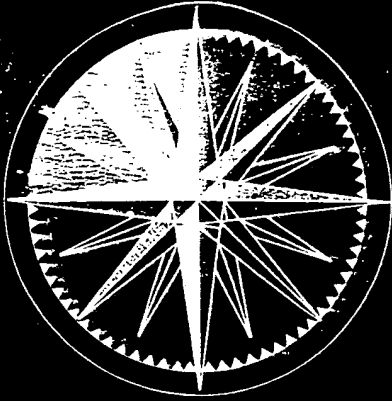


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WEEKLY SUMMARY

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE

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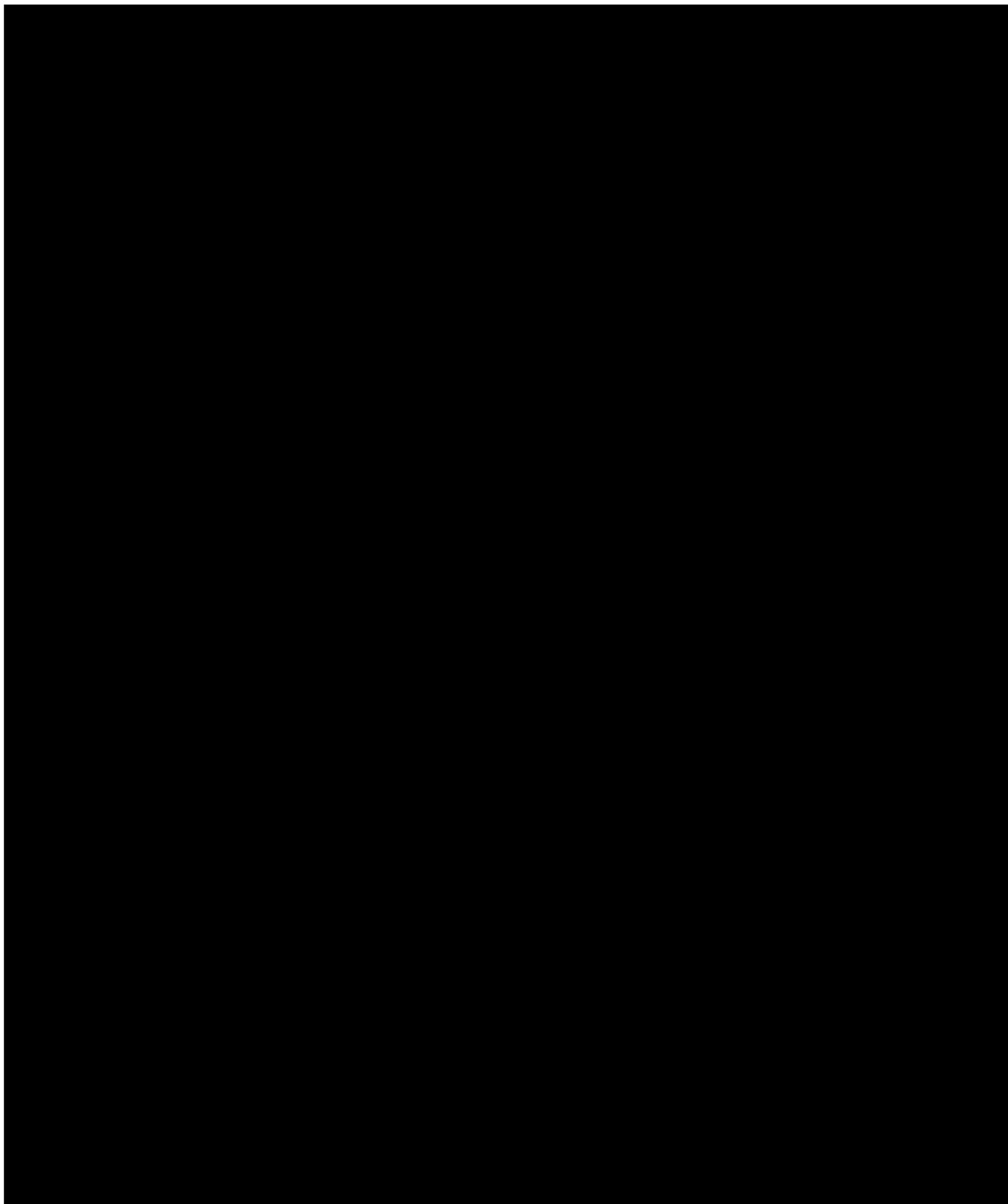
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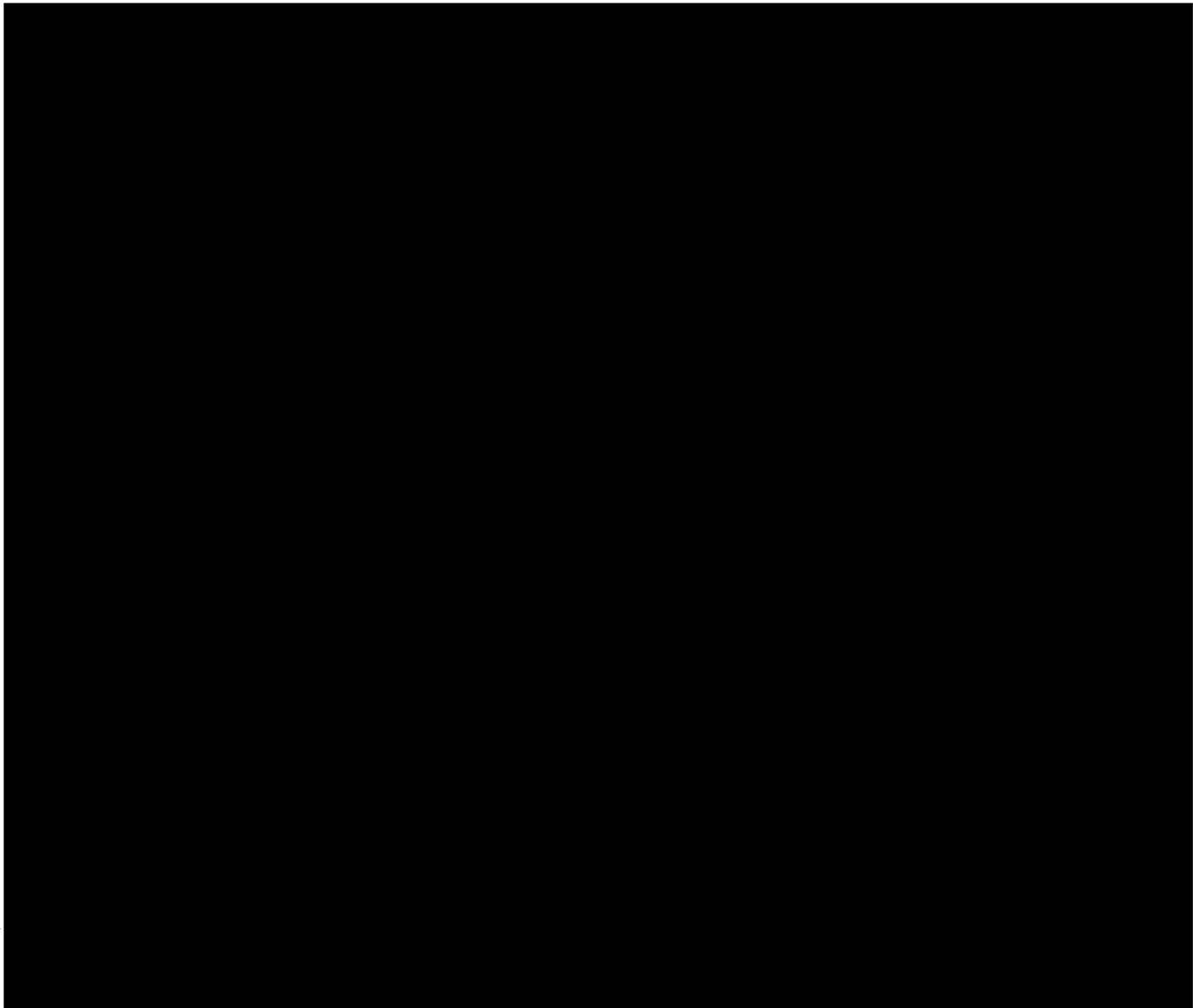
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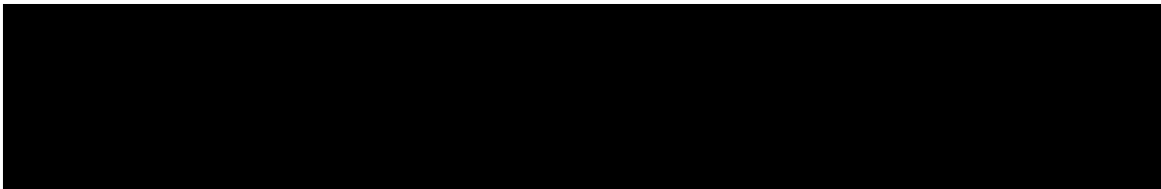
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MODERATES REGAIN UPPER HAND IN SYRIAN MILITARY REGIME

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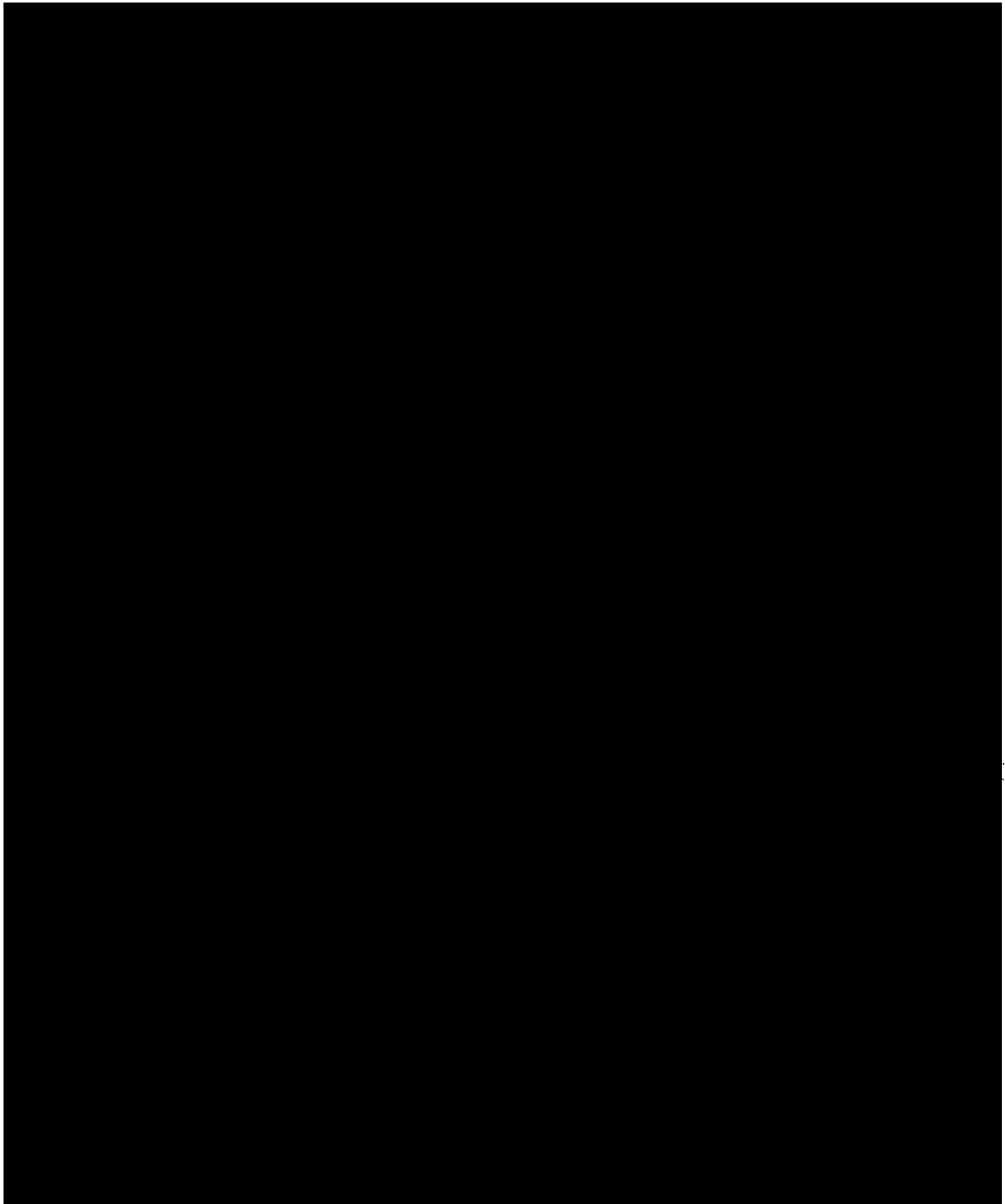
Salah al-Din Bitar, a moderate ousted last fall, has been reappointed prime minister, and the current government reorganization will probably further decrease the influence of the radicals. Strong man General Hafiz retains real control.



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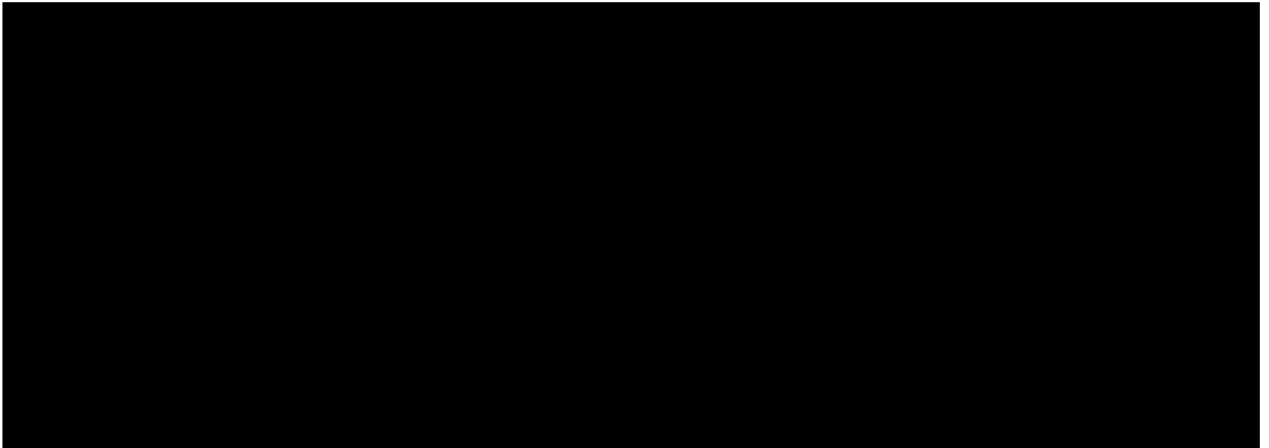
15 May 64

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY

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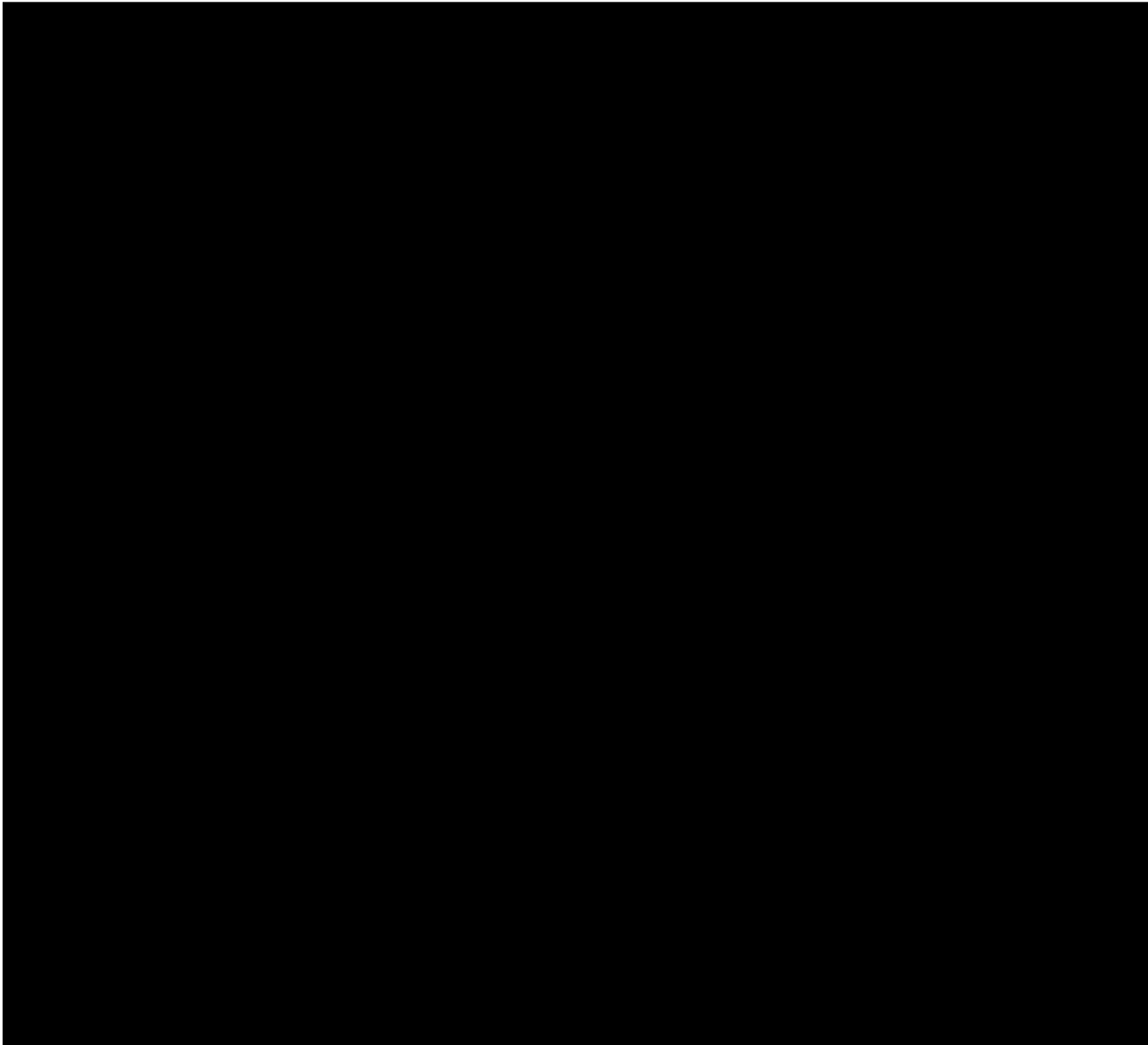


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MODERATES REGAIN UPPER HAND IN SYRIAN MILITARY REGIME

Recent developments in Syria indicate that moderate Baathist leaders led by General Amin al-Hafiz are gaining ascendancy, at least temporarily, over radical elements within the military regime. Salah

al-Din Bitar, a moderate who had been ousted from the government last October, was reappointed prime minister on 10 May, replacing Hafiz, who retains real control. The current governmental reorganization will probably

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Asia-Africa

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further decrease the influence of the radical group.

The regime's attempts to implement doctrinaire socialist measures in the Syrian economy had met with intense opposition from conservative groups. The unusually harsh sentences imposed on participants in the strikes and disorders last month further increased public hostility. Hafiz has now commuted most of the severe sentences, however, and there have been no new serious incidents. Bitar's appointment is probably designed to further appease opposition elements by presenting at least a facade of civilian participation in the government.

DATE SEP 2000, however, power remains in the hands of the military. Bitar and his cabinet will only advise a five-man presidential council, to be headed by Hafiz. The ruling military group, the National Council for Revolutionary Command, will continue to exercise both executive and legislative control.

Rumors of coup plotting continue. Extremist government leaders command considerable support within the army and, as they see their influence dwindling, they might still attempt a take-over. [REDACTED]

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