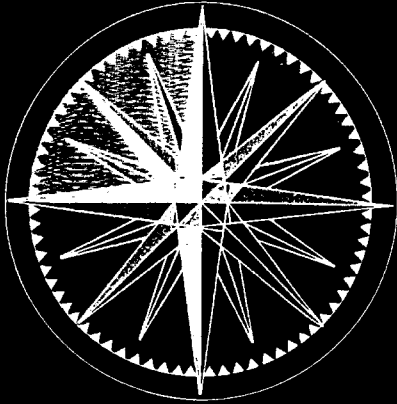


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25 February 1966

OCI No. 0278/66

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WEEKLY SUMMARY

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: APR 2001

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE

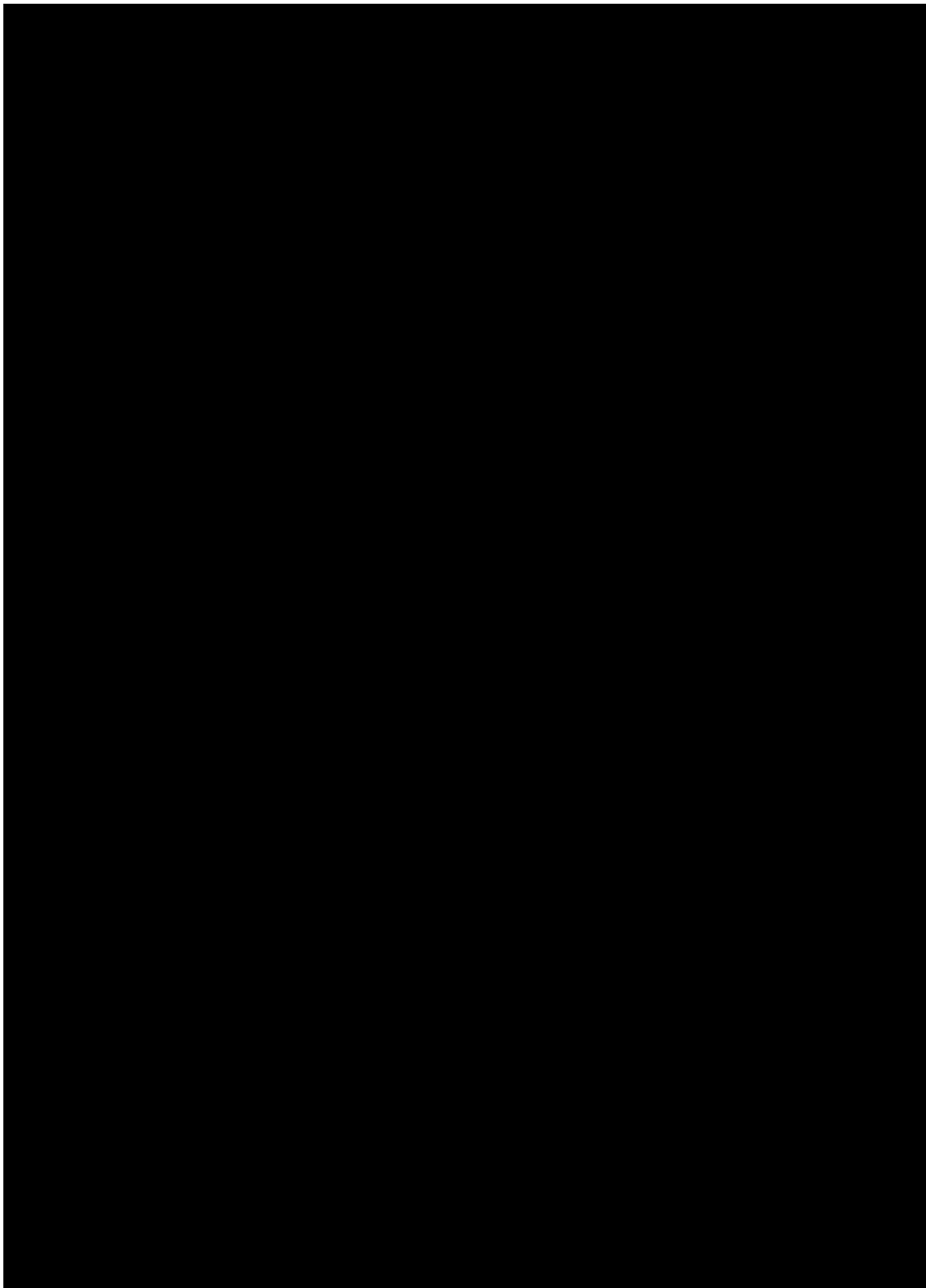
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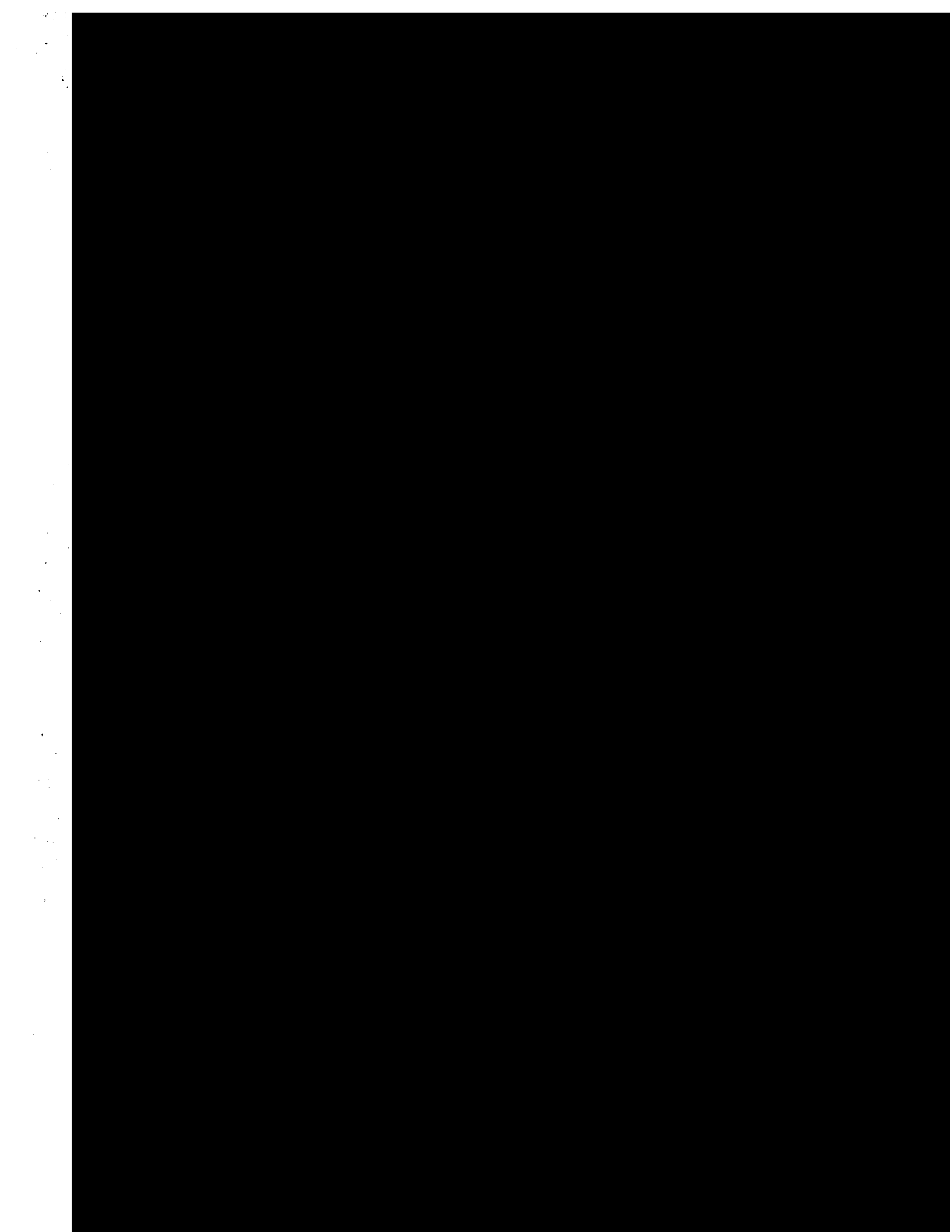
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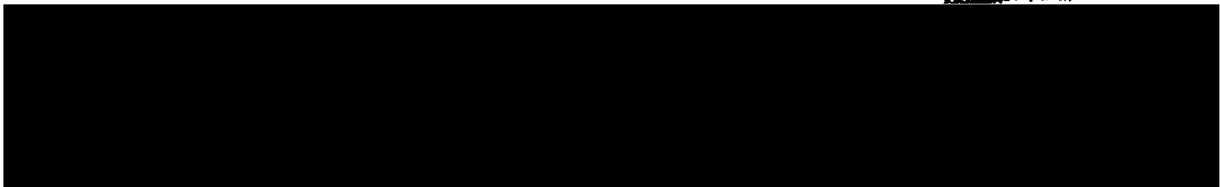
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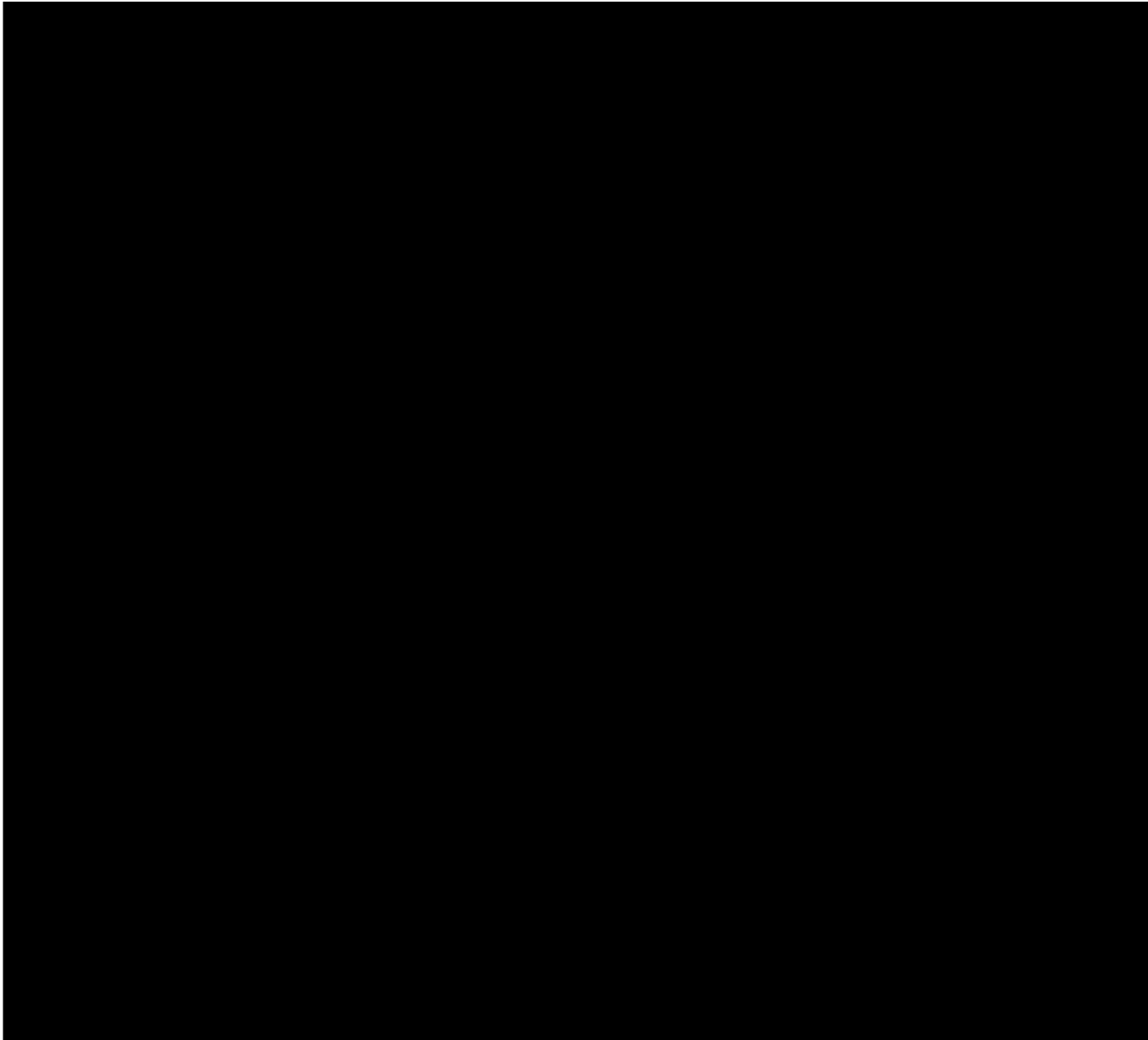
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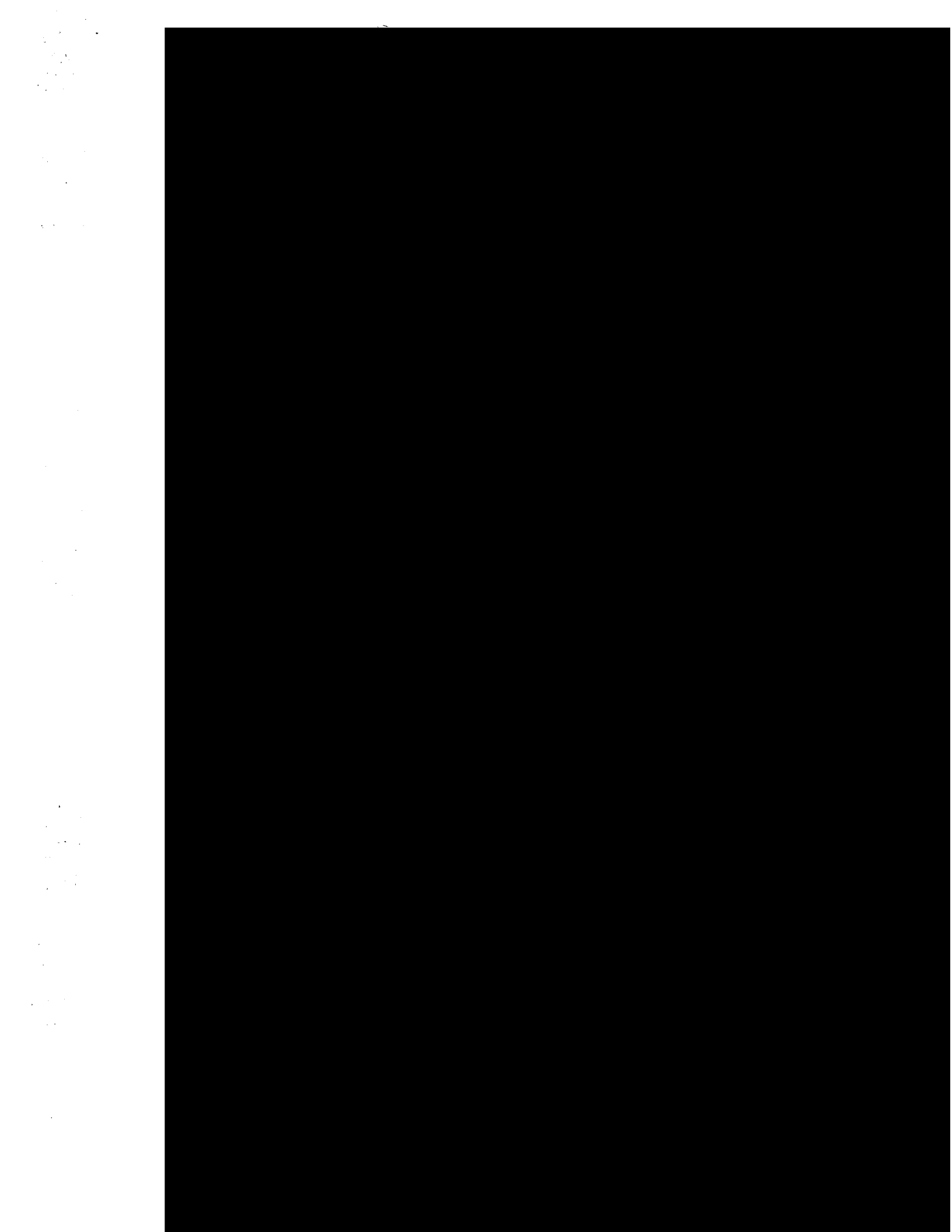
ARMY OVERTHROWS NKRUMAH REGIME IN GHANA

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Officers long opposed to Nkrumah took advantage of his absence abroad to move on 24 February. They are likely to be less hostile to the West.



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ARMY OVERTHROWS NKRUMAH REGIME IN GHANA

Ghanaian Army and police officers long opposed to President Nkrumah took advantage of his absence on a trip to Asian Communist capitals to end his radical regime on 24 February. His dis-

missal was announced by Colonel Kotoka, commander of one of the army's two brigades. Ghana's only political party has been disbanded, and other offices and

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institutions abolished, including the cabinet and parliament.

Most of the military--particularly in the capital area--appear to be supporting the coup, including Colonel Ocran, commander of the other brigade. The top army officer, Chief of Defense Staff Aferi, is in Addis Ababa on OAU matters. Nothing has been heard from chief of staff Barwah. The air force and navy commanders were arrested at once, probably for vacillating, and General Hassan, the military intelligence chief believed loyal to Nkrumah, has also been detained.

The initial outlines of the new regime are beginning to take

shape. The coup leaders have recalled General Ankrah--dismissed as deputy defense staff chief by Nkrumah for suspected disloyalty last summer--and have named him commander of the armed forces. They seem generally inclined toward a more moderate regime which will at least be appreciably less hostile to the West than Nkrumah's.

Nkrumah apparently was still unaware of the coup when he arrived in Peking on a flight from Rangoon. He is unlikely to try to return to Ghana immediately in a bid to reverse the coup, but he will surely plot a comeback from wherever he lights. [REDACTED]

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