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23 August 1956

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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY REVIEW

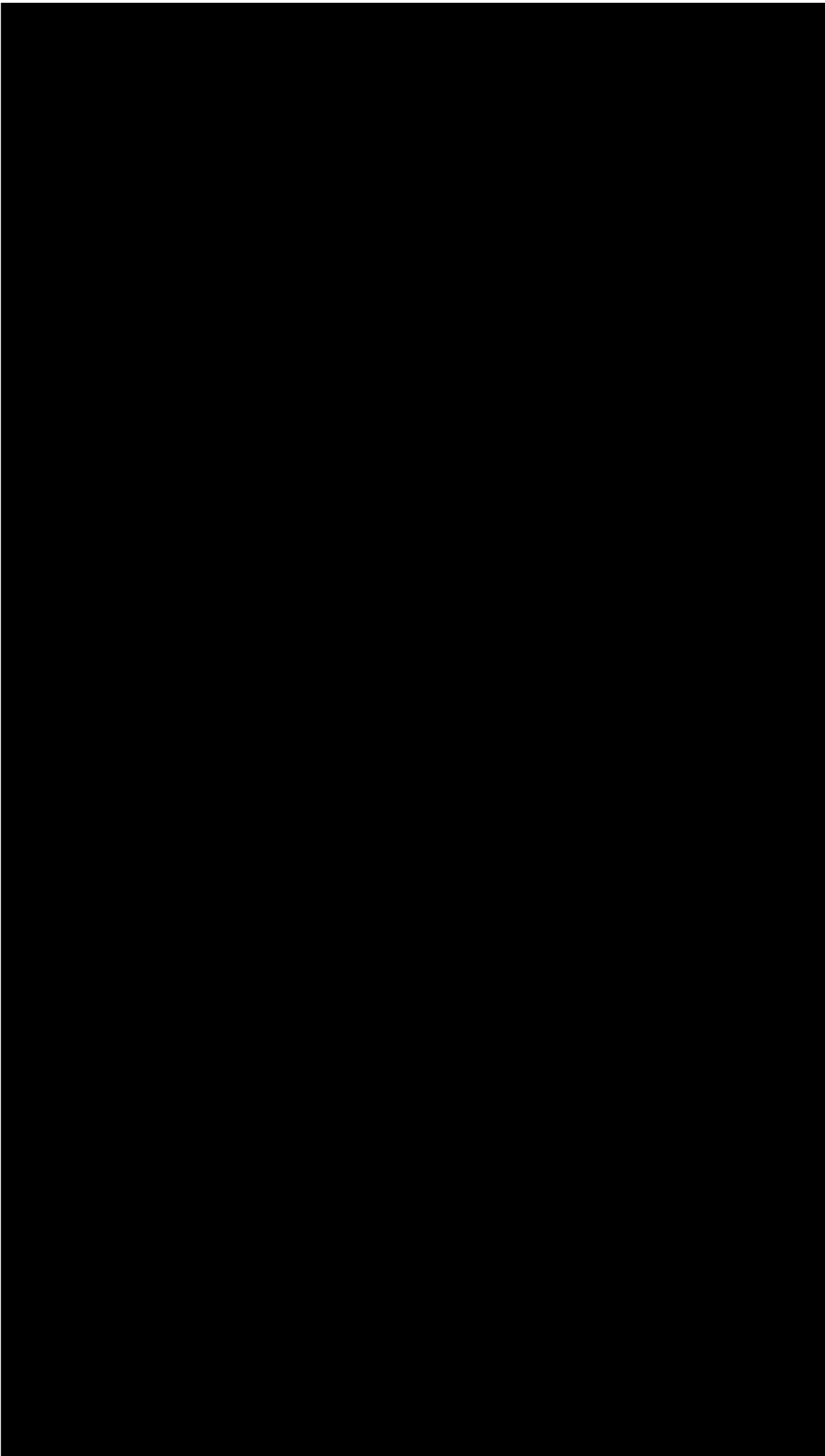
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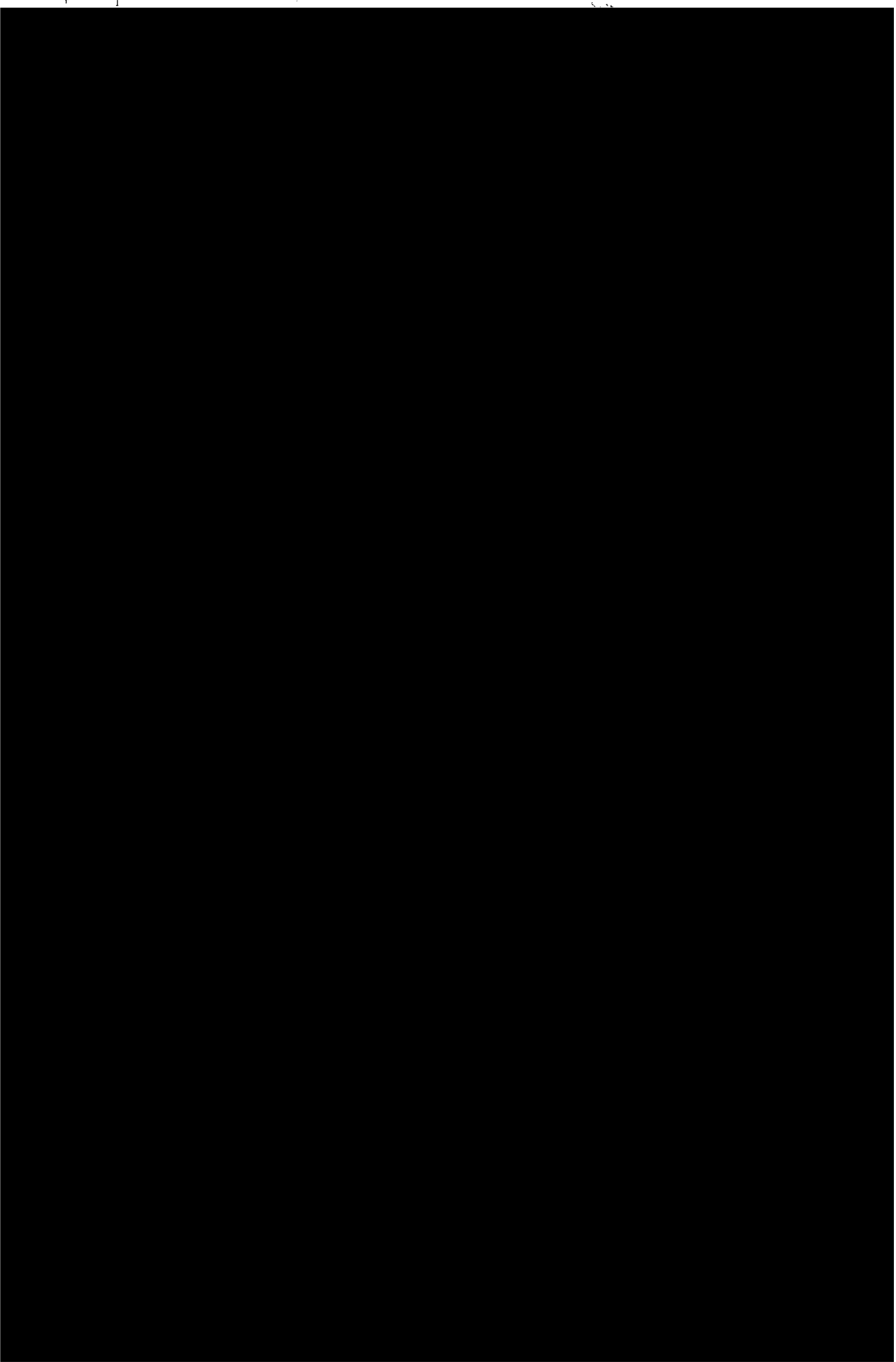
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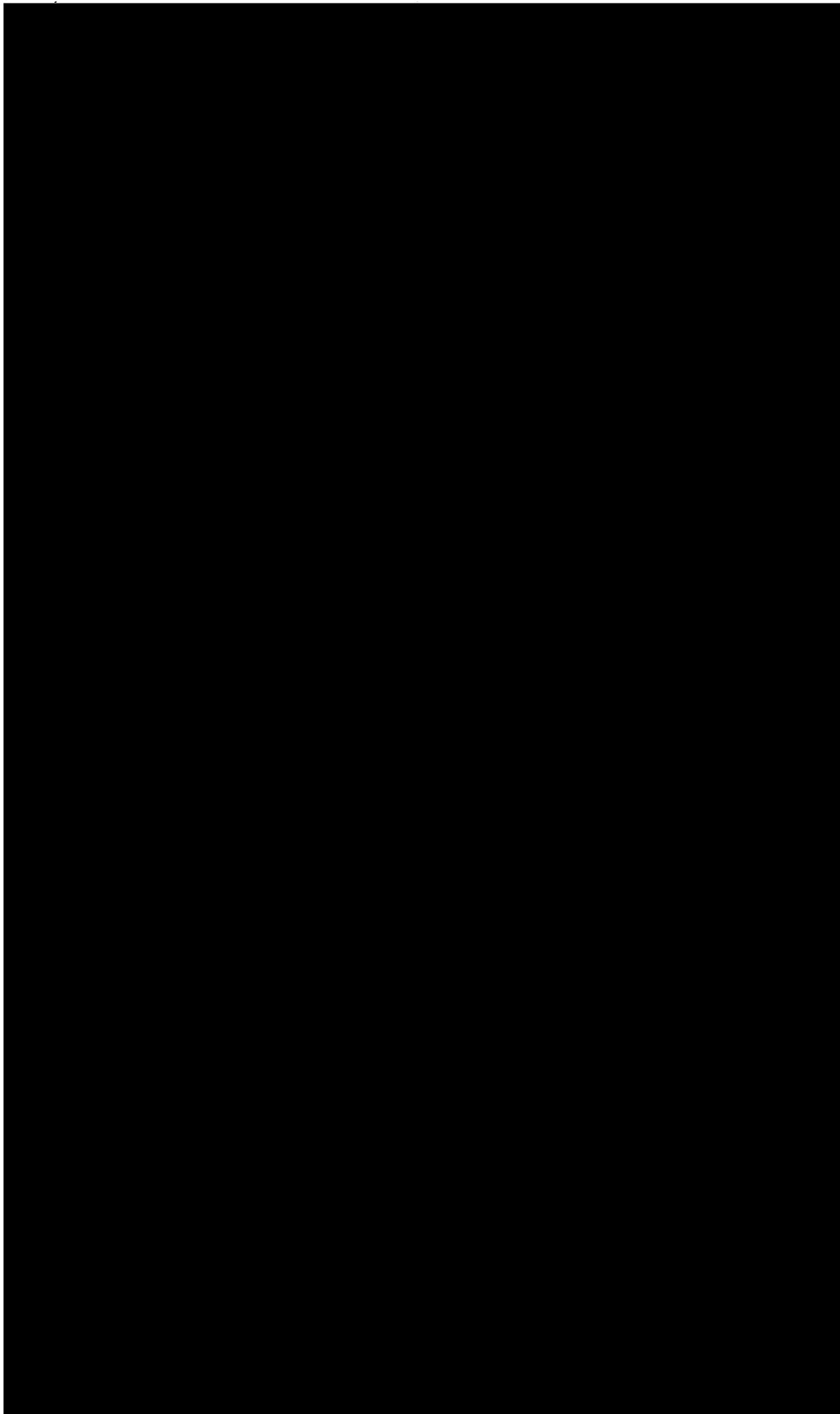
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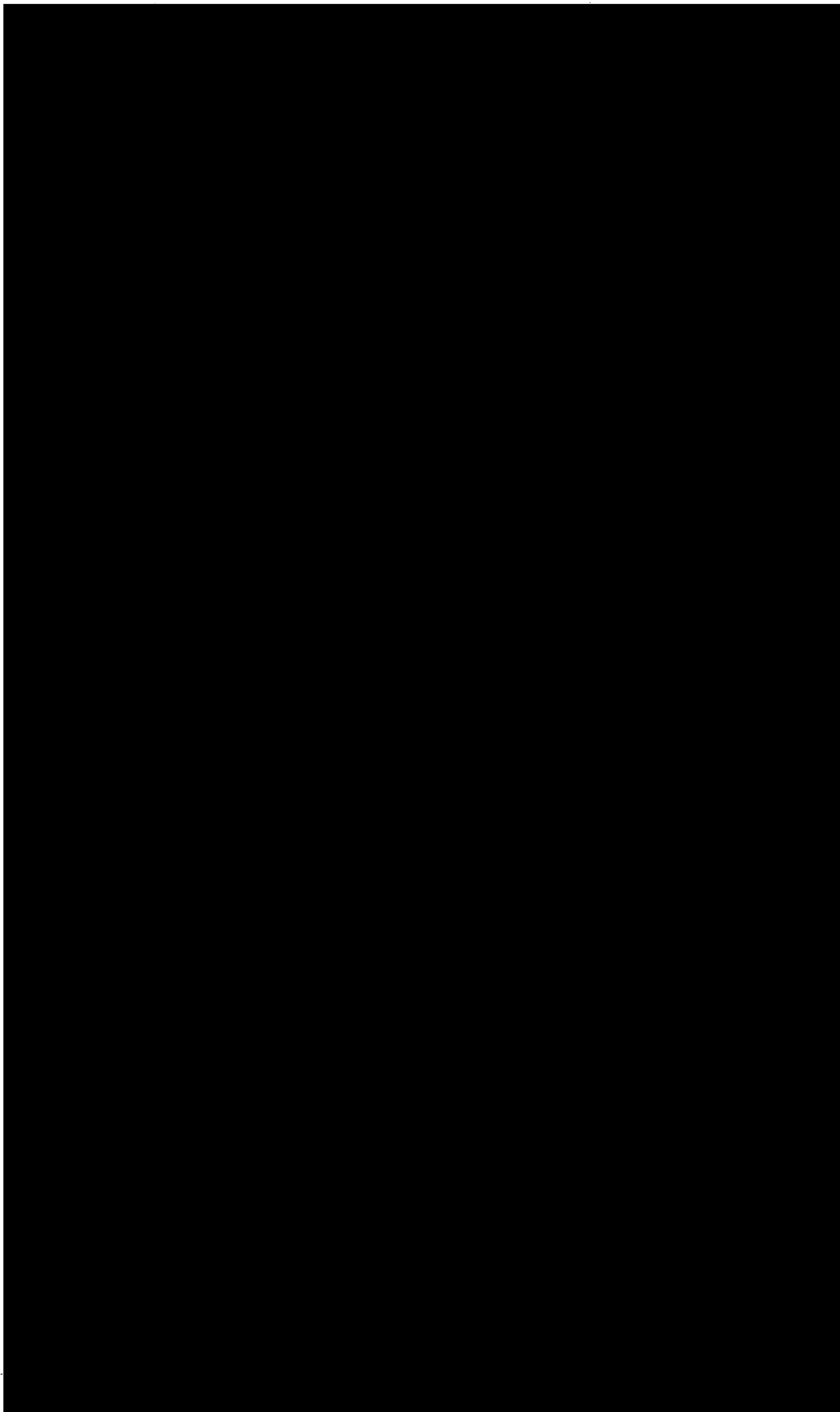
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CYPRUS

The request by EOKA, the Cypriot nationalist organization, on 16 August for a truce with the British apparently surprised both the Greek government and British authorities on Cyprus. EOKA will undoubtedly resume operations if the British do not respond favorably.

EOKA may have asked for a truce because the security

forces have been making progress in their antiterrorist campaign and because many Cypriots are beginning to be disillusioned with EOKA's policy of violence. The organization may also have considered that the influence of the nationalist spokesman, Archbishop Makarios, who has been in exile for six months, was diminishing and a truce would give an excuse for bringing him back into the picture.

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Greek prime minister Kar-  
amanlis, although pleased at  
the improved prospects for  
settling the dispute, has com-  
plained that his government  
should have been consulted so  
it could have laid the diplo-  
matic groundwork for American  
support of compromise attempts.  
Greek officials reportedly feel  
that only Makarios has suffi-  
cient prestige to negotiate a  
compromise with the British  
that would be acceptable both  
to Cypriot nationalists and  
the Greek government.

Greek foreign minister  
Averoff has expressed the in-  
tention of resuming talks with  
the British and of sending the  
Greek ambassador back to Lon-  
don. He hopes thus to clear  
the way for the return of  
Makarios from the Seychelles  
to London and the opening of  
substantive talks. Averoff  
plans to offer a simple agree-  
ment reaffirming the principle  
of self-determination, with  
the application to be worked  
out over an indefinite period  
between the Cypriots and the  
British government. He also  
envisages that police powers  
on the island would be retained  
by London for two years, after  
which consideration could be  
given to turning these powers  
over to the local government.  
Britain would retain respon-  
sibility for defense and foreign  
affairs indefinitely.

Averoff also would suggest  
a lower house of parliament  
with proportional Greek and  
Turkish representation and an  
upper house with equal repre-  
sentation.

Greek and Cypriot national-  
ist reaction to Harding's of-  
fer has been unfavorable. The  
mayor of Nicosia declared that  
EOKA had not been defeated and  
therefore probably would not  
surrender.

Both EOKA and Athens con-  
sider Makarios the key to fur-  
ther negotiations with Britain  
and will probably consider that  
only the archbishop's return  
from exile will prove British  
good faith.