

The President's Daily Brief

2 March 1972



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Japan [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] (Page 1)

[redacted] Chinese [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] Laos. (Page 2)

More of Vang Pao's irregulars are now pulling back from the Plaine des Jarres area. (Page 3)

[redacted] 25X1
[redacted] Cambodia [redacted] (Page 4)

Syrian air strikes in the Golan Heights area yesterday seem likely to provoke further Israeli retaliation. (Page 5)

Jordan [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] (Page 6)

Some dissatisfaction is surfacing in Bangladesh over the Mujib government's lack of headway against its mounting problems. (Page 8)

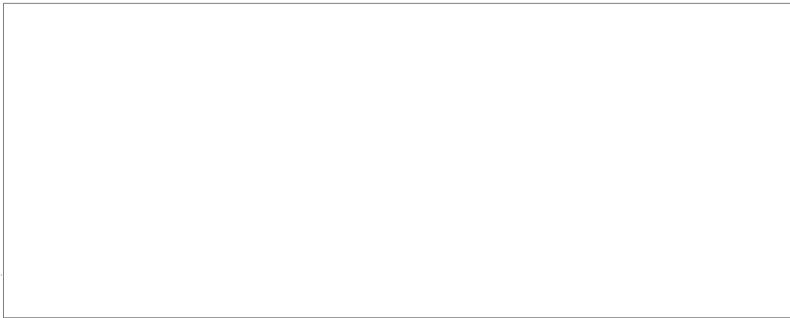
[redacted] Soviets [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] (Page 9)

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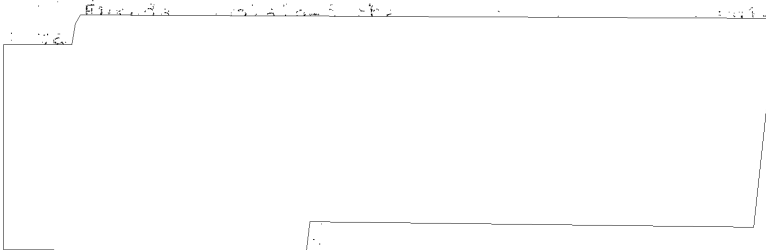
JAPAN



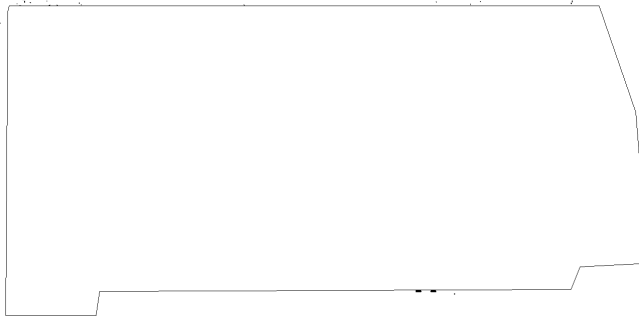
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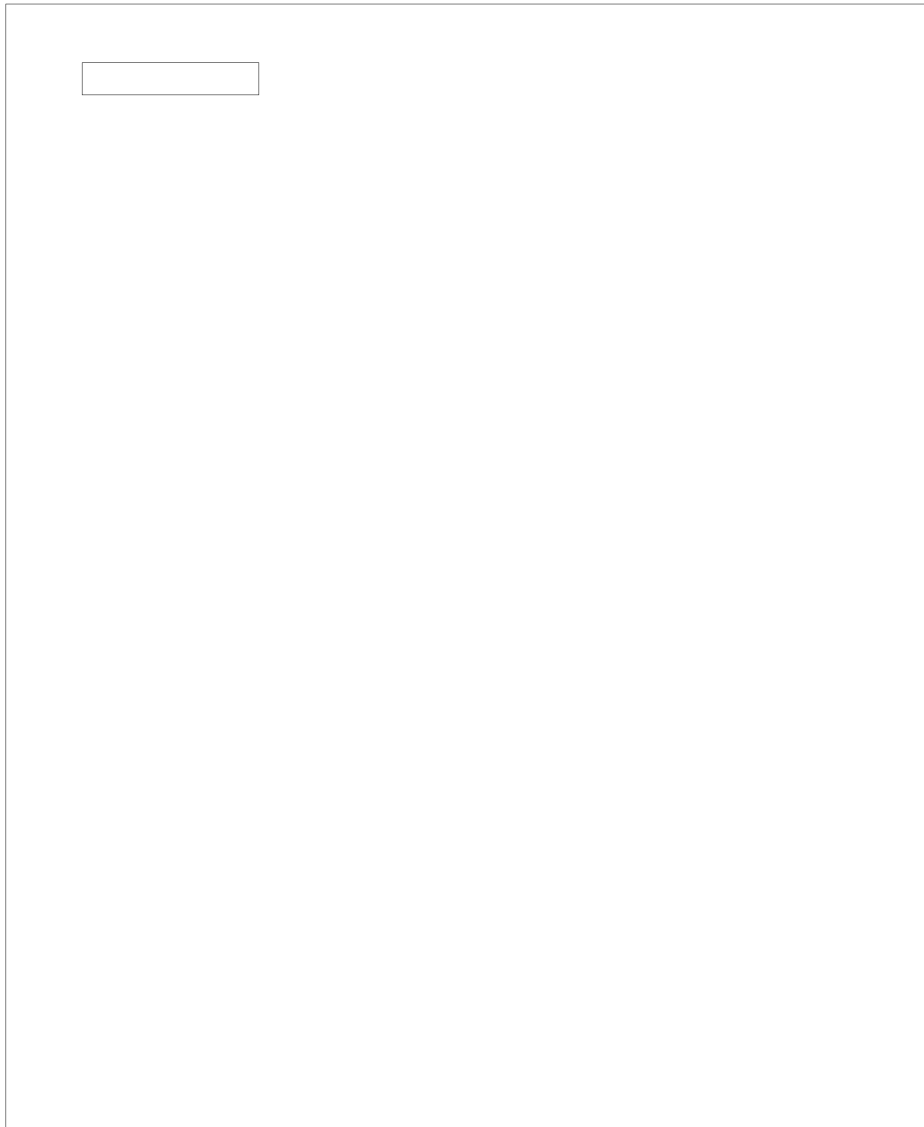
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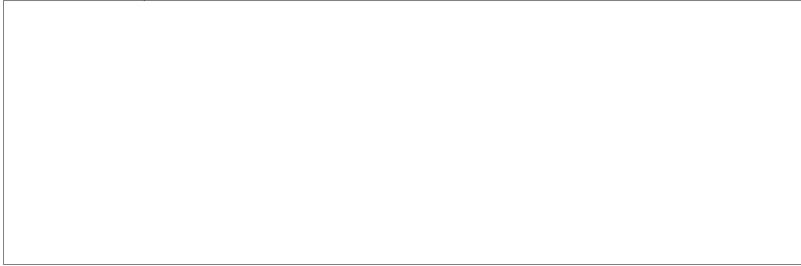


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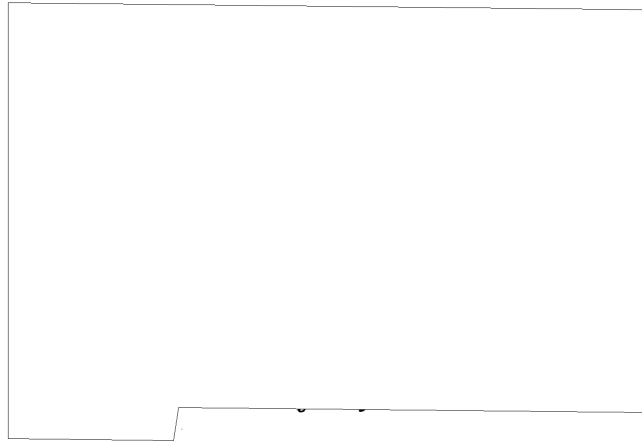
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LAOS-CHINA

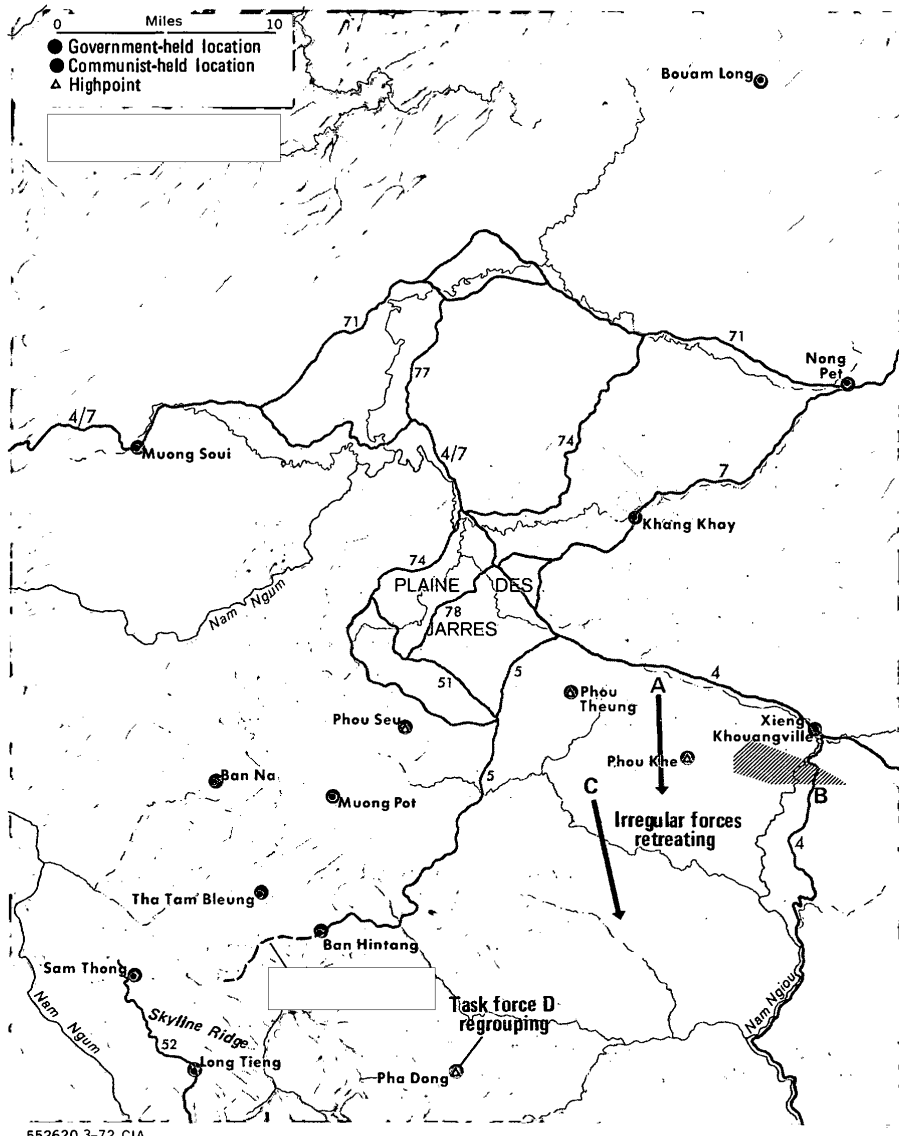


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LAOS: PLAINE DES JARRES AREA



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LAOS

The North Vietnamese on Tuesday overran Vang Pao's task force that had been in the southeastern foothills of the Plaine des Jarres, and the irregulars now are moving south toward Pha Dong. Elements of a second task force dispersed by North Vietnamese attacks last weekend are already regrouping at Pha Dong. A third force, which had been operating east of Phou Theung, has been ordered back to the south. The fourth force is still in the hills between Phou Khe and Xieng Khouangville.

In the Long Tieng and Sam Thong areas, the evidence continues to suggest that the North Vietnamese may be preparing for another push. They are still moving large quantities of supplies into storage areas near Long Tieng. Trucks are using the new road from the southern edge of the Plaine to Ban Hintang, and recent photography indicates that the road is being extended to a point some five miles north of Long Tieng. Air observers report that anti-aircraft fire along the eastern portion of the road has recently become extremely heavy.

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CAMBODIA



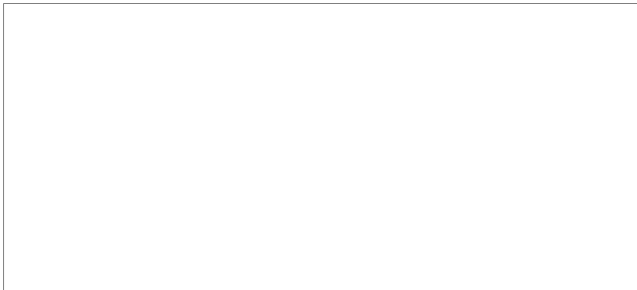
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SYRIAN AIR STRIKES IN THE GOLAN HEIGHTS



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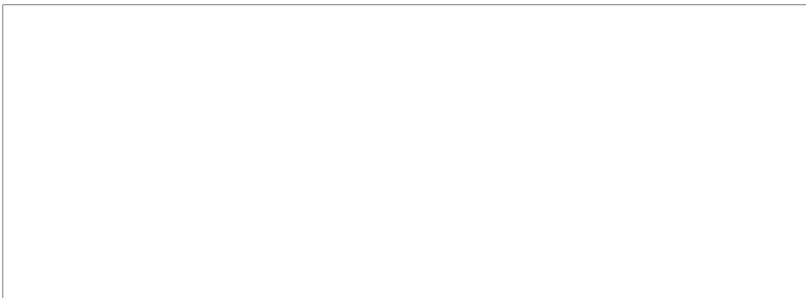
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ISRAEL - ARAB STATES

Jerusalem Radio has confirmed that Syrian planes flew over the Golan Heights late yesterday afternoon and dropped bombs near two settlements, but the Israelis claim no damage resulted. Israeli anti-aircraft fired at the planes and Israeli aircraft tried to intercept them but made no contact. The Syrians say their strikes were in retaliation for the Israeli air attacks earlier in the day against fedayeen bases in Syria.

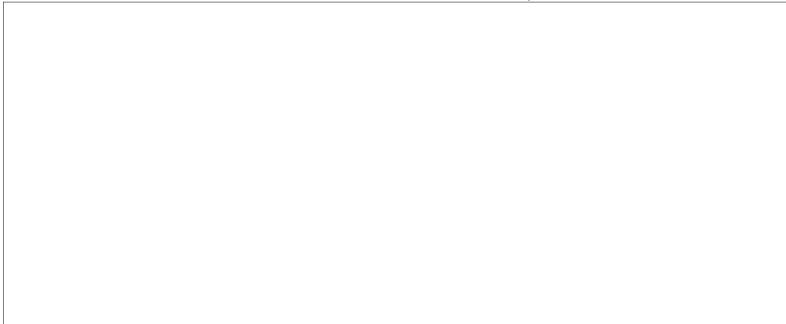
The Syrians may have acted under pressure from pro-fedayeen elements in the country and perhaps inside the government. Their strikes are almost certain to provoke further Israeli retaliation.



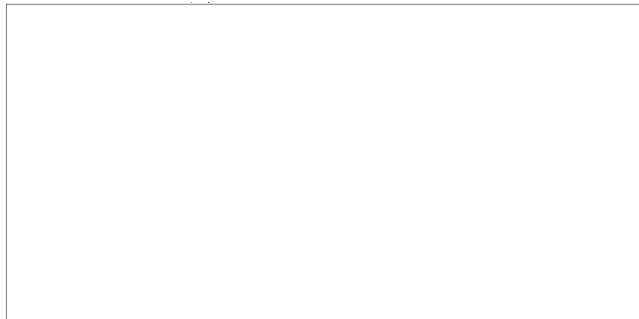
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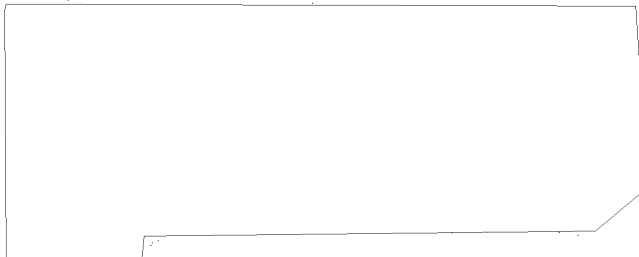
JORDAN



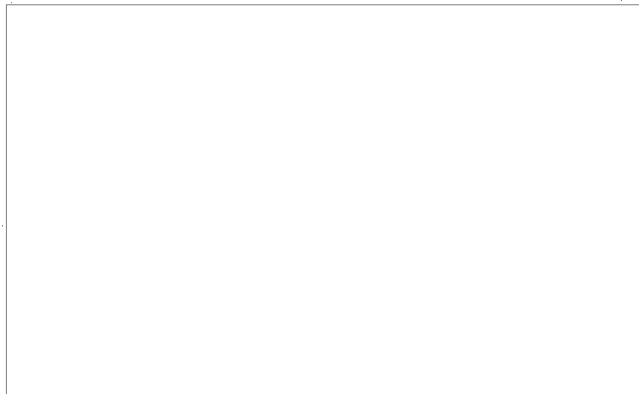
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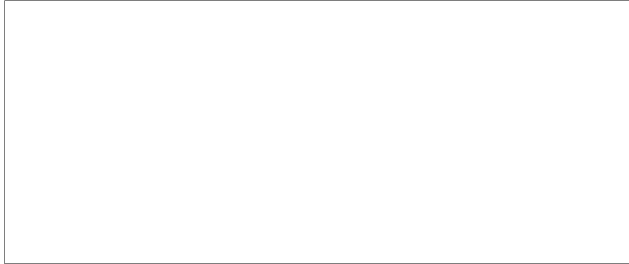


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BANGLADESH

The post-independence euphoria surrounding Prime Minister Mujib's government is beginning to wane, and the country's problems are continuing to mount.

--In the second half of February, at least four clashes erupted in various parts of the country between government security forces and groups of armed hooligans or ex-guerrillas.

--Unemployment is widespread, while industrial enterprises formerly owned by West Pakistanis are idle and prices are rising.

--Men fruitlessly seeking jobs are flowing into the cities, and shantytowns are spreading.

--Food supply and food distribution are still holding up, but a fuel shortage threatens both the shaky transportation system and crop irrigation equipment.

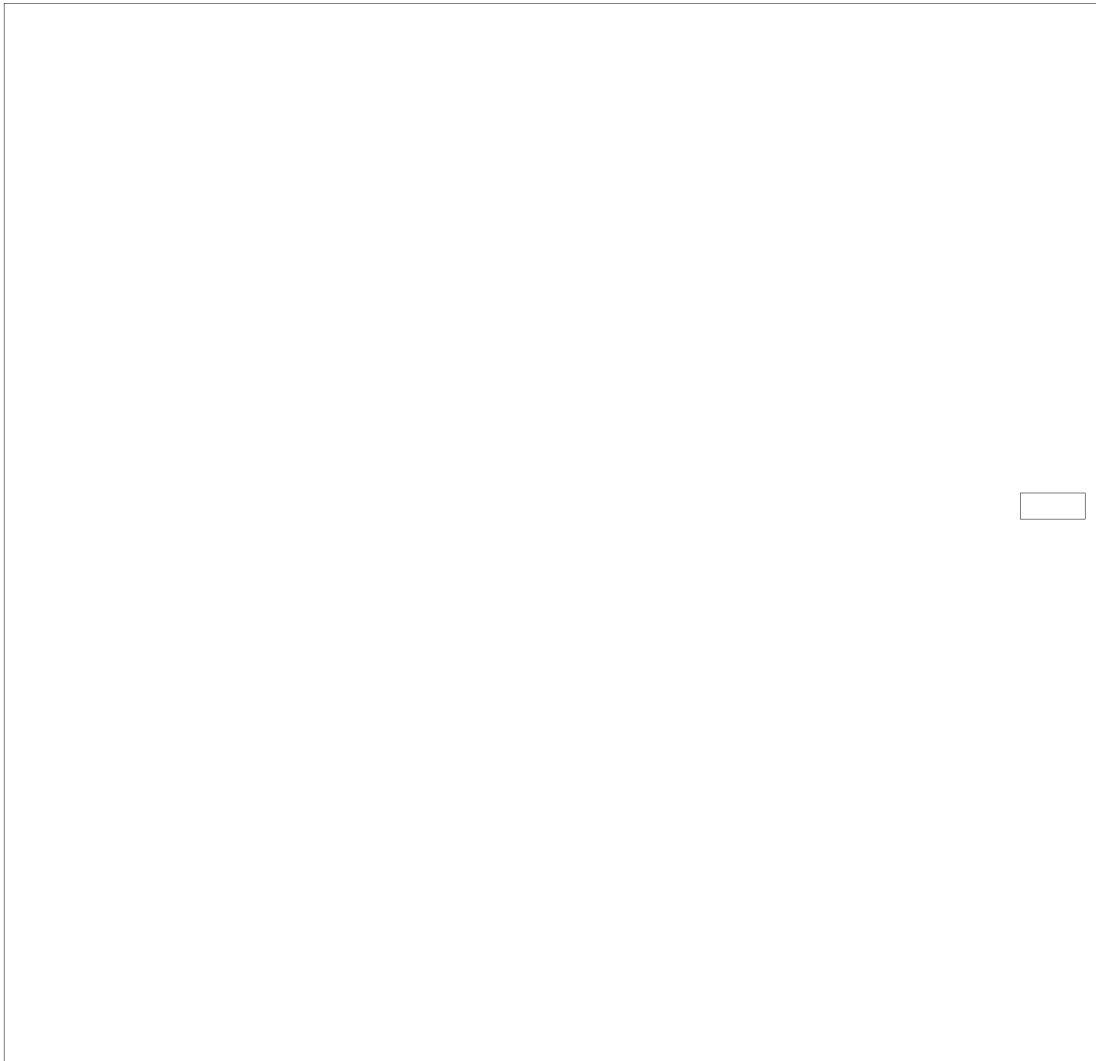
--There are indications that jute--the country's main foreign exchange earner--is being smuggled to India in substantial quantities by profiteers.

So far, no organized large-scale opposition to Mujib seems to be developing, but disaffection with his government is becoming more open. Recently a statement by the vice president of the Dacca Chamber of Commerce criticizing the government's performance appeared in the local press.

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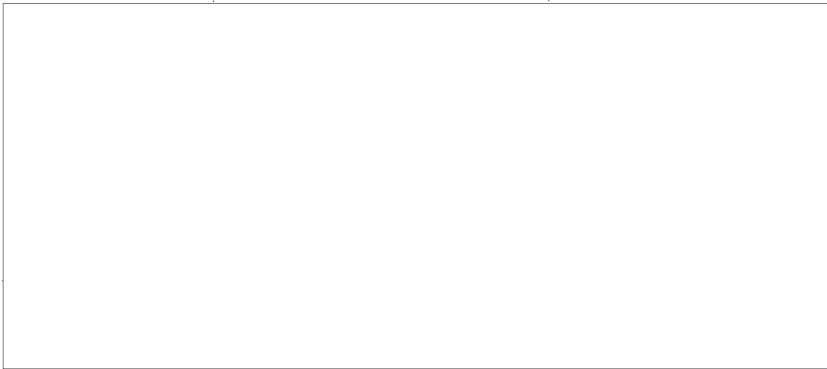
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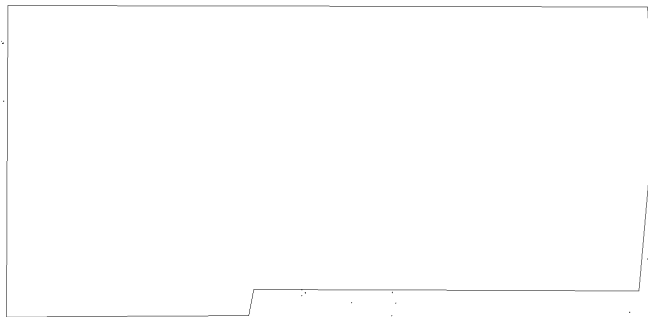
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