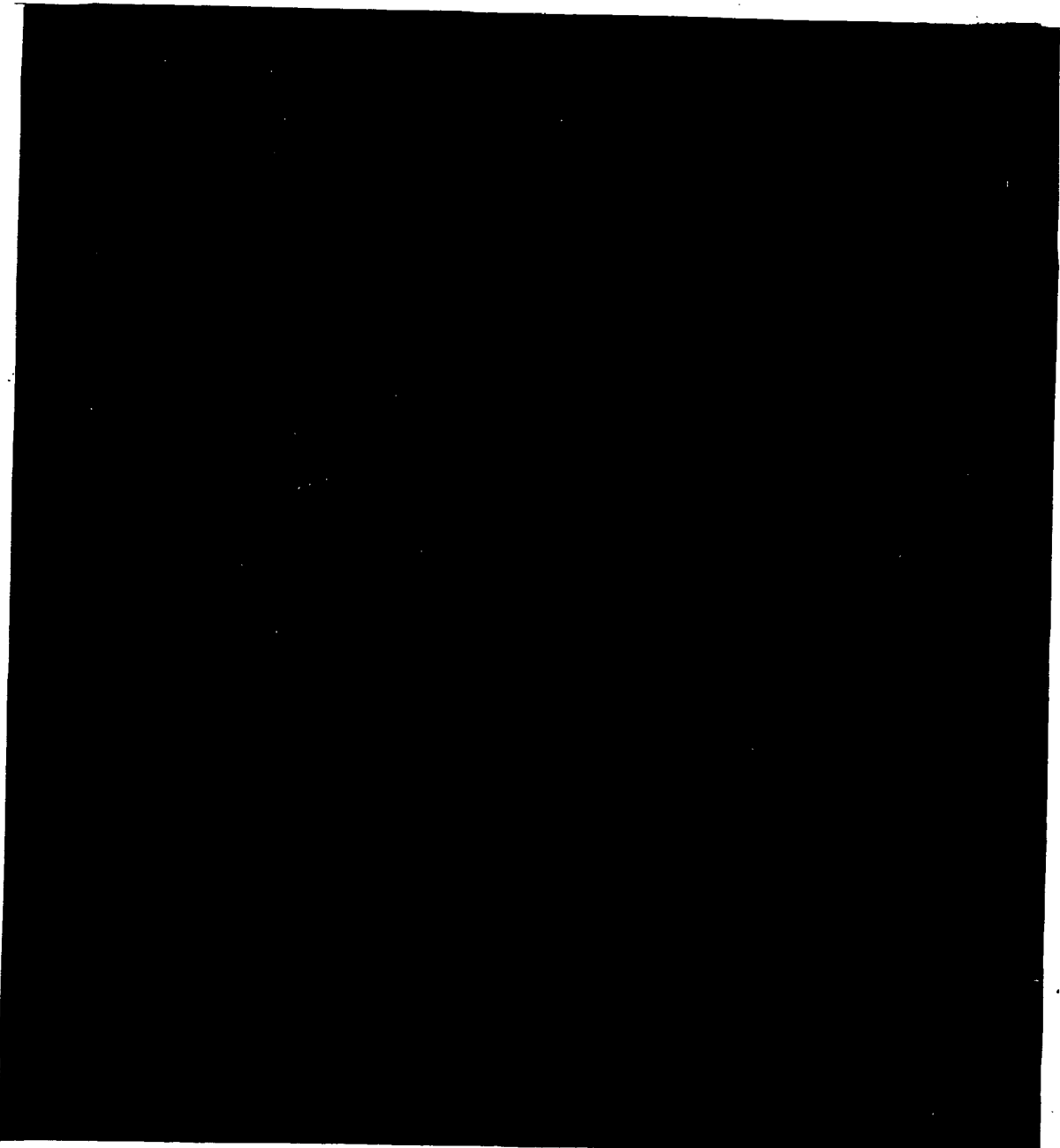
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EL SALVADOR: Insurgents Plan More Assassinations

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El Salvador's FMLN insurgents continue to attack government facilities and plan assassinations despite their public commitment to dialogue. [redacted] rebels have surveilled the Vice President and the President of the National Assembly for the past six weeks in preparation for an assassination attempt. [redacted]

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[redacted] FMLN leaders plan to attack ARENA hardliner Roberto D'Aubuisson's house or vehicle with antitank weapons. An urban commando cell [redacted] has obtained [redacted] silenced pistols made for killing at close range. Initial reports indicate the military and the guerrillas have suffered relatively high casualties since the rebels began nationwide attacks on Monday. [redacted]

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Comment: Rebel plans and the acquisition of more sophisticated assassination weapons belie FMLN claims that the high command has not sanctioned political murders and that they are conducted primarily by rogue elements. Moreover, the timing and coordination of this week's attacks suggest the FMLN was preparing for them during the peace negotiations in Mexico City. Attacks are likely to continue as the FMLN attempts to press the government before the peace talks set for 16-17 October in San Jose. [redacted]

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PANAMA: Regime Concerned About Opposition Activities

The Panamanian regime is considering the arrest of Democratic Opposition leader Guillermo Endara, who has been on a hunger strike for more than a week to protest the new government and to promote the opposition's financial boycott. Endara has been camped out in the opposition's headquarters since last week, while his running mate has been touring the Caribbean and Europe to seek continued support. Proregime thugs reportedly are littering streets near the headquarters with nails to discourage groups of supporters from gathering. [redacted]

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[redacted] The Defense Forces, in the meantime, have closed two printing shops that prepared campaign leaflets for the opposition. [redacted]

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[redacted] The opposition has been searching for an alternative to risky street demonstrations since the transition of power on 1 September, and Endara's fast appears to be capturing more attention than the regime calculated. Defense Chief Noriega and other officials probably believe the threat to arrest Endara will discourage supporters, but they will use force if necessary. The effectiveness of the financial boycott remains in doubt because many Panamanians suffering from cash shortages were already withholding payments. [redacted]

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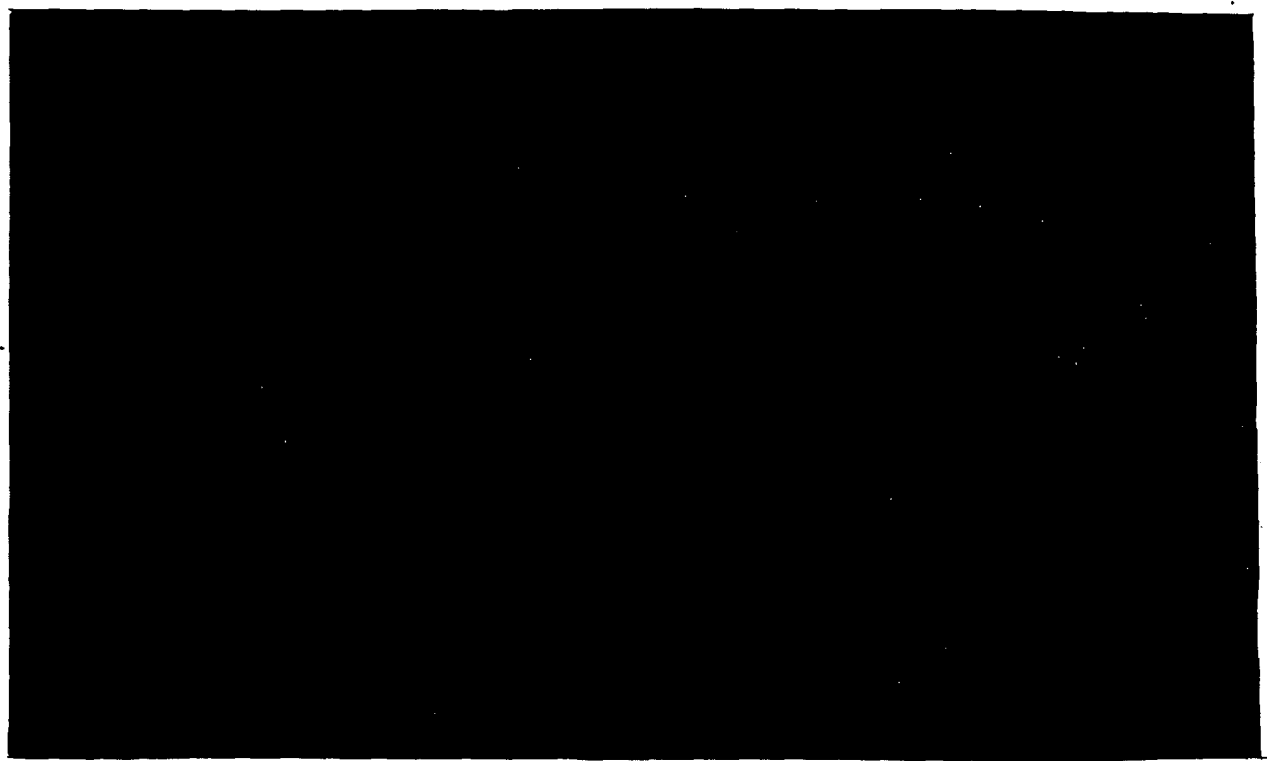
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THAILAND: Annual Military Changes Announced

b3 [redacted] Thai General Chavalit will keep his posts as Army Commander and Acting Supreme Commander when the annual military rotation takes effect on Sunday; he probably hopes this year's promotions will relieve frustration among senior officers over his failure to retire two years ago as promised. Assistant Army Commander Suchinda will move up to Deputy Army Commander, and several of his cronies will command key military regions. Air Force Commander Woranat, in an unusual move, will switch with Deputy Supreme Commander Kaset. [redacted] b3

b3 [redacted] By these promotions, Chavalit has filled the senior military positions with officers who are likely to support his eventual bid to become prime minister. Suchinda, who heads the second-most-powerful group of officers, now appears in place eventually to succeed Chavalit. He and his peers, who include Kaset, will be in position to begin assuming control of the military as Chavalit looks toward retirement, which may be as early as next year. [redacted] b3

NICARAGUA: Opposition Coalition in Turmoil

b3 The selection this week of candidates for seats in Nicaragua's National Assembly has increased tensions in the National Opposition Union and prompted the defection of one of the largest member parties. [redacted] the Popular Social Christian Party, unhappy with its share of candidate slots, withdrew from the coalition and realigned itself with the Social Christian Party, a nominally independent group that collaborates closely with the Sandinista regime. The coalition's vice-presidential candidate, Virgilio Godoy, was similarly angered by the low number of slots allocated to his Independent Liberal Party. [redacted]

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[redacted]: Opposition unity has been fragile since the coalition was formed earlier this year. Internal divisions undoubtedly will persist, and other parties may jump ship. If the defection of the Popular Social Christian Party holds, it will siphon votes from the opposition coalition. [redacted] b3

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In Brief

Americas

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— Bolivia appointed first ambassador to Cuba since establishing diplomatic relations in 1983 . . . appointee from ruling party, which has longstanding Cuban ties . . . President Paz Zamora probably will expand economic, health cooperation.

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Europe

— Recent Polish think tank poll shows widespread support for Solidarity. Premier Mazowiecki, only 3 percent for Communists . . . majority supports current coalition government, believes Communists less likely to stall reforms if included.

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— EC on Monday likely to limit foreign programming on EC television to 50 percent . . . press says France, Netherlands now favor, turning tide . . . annual US sales of \$800 million at risk, strict enforcement not likely.

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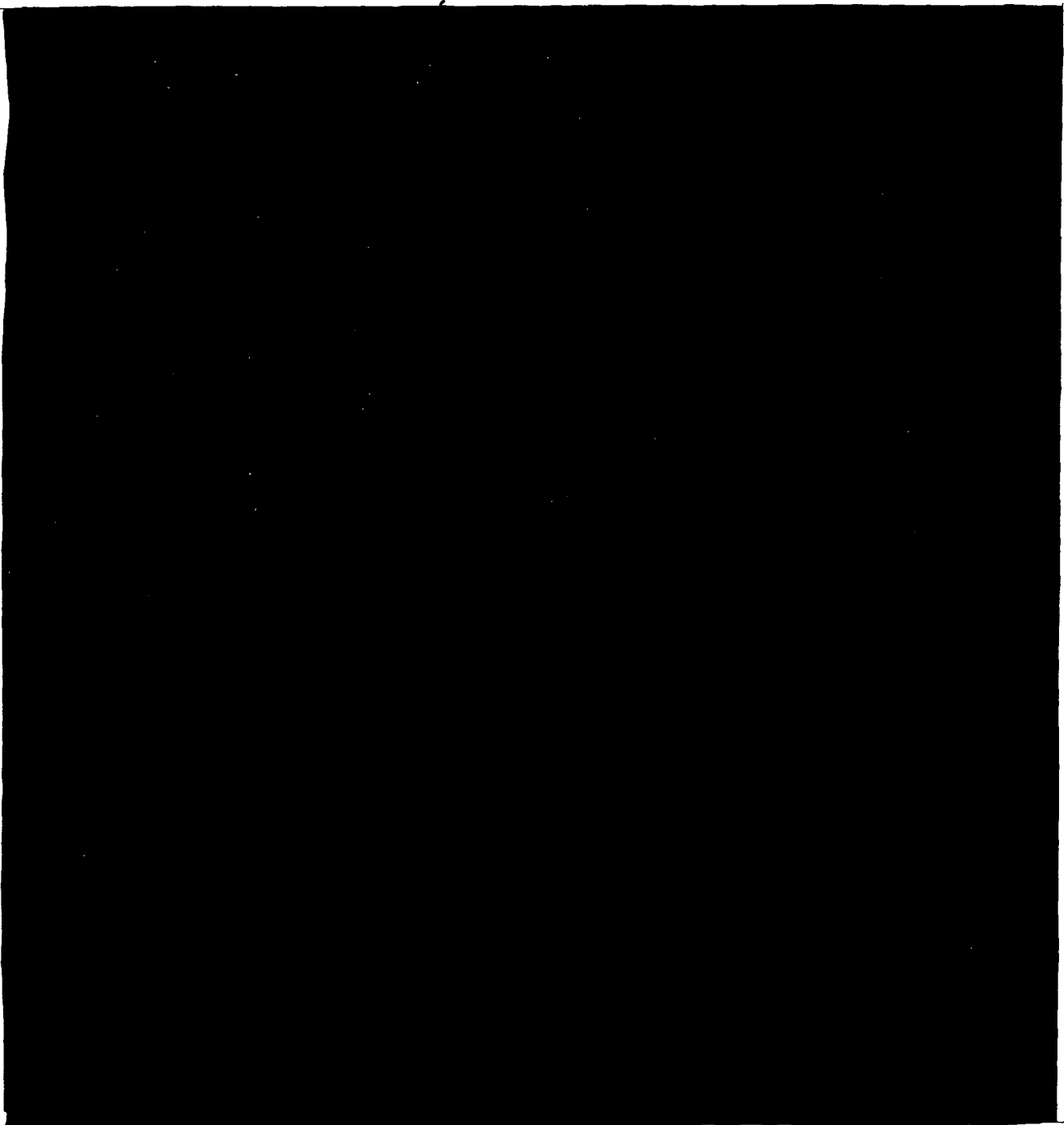
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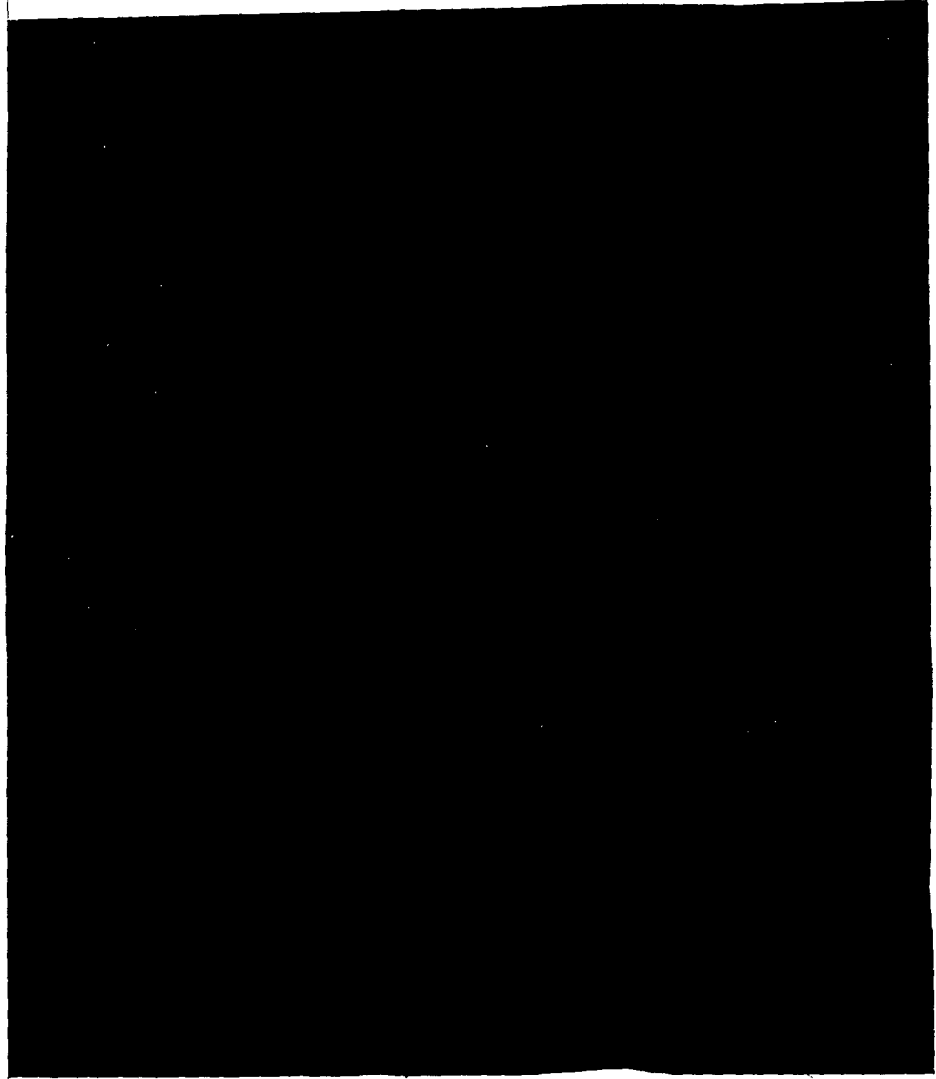
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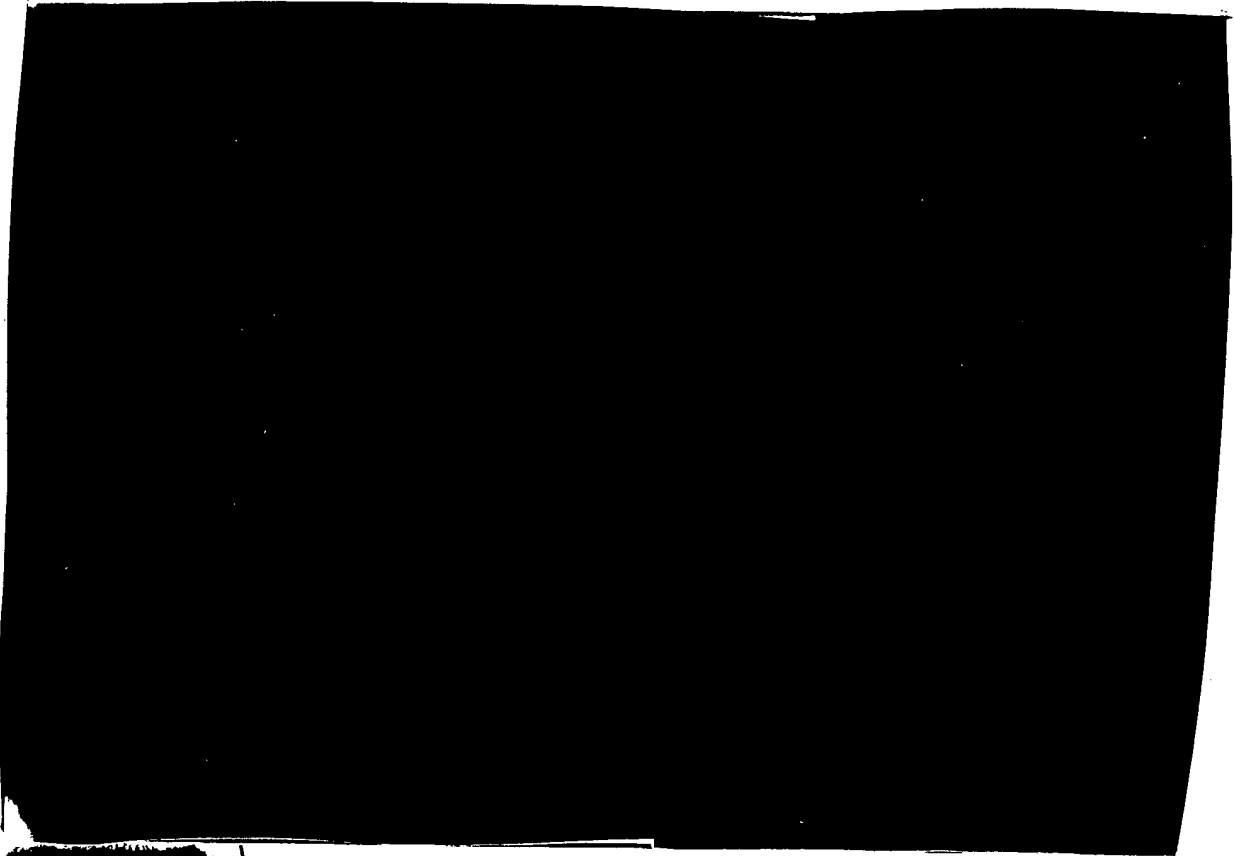
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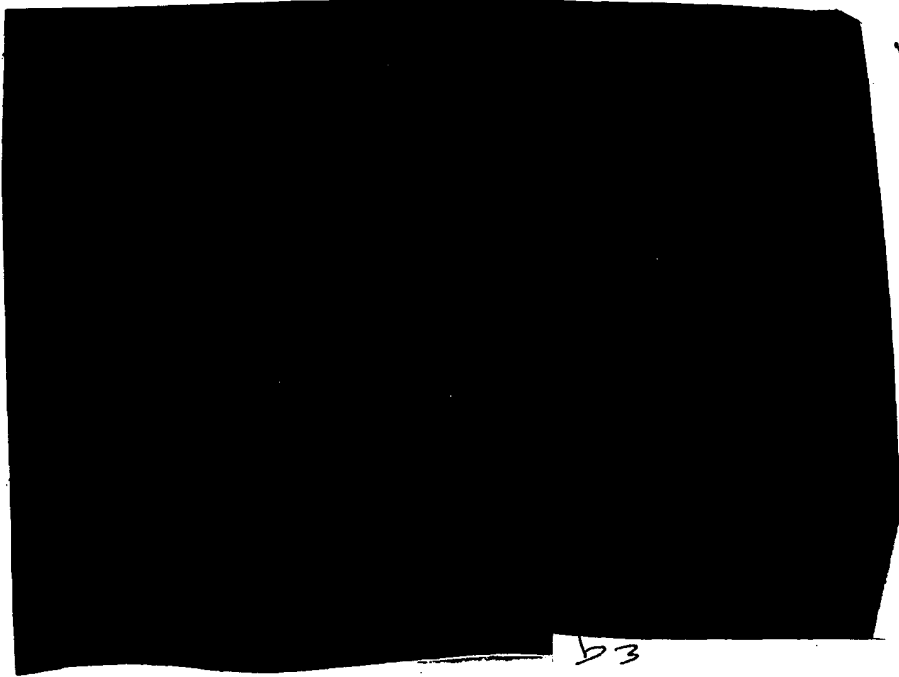
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