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3/O/STY/R16-68
18 Jan 68 2120Z
DIST: O/UT

NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
SOUTHEAST ASIA SIGINT SUMMARY

This report summarizes developments noted throughout Southeast Asia available to NSA at time of publication on 18 Jan 68. All information in this report is based entirely on SIGINT except where otherwise specifically indicated.

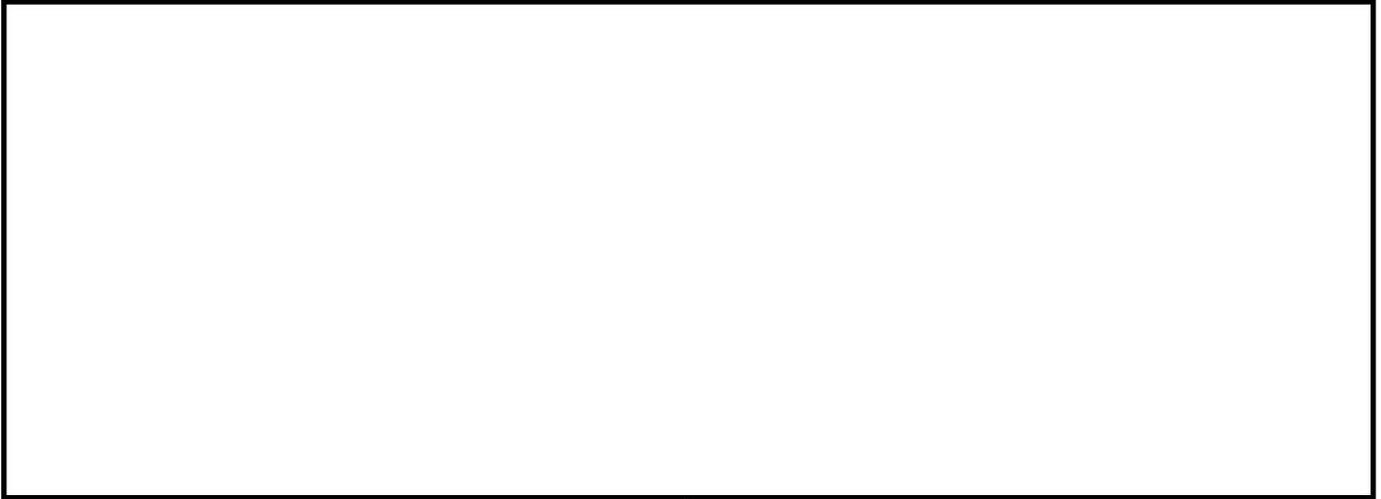
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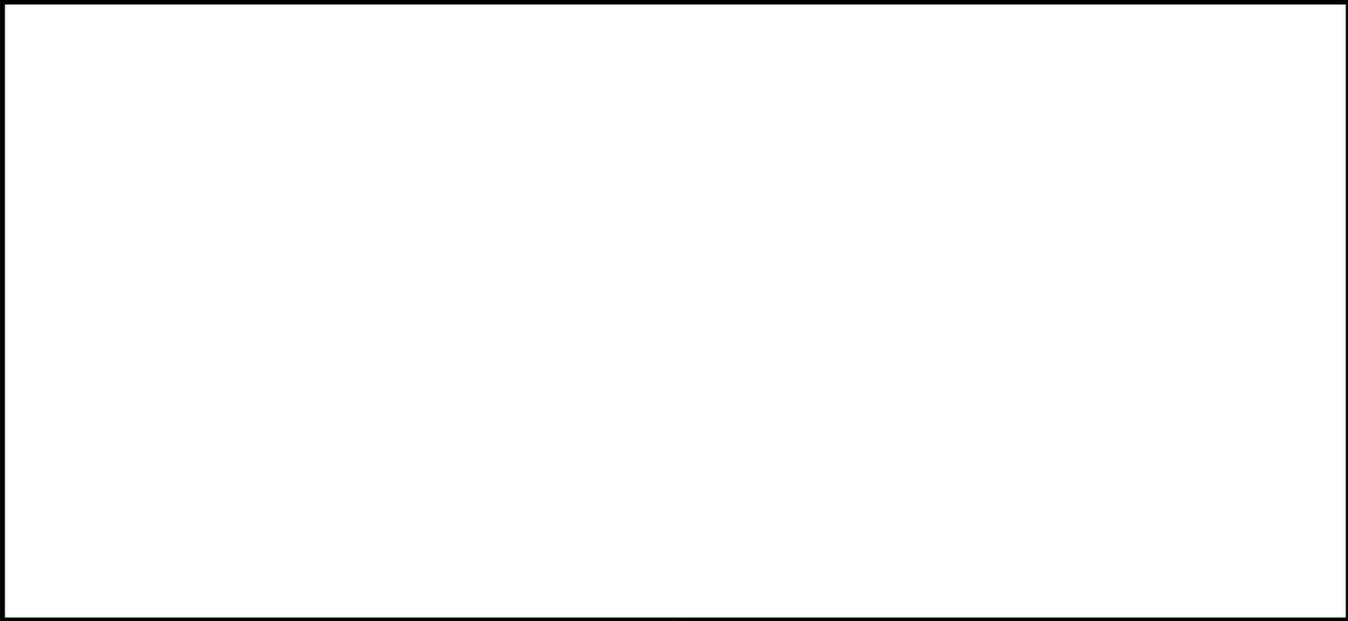
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SITUATION SUMMARY

Indications of Communist plans for attacks in Pleiku Province highlighted communications activity in Military Region (MR) 5 in South Vietnam. Vietnamese Communist military units in the Quang Nam-Quang Tin Province border area continue either to relocate or to indicate impending moves. Reporting by Communist military intelligence elements has revealed interest in the Tay Ninh-Binh Long Province area of MR's 1 and 10, and in MR 2, a 17 January message warned of an Allied "sweep" operation scheduled to begin on the following day in Dinh Tuong Province.

The 27th Independent Battalion mentioned the safe arrival of two unidentified personnel south of the Ben Hai river and indicated that these personnel were to be involved in the take-over of the Hue area administration. In addition, SIGINT has reflected the consolidation of the possible Hq, PAVN 325C Division with its detached element in Laos, west of Khe Sanh.



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I. COMMUNIST SOUTHEAST ASIA

A. MILITARY

1. Vietnamese Communist Communications - South Vietnam

Military Region 5

In the western highlands, elements of the PAVN B3 Front have reported plans to attack in areas southwest and northeast of Pleiku City in Pleiku Province.

A message of 16 January from a probable Hq, PAVN B3 Front authority--located on 18 January in the Duc Co area near 13-50N 107-36E (YA 812308)--reported plans to Hq, PAVN 1st Division for attacks in the immediate future against Duc Co (13-48N 107-38E, YA 8426), Le Thanh (13-49N 107-40E, YA 8930), and Tan Lap (unlocated). A 17 January message from the 1st Division to the B3 Front entity stated, "Everything for victory." On the same date, the probable Hq, B3 Front authority reported: "On the morning of 15 January we set up an ambush on Route 19 near Ha Ra Bridge, west of Mang Yang Pass, destroying 56 (C val transport) vehicles, and two M13's. In the direction of Route 19, between 3 and 15 January, Farmsite (possibly 6) shelled, shot down seven helicopters, destroyed five 105-mm artillery pieces, and collected an AR-15 rifle and a radio." Another message from the same authority revealed that "the Military Committee of the Central Office for South Vietnam has advocated a new theatre of operations." On 17 January the 1st Division reported to a "Commander CUU" that "we crossed the river safely and reached the stipulated position. Situation of the troops: the move was good, and we arrived at the location at 0400 hours [GOLF] on 10 January. We are continuing to move. The enemy situation: At 2100 hours [GOLF] (B val B-57's) twice soared along the river and returned in the direction of (C val Sung) Le."

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To the northeast of Pleiku City, elements suspected to be associated with the concentration of B3 Front units in that area reported plans to launch mortar attacks on undisclosed targets-- possibly in the general vicinity of 14-14N 108-07E (AR 895730)-- between 17 and 19 January.

In other activity in the western highlands, an unidentified terminal tentatively associated with the B3 Front moved approximately 40 km northwestward between 1 and 16 January to a position near 15-05N 107-25E (YB 610708) in the Laos-Kontum Province border area. This terminal, which initially appeared in communications on 3 December 1967, communicates with an unidentified and unlocated radio station.

A general repositioning of Vietnamese Communist military elements continues in the Quang Nam-Quang Tin Province area. On 17 January the possible Hq, PAVN 21st Regiment, PAVN 2nd Division-- located in northern Quang Tin on 16 January near 15-31N 108-08E (AT 927186)--indicated that it was about to move. Another subordinate of the 2nd Division--the possible Hq, VC 1st Regiment-- was located on 17 January in southern Quang Nam near 15-45N 108-11E (AT 993425), approximately 20 km north of its 10 January location. SIGINT indicated that this regiment was about to move on 16 January. The unidentified Rear Services Headquarters, Quang Nam Province, which was located approximately 30 km north-northeast of its normal base area on 16 January, appears to have left an element in its old base area; this element was located in the headquarters' previous base area on 17 January. Additionally, a detached element of the Rear Services Headquarters, which was probably activated during early December 1967, relocated to the new operational area. This possible detached element was located on 14 January in southeastern Quang Nam near 15-51N 108-10E (AT 983541). The radio station tentatively identified as serving the Da Nang Municipal Unit is operating near this unidentified Rear Services Headquarters and was located on 12 January near 15-49N 108-09E (AT 951505).

In possibly related activity, a radio station tentatively identified as serving the 1st or 3rd Battalion of the PAVN 68th

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Artillery Regiment--last located on 12 January in southern Quang Nam Province near 15-43N 108-00E (ZC 200400)--indicated on 17 January that it was about to move.

Additionally, an element of Hq, MR 5 Provincial Unit Control was located on 17 January near 15-32N 107-02E (ZC 180179) in northern Quang Tin, approximately 15 km northwest of its 14 January position.

(2/G12/VCM/R163-68, 181215Z; R161-68, 180059Z; R160-68, 171510Z; R158-68, 171445Z; R156-68, 171315Z; 2/O/VCM/R13-68, 172014Z; R14-68, 172144Z) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

Military Regions 1 and 10

Evidence of Vietnamese Communist interest in the northeastern Tay Ninh-Binh Long Province area was noted in recent messages exchanged between the Military Intelligence (MI) elements located in that area.

In a 16 January message to the Military Intelligence Bureau (MIS) of COSVN, the possible VC 46th Reconnaissance-Sapper Battalion reported that "the enemy at Bau Cham [11-33N 106-23E, XT 5076] clashed with Y6 [unidentified]" and a number of Allied personnel were killed. The possible battalion--located on 8 January in northeastern Tay Ninh near 11-31N 106-23E (XT 518724)--also reported Allied bombing and strafing in the vicinity of Trang Tranh (not located). In two messages to the battalion on 1 January, MIB COSVN--located in northern Tay Ninh on 17 January near 11-36N 106-14E (XT 353826)--anticipated the probable Allied use of paratroopers to "strike the base camp" and Allied employment of air and artillery. In a third message of the same date, MIB COSVN reported that two U.S. units--the 3rd Battalion, 22nd Regiment and the 4th Battalion, 9th Regiment--were located at the Ba Chiem (11-29N 106-50E, XT 4968) three-way intersection. According to collateral, these units are subordinate to the 3rd and 1st Brigades, respectively, of the U.S. 25th Infantry Division. In addition, two other units, the 2nd Battalion, 22nd Regiment and the 3rd Battalion, 11th Armored

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(Cavalry) Regiment were reported to be in the vicinity of Soc Con Trang (11-37N 106-26E, XT 5680). The 2nd Battalion, 22nd Regiment is subordinate to the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, according to collateral.

On 17 January, the probable Hq, C95 Reconnaissance Company, MI Section, Hq, 9th Light Infantry Division, received a report from a subordinate stating that "the enemy" was in the vicinity of Soc Con Trang. This subordinate was tentatively located in northern Tay Ninh on 13 January near 11-39N 106-19E (XT 431862).

(2/G10/VCM/T120-68, 180350Z; T118-68, 171432Z; T115-68, 170340Z; T109-68, 161627Z; T108-68, 161510Z)

Military Region 2

On 17 January, a message originated by the probable My Tho Provincial Committee and passed to an unidentified subordinate located in central Dinh Tuong Province, warned of an enemy operation scheduled to take place on 18 January. The operation reportedly was to be a "sweep" by the "sector unit with artillery elements at Cho Gao [10-21N 106-28E, XS 6144] and Tan Hiep [10-27N 106-21E, XS 4755]." The recipient of the message was also instructed to "alert Dao Thanh [10-22N 106-20E, XS 4648], Luong Hoa Lac [10-25N 106-23E, XS 5051], My Phong [10-21N 106-23E, XS 5146] and Song Binh [unlocated]."

Also on 17 January, a message passed by another unidentified, unlocated subordinate to the probable My Tho Provincial Committee reported that it had "been swept" and that the enemy had seized packages of batteries and personal effects and histories.

Collateral reports that CORONADO IX is currently being conducted in Dinh Tuong Province.

(2/G10/VCM/T119-68, 172100Z; 2/G10/VCY/T001-68, 180200Z)

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2. DRV CommunicationsDMZ Area

The consolidation of the possible Hq, PAVN 325C Division with its detached element in Laos, immediately west of Khe Sanh, has been reflected in SIGINT as early as 9 January. The division headquarters ceased communications with PAVN High Command from 23 December through 7 January, and was not observed contacting its detached element after 30 December. The division headquarters was last noted attempting to contact the DMZ Front on 7 January. However, since at least 25 December, the division headquarters has been noted in communications (through its detached element, until consolidation) with the major PAVN headquarters located in Laos northwest of Khe Sanh, suggesting a possible shift in tactical control of the 325C Division from the DMZ Front to the new major headquarters. The division headquarters, located on 16 January west of Khe Sanh at 16-41N 106-30E (XD 590458), now communicates with PAVN High Command; Hq, MR 4 (North Vietnam); the major PAVN Headquarters northwest of Khe Sanh; and the three regimental subordinates of the division--the 29th, possible 95C, and possible 101D.

On 17 January communications of the 27th Independent Battalion mentioned the safe arrival of two unidentified personnel south of the Ben Hai River, in the area of the 5th Company, and indicated that these personnel were to be involved with a "take-over of the Hue area administration." On 18 January, the battalion queried its 6th Company as to the arrival of the detachment of Comrades KIEU and DINH and instructed the company to make preparations for the detachment's travel "south of the river." It was further stated that the detachment could travel during the day only after crossing Route 9 and "reaching the mountains." Although positive identification of the personalities cited has not been made, textual references to them have indicated that they are of high rank. A comrade KIEU has been previously observed signing messages originating possibly from the detached element of the DMZ Front.

(3/O/STY/R14-68; 2/O/VCM/R15-68, 172145Z) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~~~TOP SECRET TRINE~~

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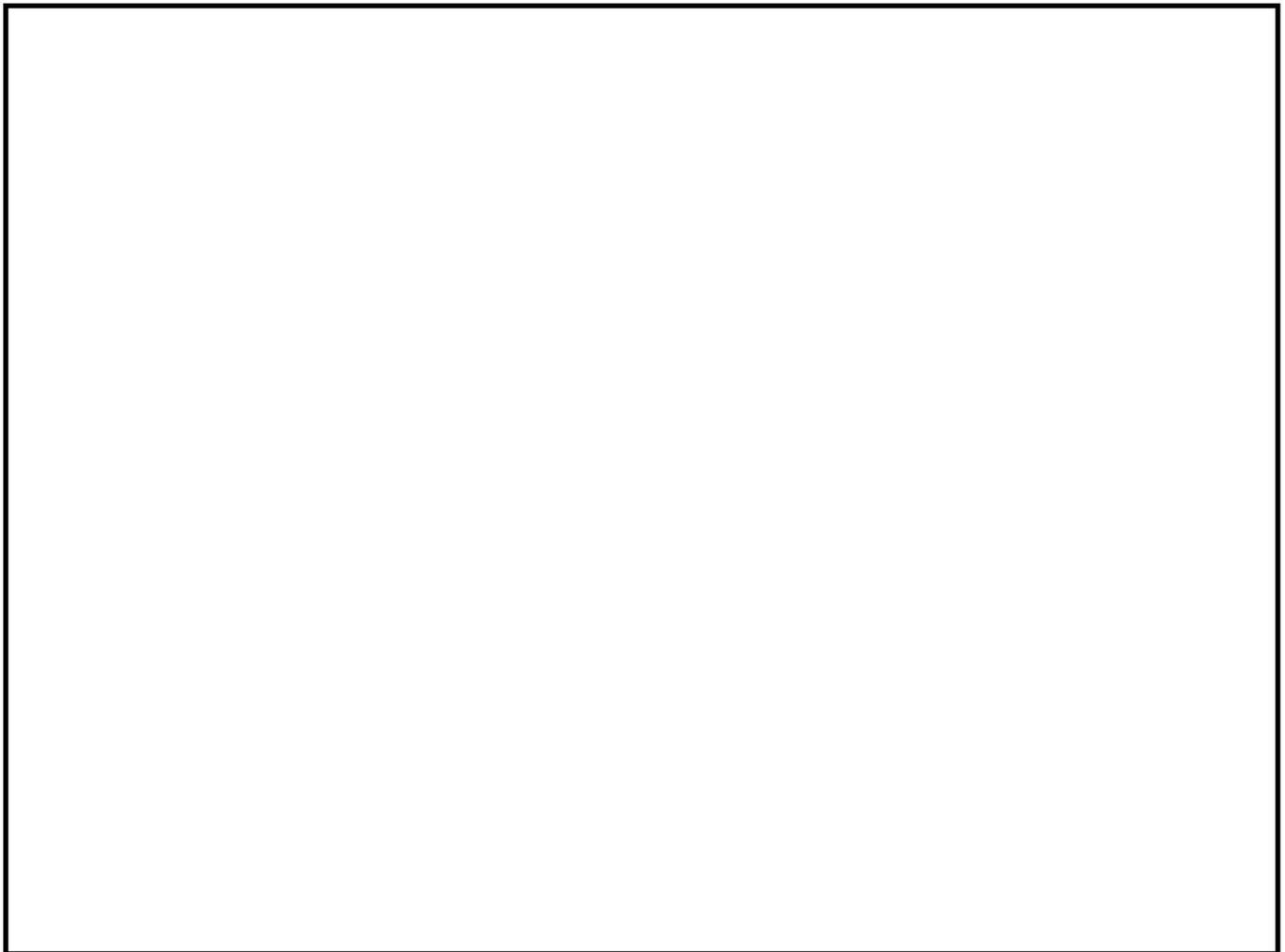
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3. DRV AN-2 Resumes Bombing Practice

On 16 January, one North Vietnamese AN-2 was noted in probable bombing practice northeast of Hanoi Gia Lam Airfield. This is the first reflection of this type of activity by a North Vietnamese AN-2 since 9 January. The pilot involved in this practice was not, however, one of the AN-2 pilots involved in the attack on Pha Thi, Laos.

(3/0/STY/R12-68, 2/02/VCA/R4-68, 121705Z; R9-68, 180840Z)

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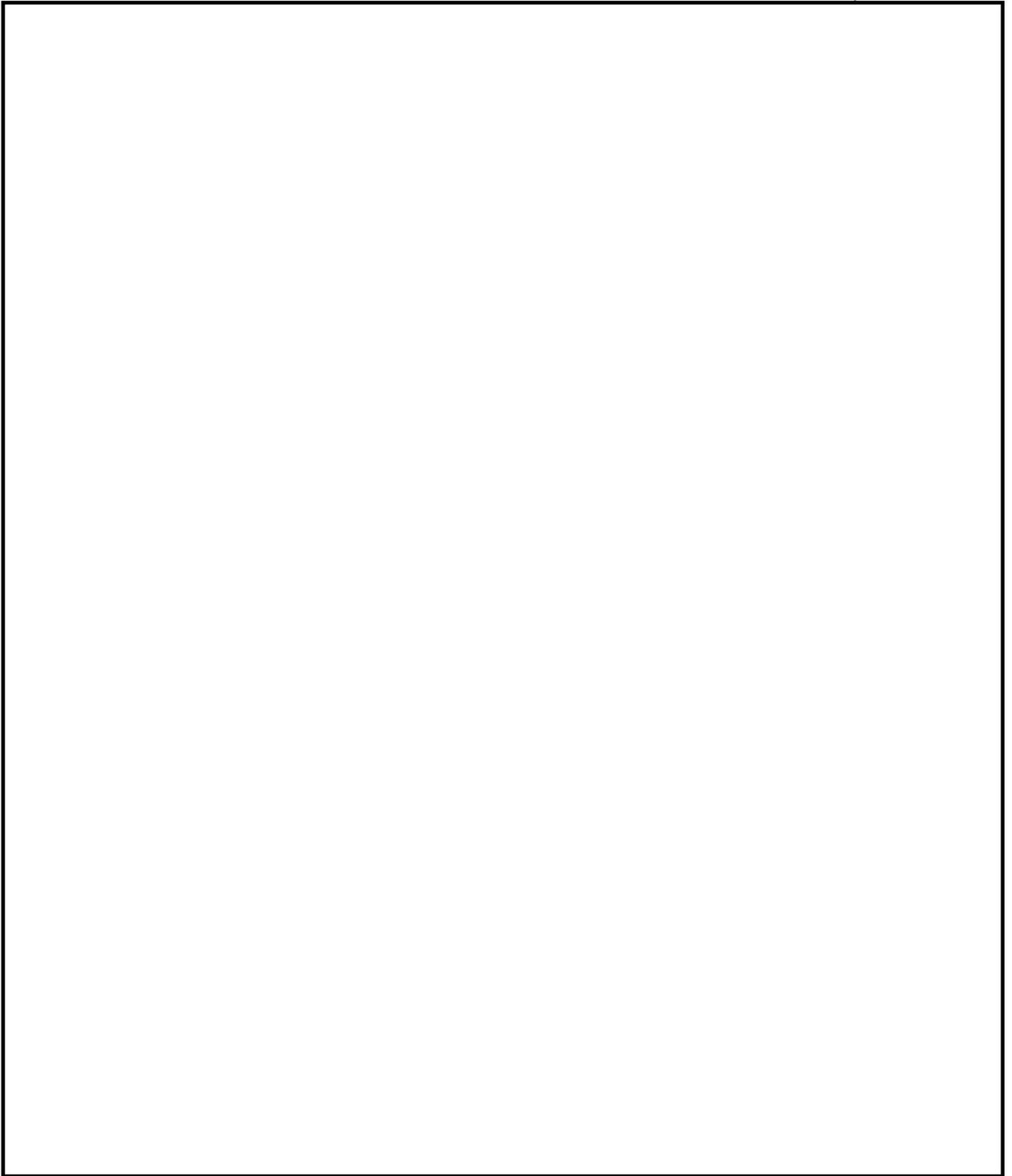


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