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NORTHERN DIVISION

OFFICE OF REPORTS AND ESTIMATES

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WORKING PAPER

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NORTHERN DIVISION WEEKLY

Intelligence Summary No. 89

7 November 1949

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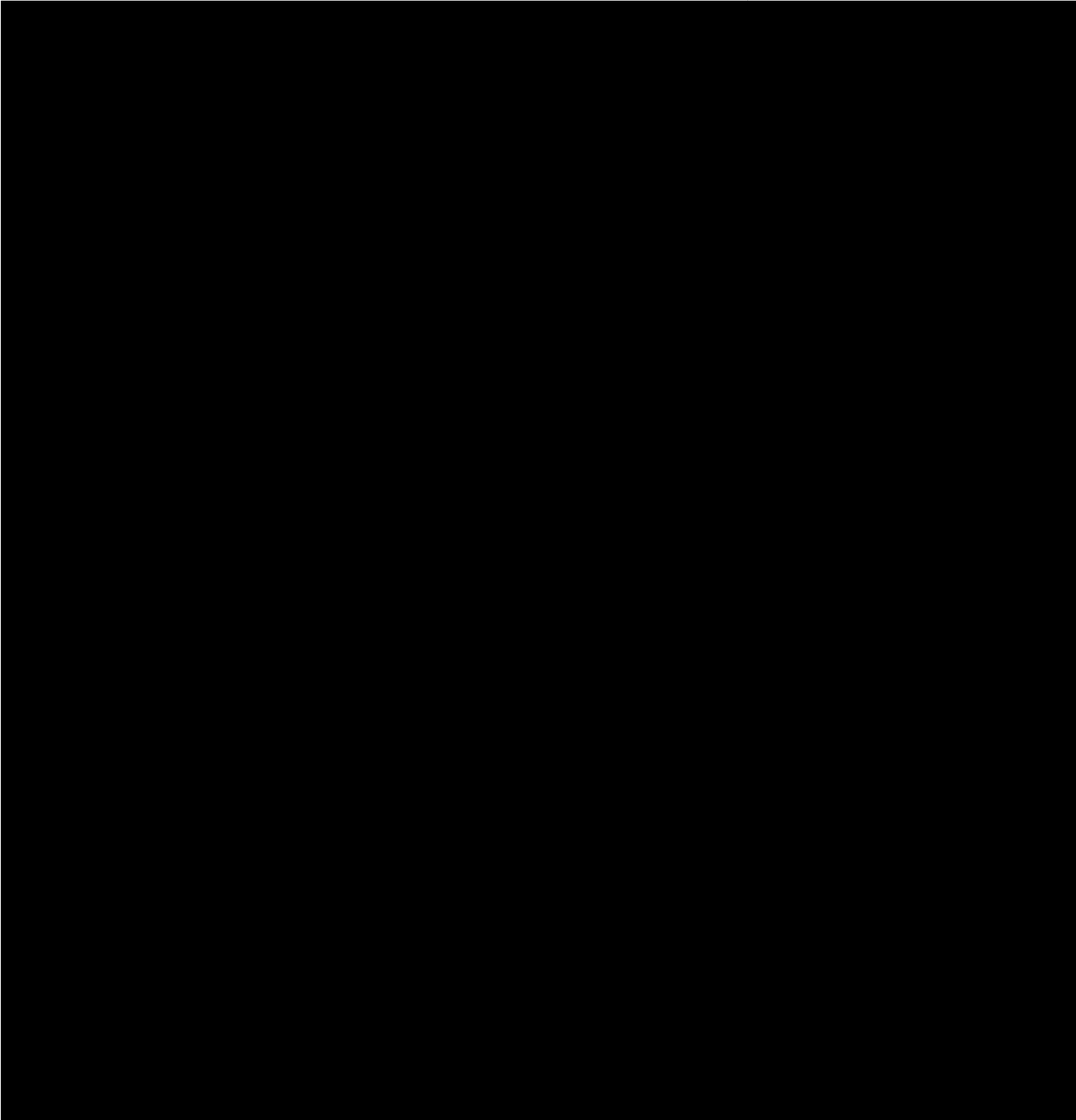
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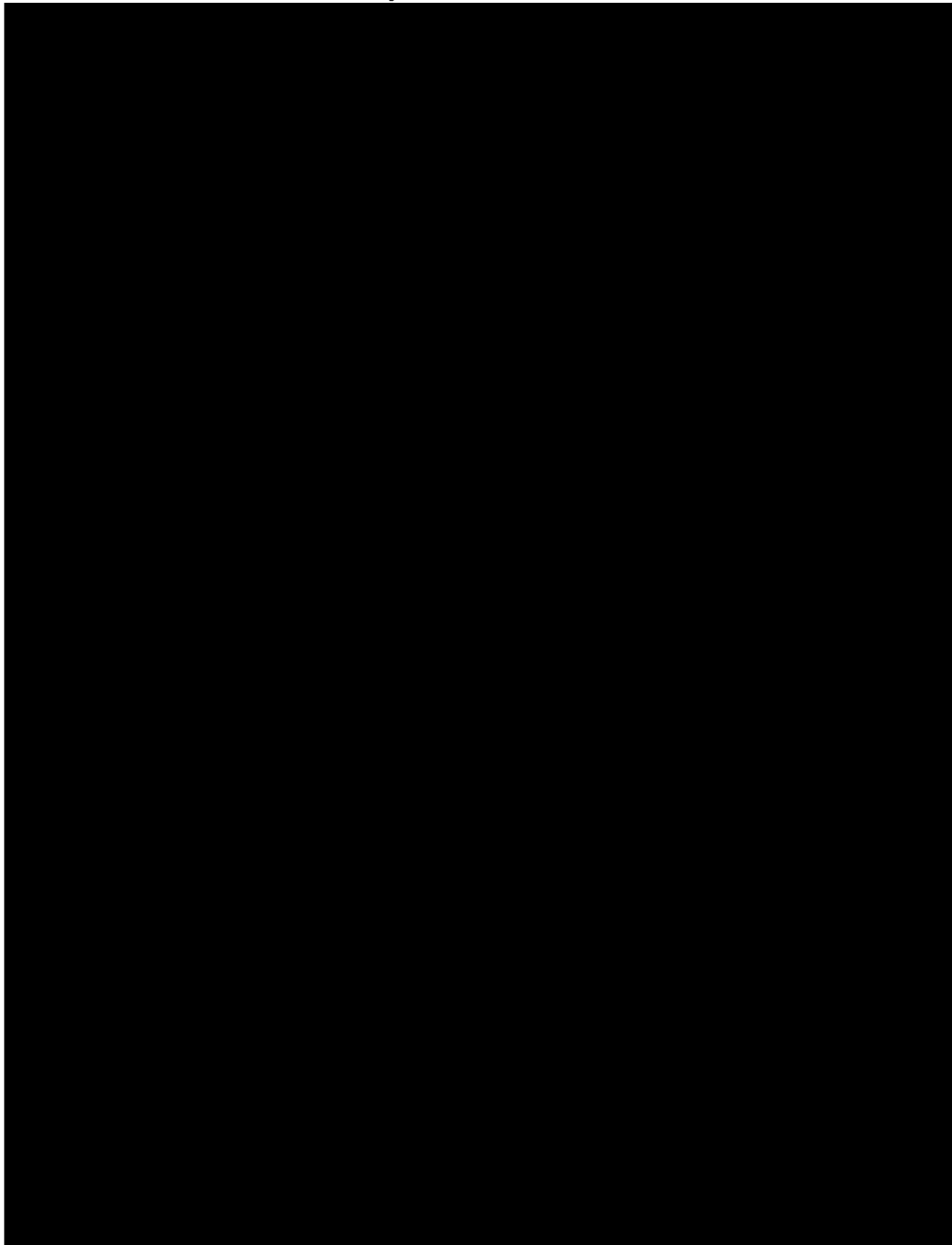
* See ID Weekly No 37, 24 October
** See ID Weekly No 38, 31 October

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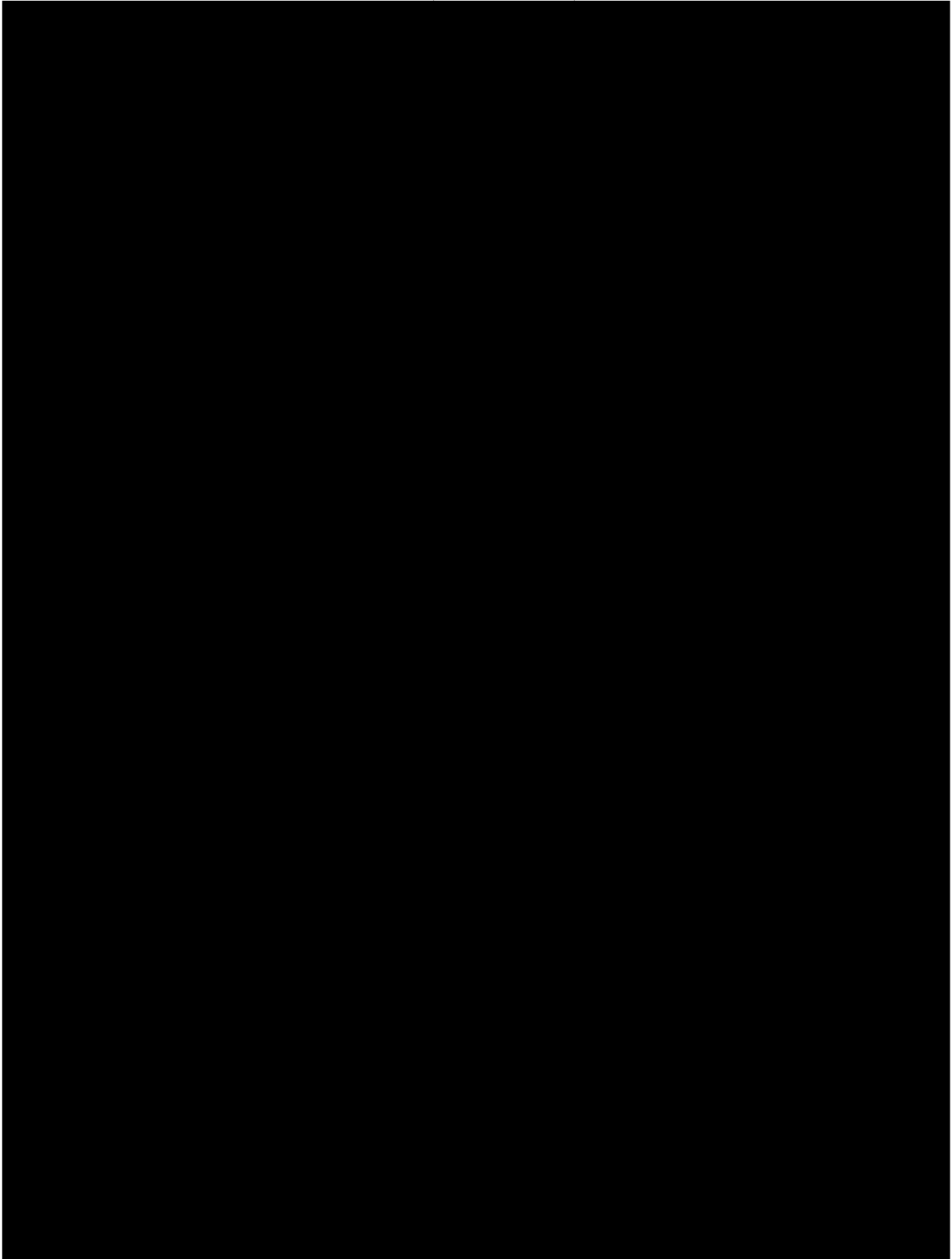


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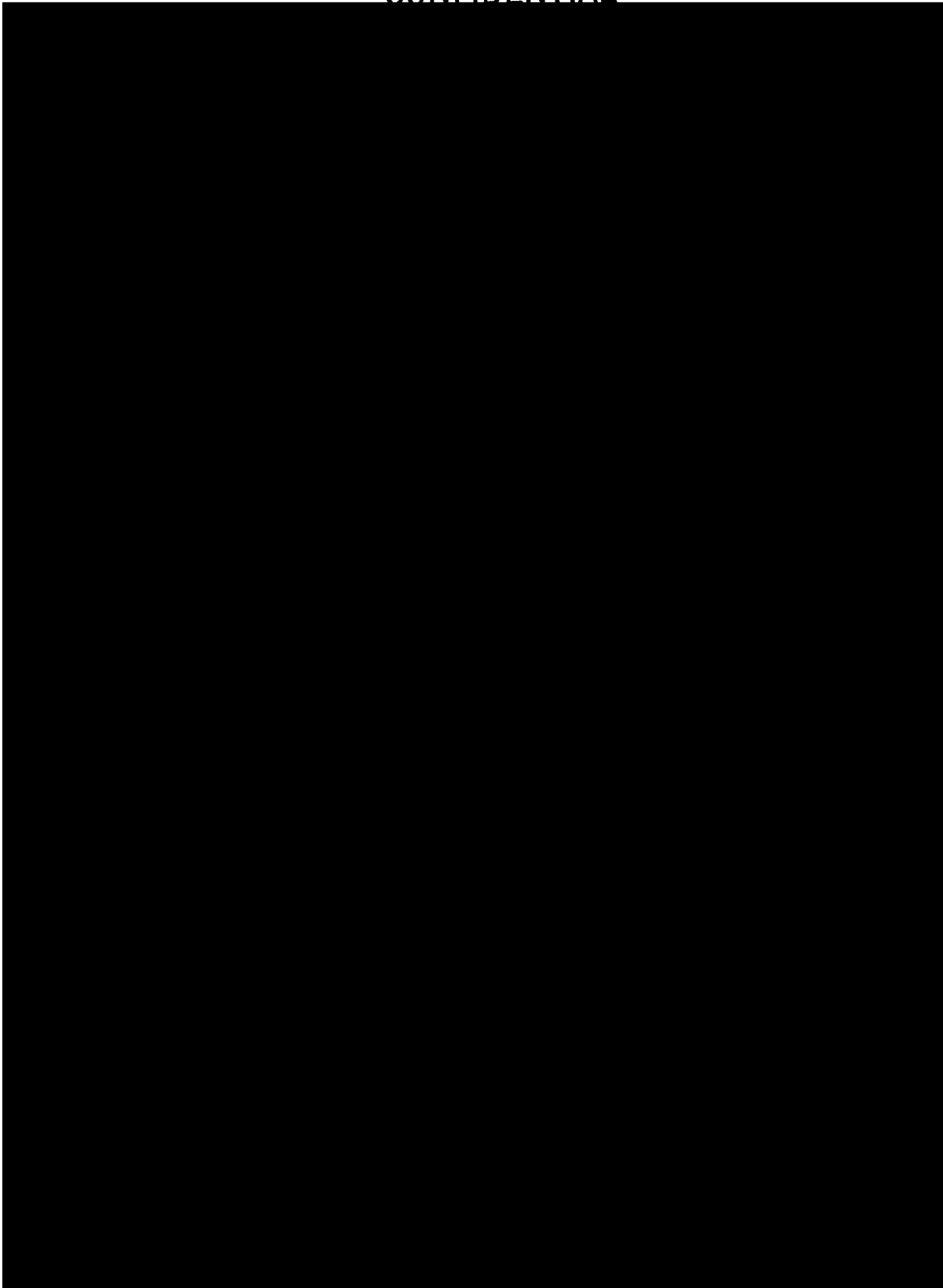


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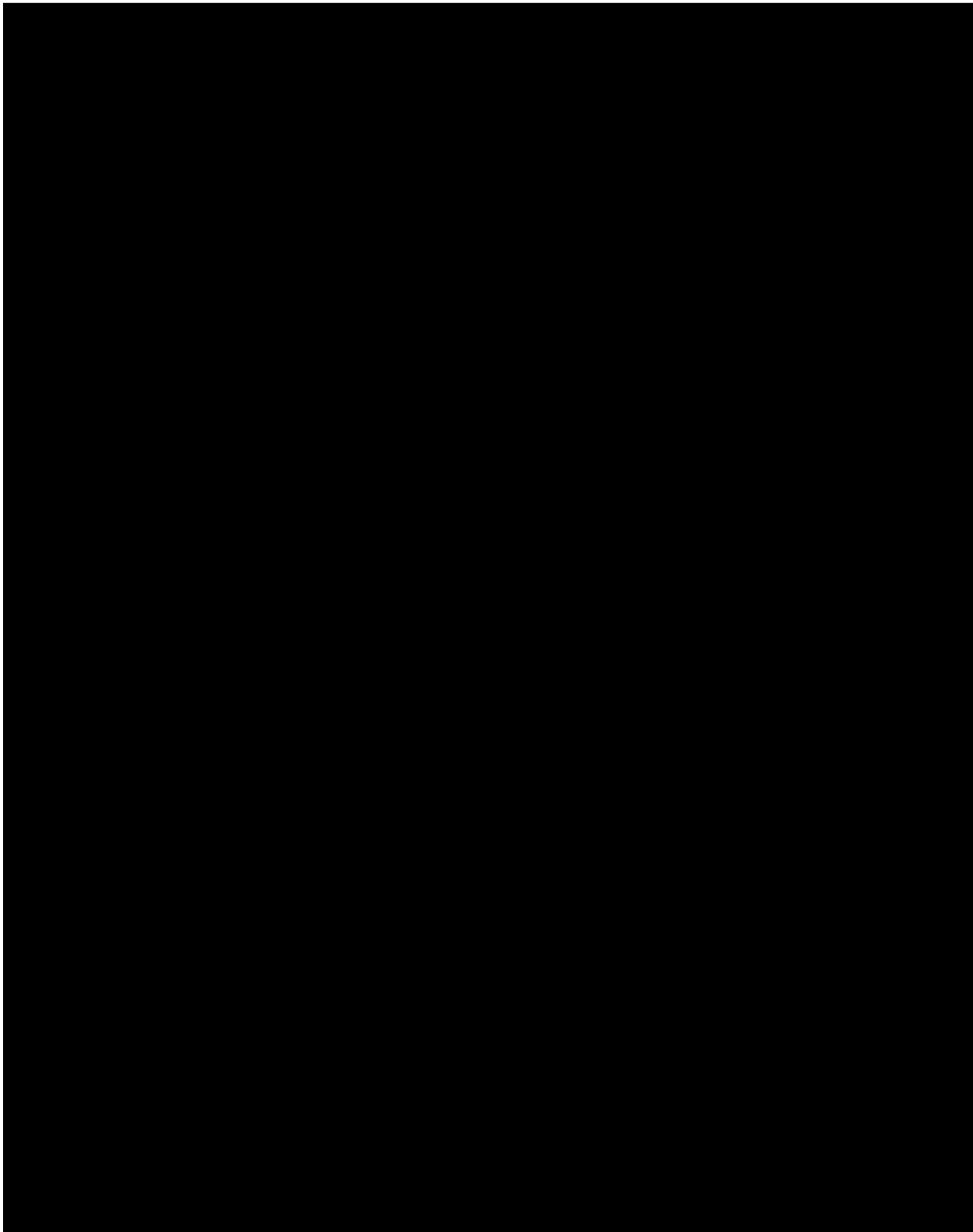


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* See MD Weeklies No 76, 8 August
38, 26 September

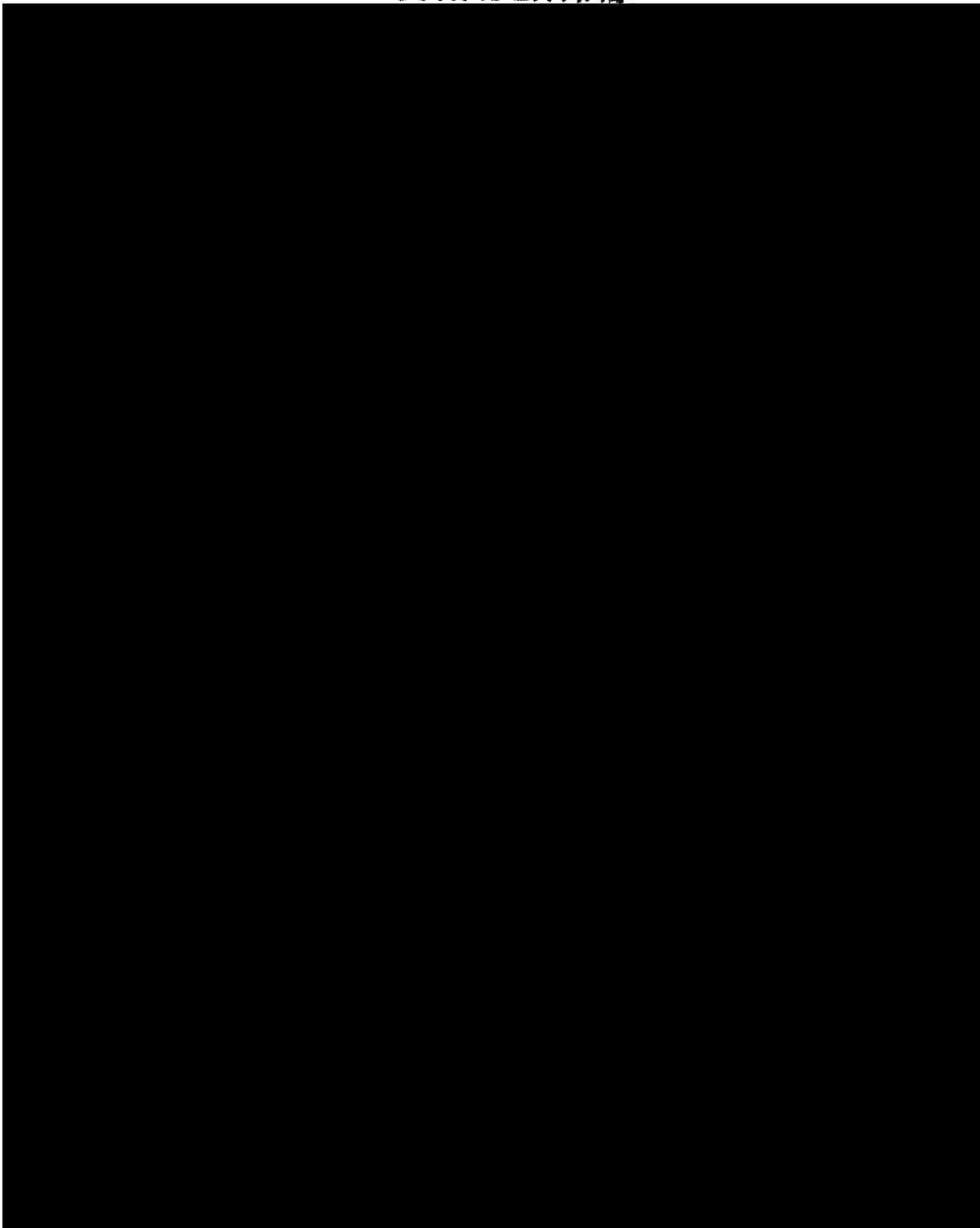
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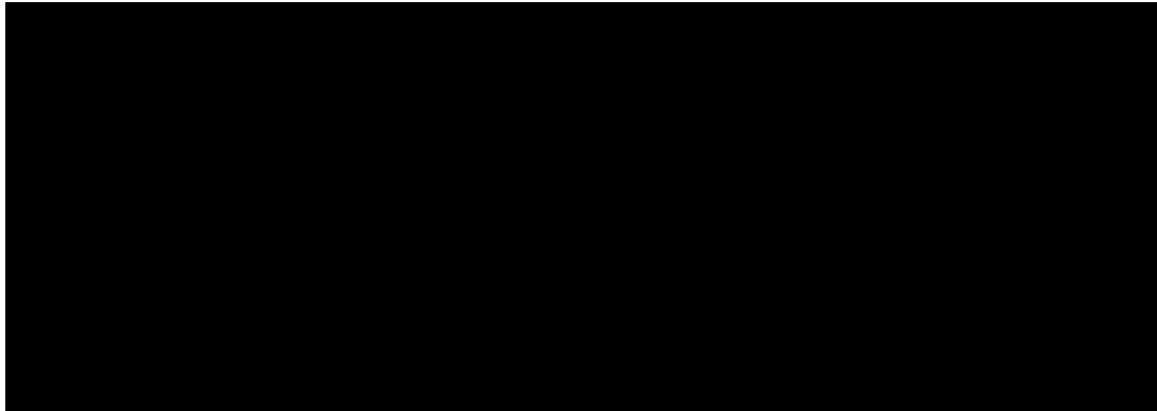
* See ND Weekly No 87, 24 October

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Union of South Africa10. Native riots suggest growing resistance to Government's repressive racial program

Riots involving 3,000 natives near Johannesburg on 2 and 3 November provide new evidence of the sharpening racial tensions which have accompanied the Malan Government's program of apartheid or stricter segregation. The outburst which occurred in Krugersdorp, 20 miles northwest of the Union's chief industrial city, seems to have been set off because of a simple misunderstanding of a new municipal regulation, but became so frenzied that armed police failed in three attempts to break into the crowded native quarter. Three persons were killed and many wounded as natives resisted with stones and pistol shots the advance of police under covering fire of rifles, revolvers, and a sub-machine gun. Rioting flared up quickly over the natives' interpreting as mandatory a new permissive ordinance, which allowed native women to register for passes. The municipal government quickly promised a review of all complaints and has already been able to announce some success in clearing up the misunderstanding. To quiet fears among Europeans over the riots, 21 municipalities announced on 5 November that pass laws barring unemployed native men from entering urban areas would be rigidly enforced.

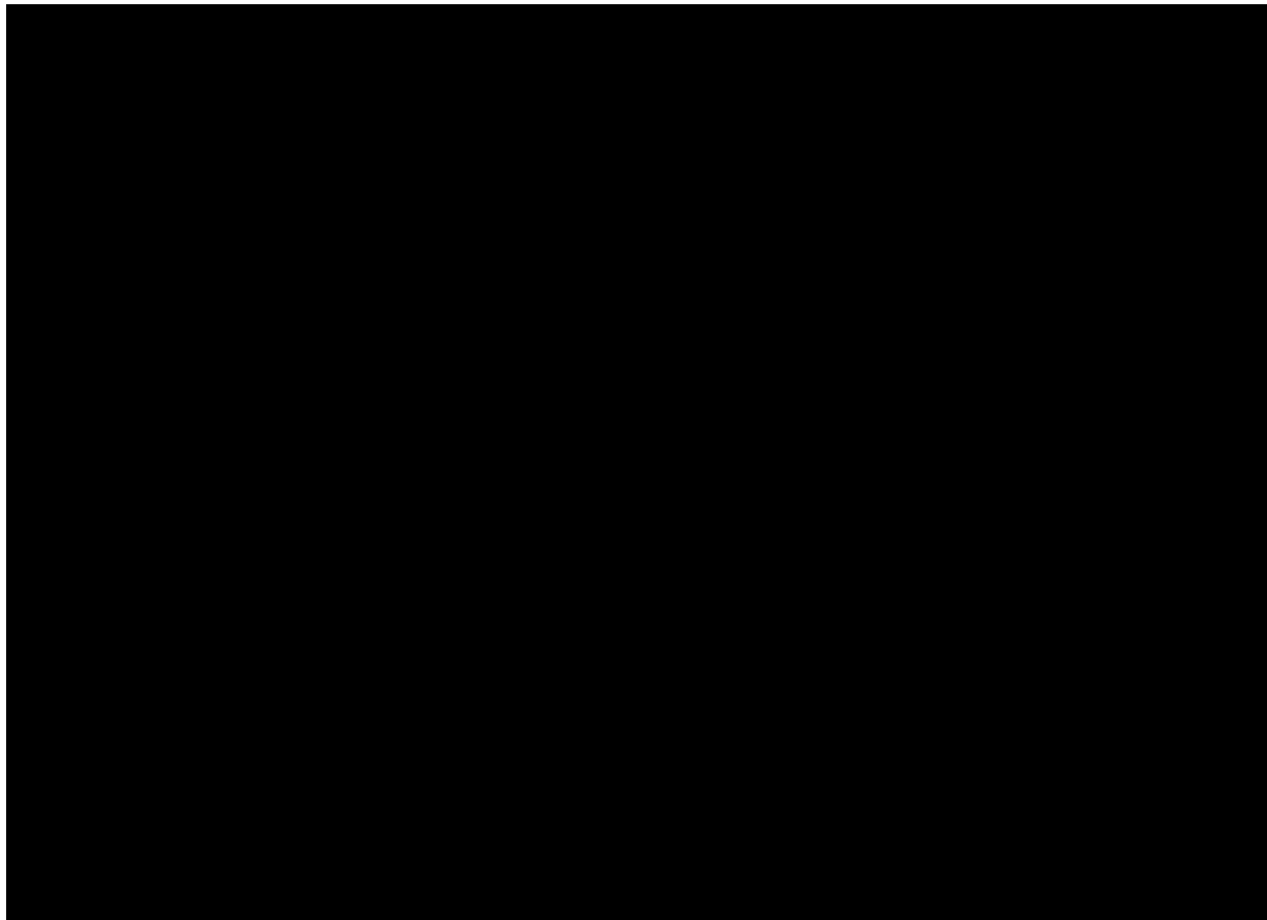
The spontaneity of the riot adds new evidence to that of the Durban riots in January and the natives' boycott of Johannesburg tramways beginning last month of how near the flashpoint are racial tensions throughout the Union. Resistance to the Government's repressive racial program is likely to increase as non-Europeans participating in such protests learn the techniques and rewards of organized demonstrations, and as implementation of the Government's apartheid policy continues

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to foster the non-Europeans' growing sense of frustration over their social and economic plight.

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SCANDINAVIAN BRANCH

SWEDEN

1. Swedish Government publicly renounces limited Scandinavian military cooperation

Recent events greatly reduce the possibilities for Swedish military cooperation with Denmark and Norway. Prime Minister Tage Erlander, in response to inquiries from Conservative and Liberal spokesmen in the Riksdag on the status of military cooperation with Denmark and Norway, stated that the Swedish Government has rejected even limited technical cooperation with Denmark and Norway on the grounds that it offers few advantages and would "invite suspicion elsewhere" that Sweden is departing from its policy of neutrality. Foreign

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Minister Unden further charged that the proponents of inter-Scandinavian military cooperation are advocating, consciously or unconsciously, Swedish adherence to the Atlantic Pact. Liberal and Conservative spokesmen did not appear to be satisfied and continued to favor inter-Scandinavian cooperation, but disclaimed that it violated Sweden's neutrality.

The current episode reveals that complete harmony does not exist within the country over the wisdom of Sweden's present policy and that the Government feels obliged to make a public statement to counteract the opinions expressed by high-ranking military men and others favoring inter-Scandinavian military cooperation* and to repudiate such a policy as jeopardizing Sweden's sacrosanct "alliance-free" foreign policy. The Government may also hope to allay the constant Communist propaganda that Sweden in reality is gradually becoming a de facto member of the North Atlantic Pact.

2. Acceptance of refugees being restricted

An unusually heavy influx of refugees from Eastern Germany during recent weeks is forcing a stiffening of Sweden's policy toward refugees. The Swedish economy cannot continue to absorb large numbers of refugees without eventual strain (there are at present roughly 206,000 aliens in Sweden of which approximately 46,000 are refugees) and it is feared, particularly by labor leaders, that unrestricted acceptance of refugees will create unemployment. The Swedish Government, moreover, is concerned lest politically undesirable elements and foreign agents gain admittance as refugees.

Sweden does not contemplate refusing asylum to bona fide political refugees, but a large proportion of the East Germans have fled not to escape political persecution, but in the hope of making a better living in Sweden. The Swedish policy is that, after an exhaustive and time-consuming investigation of each individual's case, those judged refugees from political oppression are permitted to remain in Sweden; while, in theory at least, non-political refugees are considered illegal immigrants and required to leave. In practice, for humanitarian reasons and in recognition of extensive public sympathy for refugees, exceptions have been made. The recent increase in arrivals, however, is causing the Aliens Commission to be less lenient, and several groups of non-political East German refugees have been refused asylum and escorted to the three-mile limit.

* See ND Weekly No 85, 10 October

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(Danish authorities are presently following the same plan, and the proximity of Swedish and Danish shores has produced a certain confusion.) Obviously, this practice is neither humane nor efficient, but Swedish authorities hope that severe action in a few cases will deter other non-political refugees from fleeing to Sweden and will curtail the activities of various fishermen who have apparently been conducting a thriving business transporting refugees to Sweden at a reported price of 1,000 German marks per head.

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