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*Weekly Situation Report  
on  
International Terrorism*

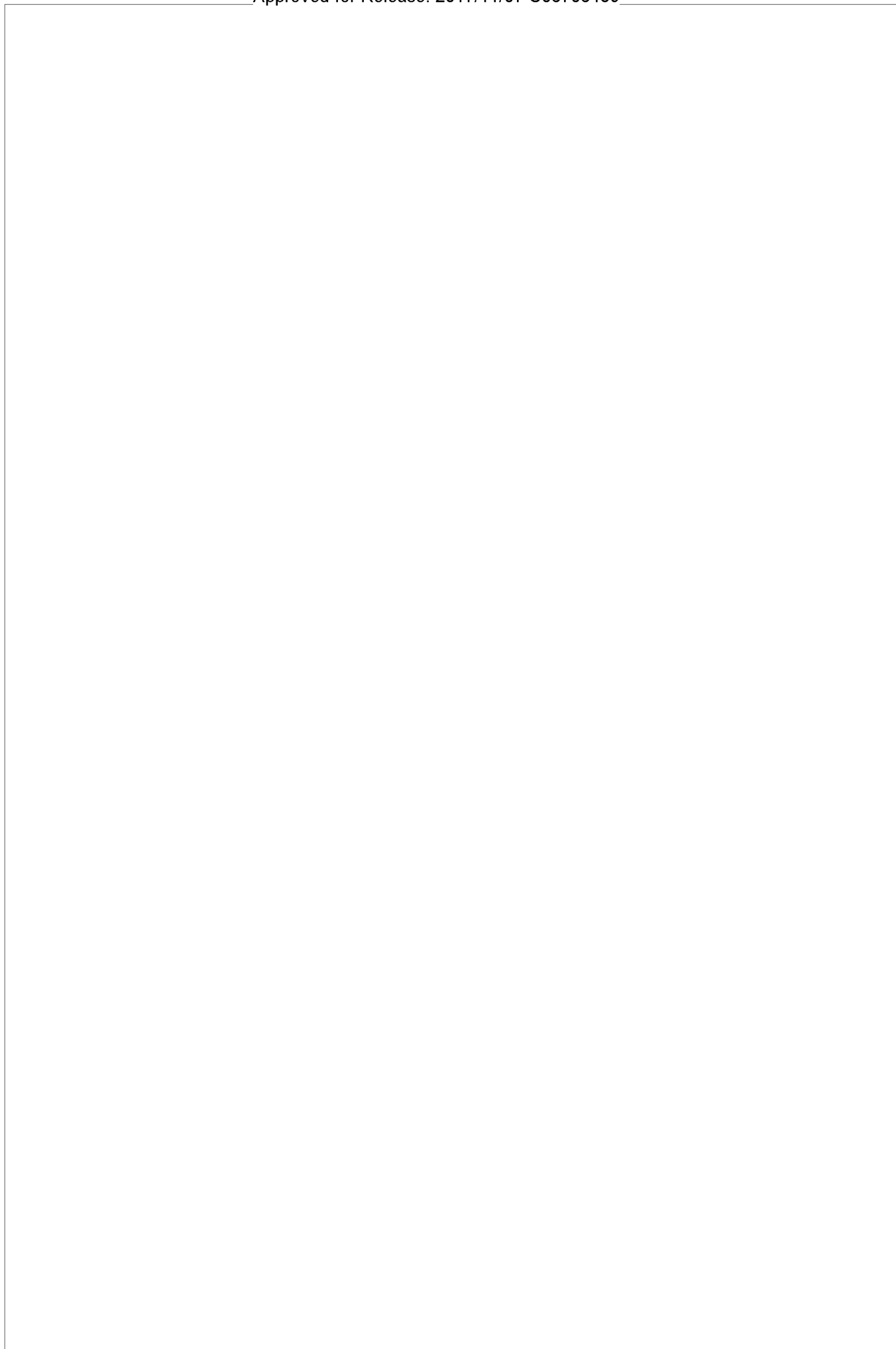
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27 July 1976

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# WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

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Ransom Payment Leads to Arrest of Suspects in  
Niehous Kidnapping (Page 3)

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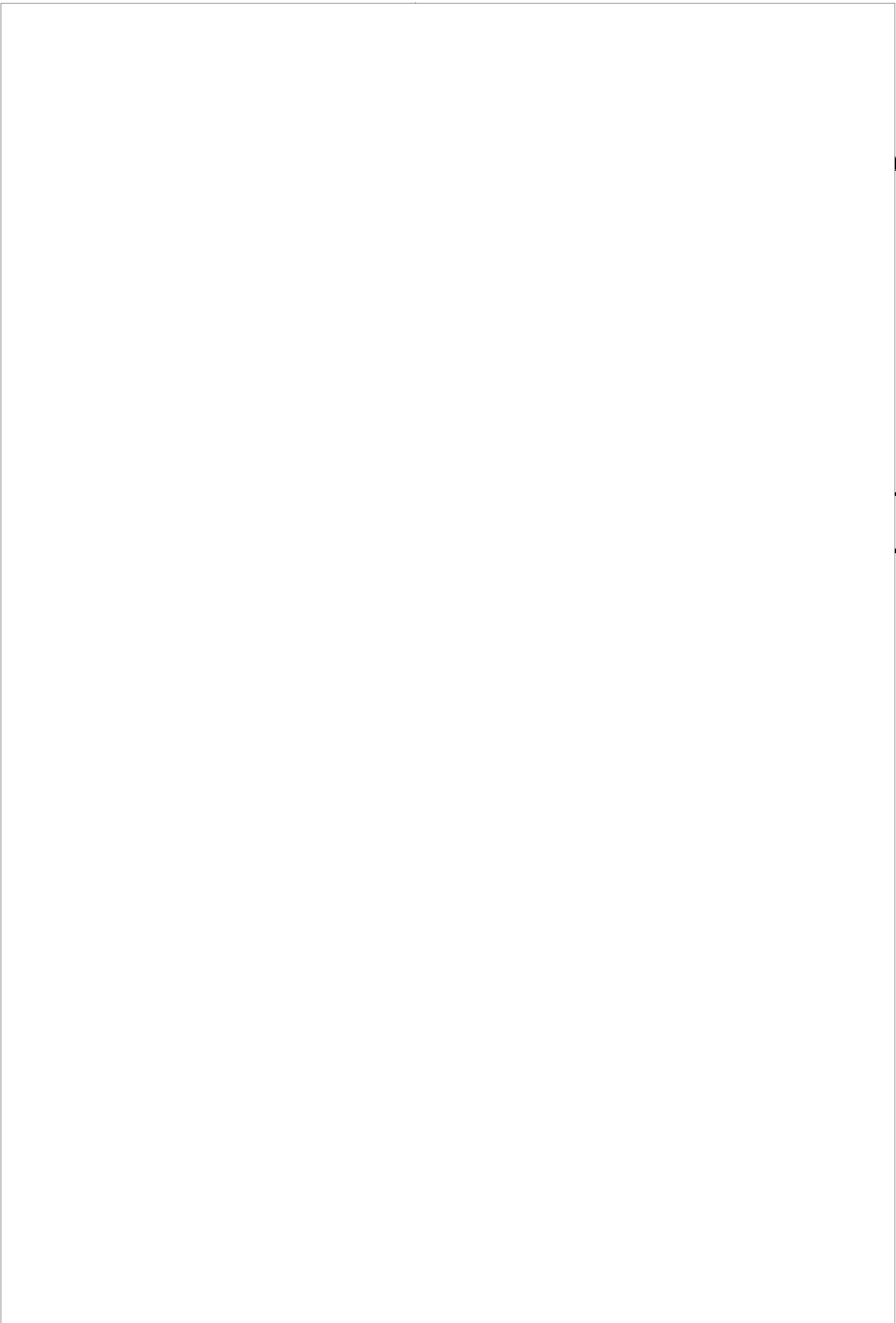
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Ransom Payment Leads to Arrest of Suspects in Niehous Kidnapping

On 21 July two men were arrested while attempting to collect a partial ransom payment demanded by the kidnapers of U.S. businessman William Niehous. They were David Nieves Banchs, a Venezuelan terrorist who has had connections with several guerrilla groups, most recently with the Organization of Revolutionaries (OR), and Ivan Padilla, a former seminarian. Venezuelan authorities have identified and arrested eight additional suspects from the information obtained in debriefings of Nieves and Padilla. The authorities now believe the kidnapping was a joint operation of the OR and the Venezuelan Revolutionary Party/Armed Forces of National Liberation (PRV/FALN). (Niehous has been held hostage since February 1976. See the issues of 2 March and 6 July.)

Most of the eight other persons arrested have been associated with Nieves or Padilla personally, or with the OR. They include some professional people and two women. One of the eight, Jorge Rodriguez, died in prison on 26 July. Nieves had informed the authorities that Rodriguez was the coordinator for the Niehous kidnapping. He was the leader of the Socialist League, an OR front group. The Venezuelan Minister of Interior confirmed the death and said the circumstances are being investigated. He also announced that other arrests had been made.

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If the Venezuelan authorities are able to determine the exact location where Niehous is being held, they may try to release him by force. The fact that the arrests have become public knowledge, however, might cause the kidnapers to move Niehous to another area. In addition, the death of Rodriguez could lead to some type of reprisal by the kidnapers--a fact that the Minister acknowledged in his press statement by warning the kidnapers of harsh consequences if they should murder the hostage. [Redacted]

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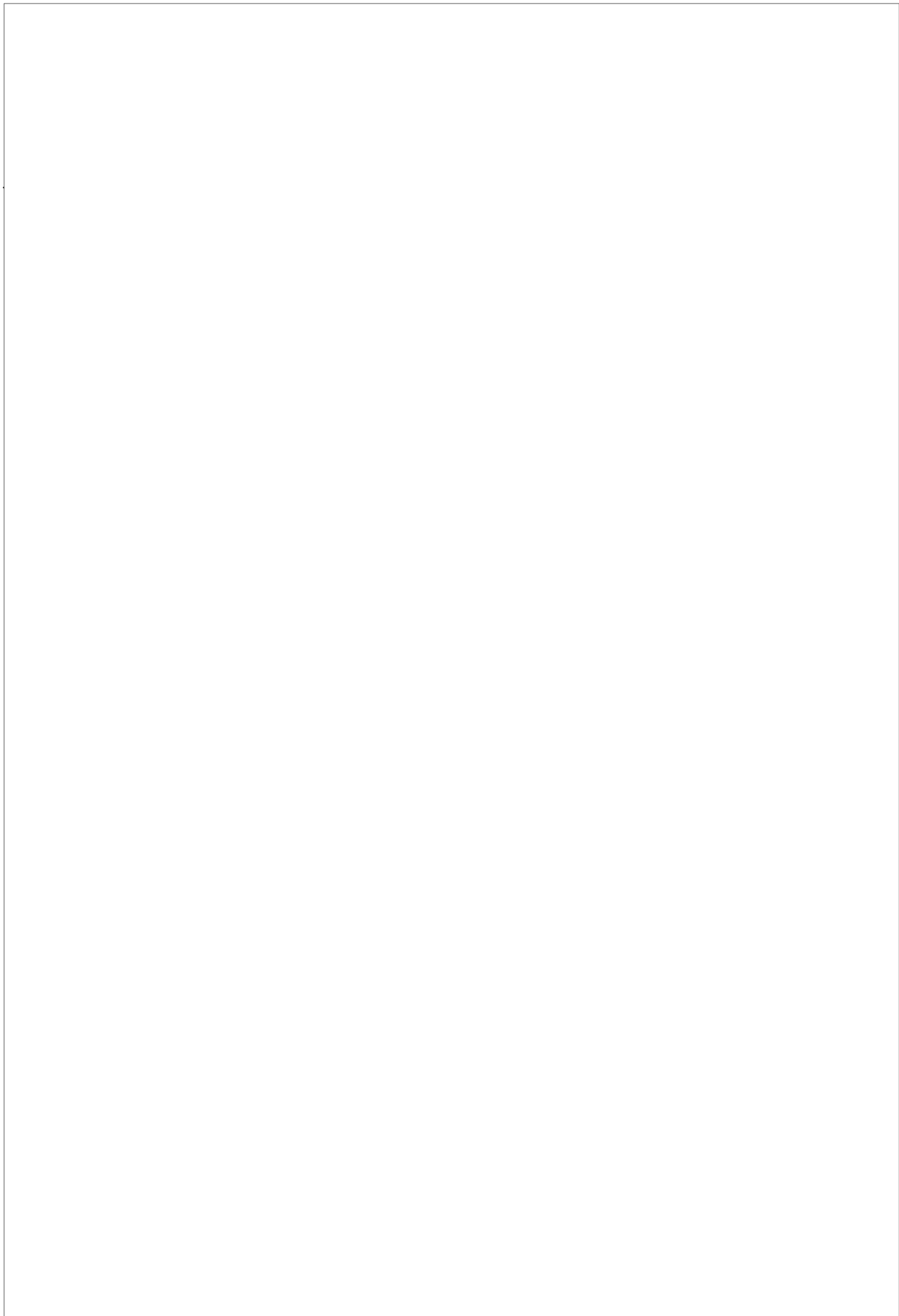
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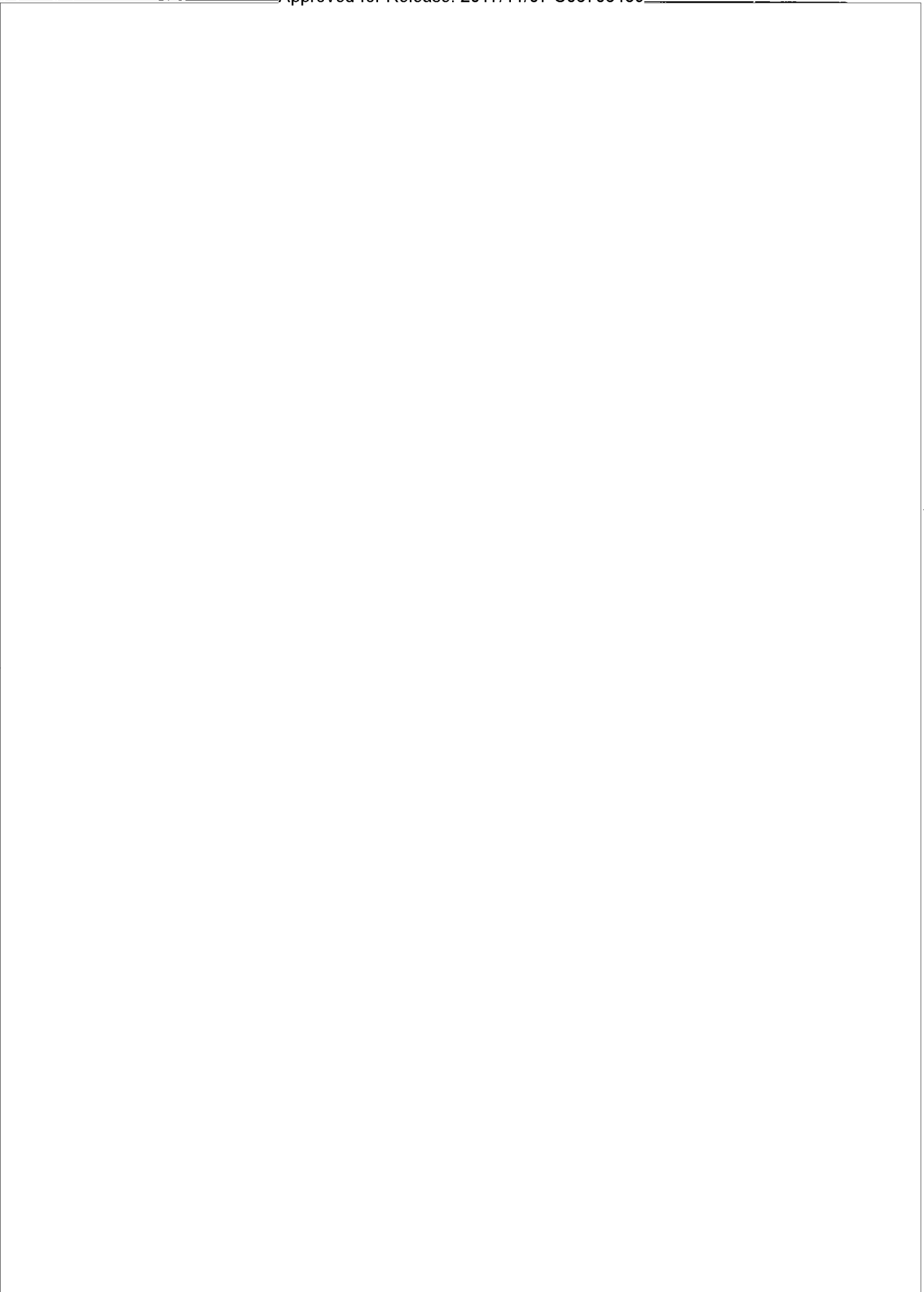
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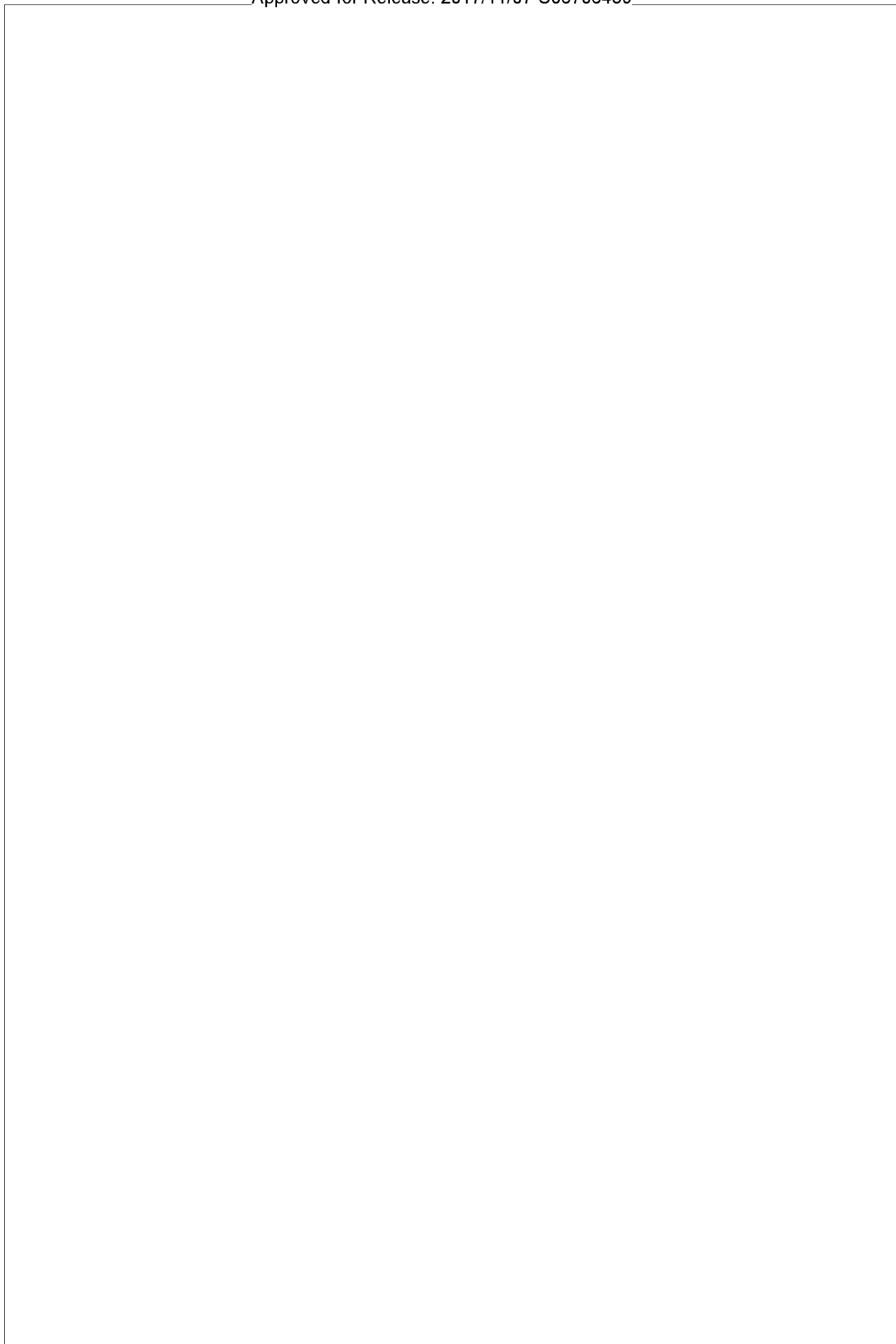


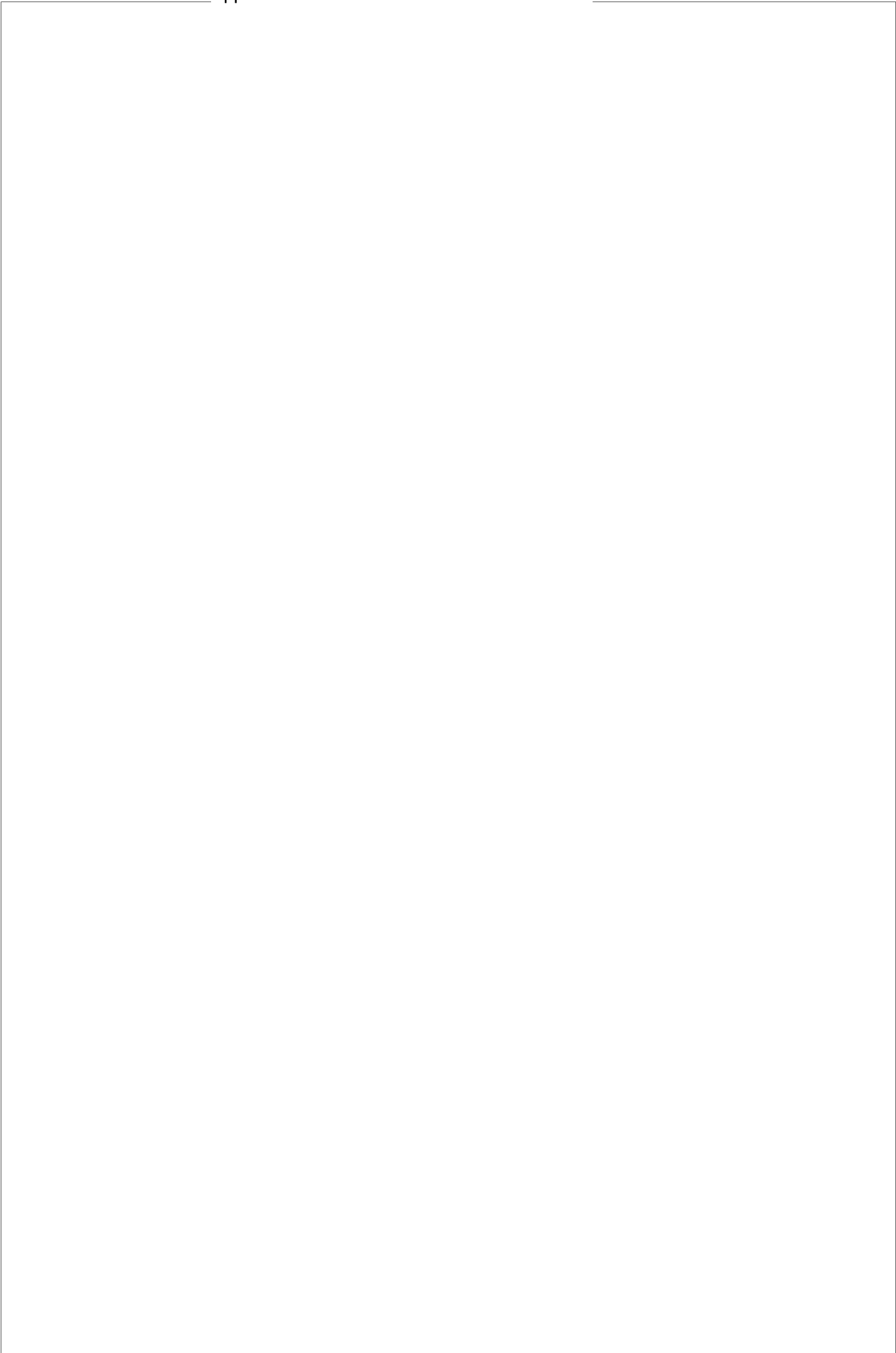




























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