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3/O/STY/R20-68
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NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
SOUTHEAST ASIA SIGINT SUMMARY

This report summarizes developments noted throughout Southeast Asia available to NSA at time of publication on 23 January 1968. All information in this report is based entirely on SIGINT except where otherwise specifically indicated.

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Situation Summary	1
I. Communist Southeast Asia	
A. Military	
1. Vietnamese Communist Communications	
South Vietnam.	2
2. DRV Communications	7

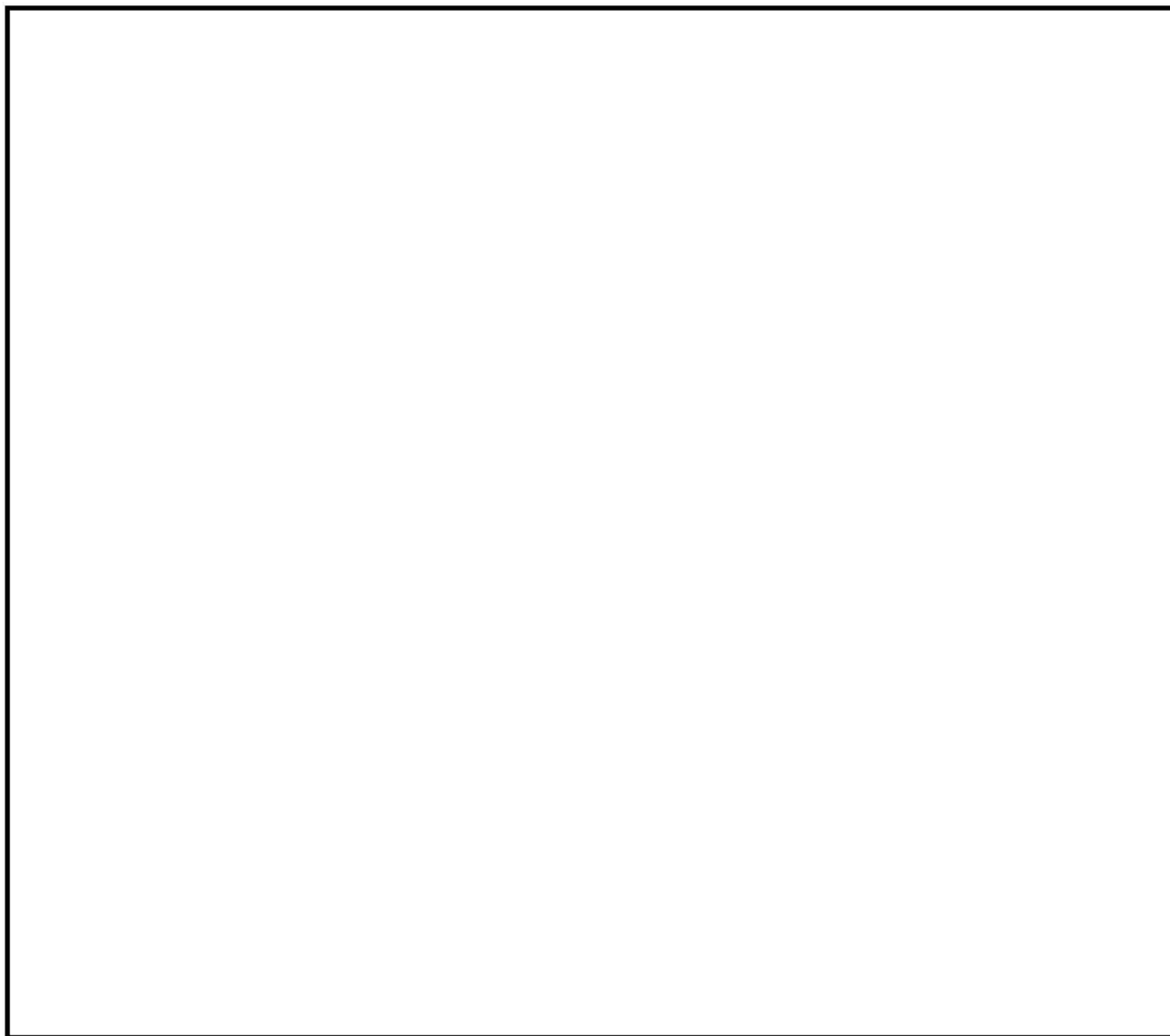


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SITUATION SUMMARY

SIGINT has revealed renewed Communist interest in the Hue area of Military Region (MR) Tri-Thien-Hue in South Vietnam. In MR 5 evidence of impending attacks in west-central Pleiku Province continues to be reflected in messages passed between a probable PAVN B3 Front authority and a probable PAVN 1st Division element. To the south, the relocation of the probable Hq, Viet Cong (VC) 271st Regiment into Phuoc Long Province and the resumption of reporting by two military intelligence elements of the Hq, VC 5th Light Infantry Division in central Phuoc Long highlighted activity in MR 1.

In the DMZ, communications serving elements of the 29th Regiment provided the initial SIGINT reference of the use of AAA weapons in the Khe Sanh area.

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3/0/STY/R20-68

I. COMMUNIST SOUTHEAST ASIAA. MILITARY1. Vietnamese Communist Communications - South VietnamMilitary Region Tri-Thien-Hue

Renewed interest in Hue has been indicated in SIGINT by the locations and movement of Vietnamese Communist units near the Hue area, during the past several weeks.

Hq, Military Region (MR) Tri-Thien-Hue (TTH), located during December 1967 near 16-25N 107-15E (YD 4116) approximately 36 km west-southwest of Hue, was located on 20 January near 16-25N 107-21E, (YD 5115) reflecting a move of nearly 10 km toward Hue. In addition, a decrease in communications by Hq, MR TTH and a corresponding increase in communications activity by the tentative forward element of Hq, MR TTH during 21-22 January may presage a further movement of the headquarters.

Movement toward the Hue area was also effected by the tentative forward element of Hq, MR TTH. The forward element was located near the possible Hq, PAVN 9th Regiment in the vicinity of 16-33N 107-09E (YD 3032) until early January 1968 when it relocated to a position near 16-24N 107-26E (YD 6114), approximately 15 km southwest of Hue.

Other MR TTH units located in the Hue area include the possible Hue Municipal Unit located near 16-18N 107-36E (YD 778030) on 8 January; one possible subordinate of the Hue Municipal Unit located near 16-25N 107-26E (YD 606171) on 17 November; Hq, PAVN 6th Regiment located near 16-26N 107-20E (YD 4911/3) on 12 December; and a possible battalion of the PAVN 6th Regiment located on 10 January near 16-32N 107-13E (YD 376301).

(2/G11/VCM/R152-68, 220826Z; 3/0/STY/R18-68) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

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3/0/STY/R20-68

Military Region 5

In the western highlands, the probable Hq, PAVN B3 Front authority--last located on 21 January in the southwestern Kontum Province-Cambodia border area near 15-08N 107-16E (YA 575545) and a probable PAVN 1st Division element--last located on 21 January in west-central Pleiku Province near 14-11N 107-11E (YA 770337)--have continued to exchange information relating to an impending attack in the Duc Co and Le Thanh area of west-central Pleiku Province.

On 21 January, the probable 1st Division element reported to the probable Hq, B3 Front authority that "It is believed the enemy is preparing artillery positions to reinforce the commando thrusts. The enemy is preparing a deception. Artillery and aircraft arrived from the southeast. The men are in good health. Concerning the mission, we are continuing the work [on the] final position and to have the forces go in deeper [to get the desired] results."

Additionally, on 22 January, the probable 1st Division element reported that large number of helicopters were active in the Le Thanh and Duc Co areas, between 20 and 22 January and that there were artillery explosions in Chu Boc (13-52N 107-41E, YA 883335). Regarding Allied reaction in this area, the probable 1st Division element stated that, "It seems certain the enemy has reacted, but with caution. In the direction of Le Thanh there has been an increase in forces, and the enemy has prepared 105-mm artillery positions to reinforce the thrusts of the commandos. The enemy is especially interested in the river bank, the main route to Chu Ba [13-53N 107-35E, YA 800360] and Chu Ngot, [possibly Chu Goungot, 13-51N 107-33E, YA 766327] and in the Chu Kram area [13-50N 107-36E, YA 814315]. The commandos may go to the old positions at Chu Ngot, Chu Kram, and the river bank to probe us. The state of activity mentioned above has increased greatly in comparison with the way things were in the days just past. Most significant is the Chu Ba area. The number of artillery pieces at Le Thanh has increased to four which CH-37's brought in on 21 January at 1500 [0800Z]."

-3-

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3/O/STY/R20-68

In another 22 January message, the probable Hq, B3 Front authority informed the 1st Division element that "all of you are to report the enemy situation around Le Thanh and Sung Le [13-54N 107-40E, YA 885390]. To what point has the work progressed? When you have my message that the assault is set, return to Comrade DU's location [unidentified]."

On 23 January, the probable B3 Front authority ordered the probable 1st Division element to have the troops move toward the direction of PHAT (unidentified) on the morning of 23 January. "When you leave [your present] location, remember to make deception to cover yourself from the enemy. When you arrive at the temporary position, use the fortifications which have been completed and employ the plan of operations. When you are at the location, report to me. During 24 January 1968, be at the same place as PHAT's team to await my orders and to receive a new mission."

In Kontum Province a possible Allied bombing was predicted on 20 January by a B3 Front-associated military intelligence (MI) control authority located on 15 January near 14-32N 108-02E (AS 806091) about 20 km north of Kontum city. The authority disclosed that "the enemy" was about to bomb its area and reported on Allied air and artillery operations in the area.

This MI authority and one subordinate which was located on 25 December 1967 in central Kontum Province near 14-28N 108-05E (AS 860026), have been reporting on Allied operations around Kontum city since early December.

In other activity in the western highlands the probable Darlac Provincial Unit--last located in southern Darlac Province near 12-29N 108-02E (AP 782807) on 20 January--indicated on 22 January that it was in combat and requested Hq, B3 Front to maintain close communications with it.

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In eastern Quang Tin Province the possible Hq, PAVN 21st Regiment, PAVN 2nd Division, was located near 15-28N 108-26E (BT 255111) on 22 January approximately 9 km southwest of Tam Ky city and about 13 km northeast of its tentative 21 January location.

To the south in eastern Binh Dinh Province, a headquarters element of the PAVN 3rd Division was located on 22 January near 14-13N 108-57E (BR 840728). The Hq, 3rd Division was last located on 14 January about 14 km east of this 22 January location.

(2/G12/VCM/R199-68, 222245Z; R198-68, 221455Z; R194-68, 220840Z; 2/G12/VCM/T182-68, 230840Z; T180-68, 230035Z; T178-68, 221220Z; T174-68, 211425Z) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

Military Region 10

On 20 and 22 January the probable Hq, VC 271st Regiment attempted to establish communications with the Hq, VC 9th Light Infantry Division (LID). On both dates the regiment utilized the same signal plan that it had used when last heard on 19 November 1967. The regiment was located on 22 January in northwestern Phuoc Long Province near 11-58N 106-44E (XU 901245), approximately 72 km north-northeast of this unit's 9 November position in northeastern Tay Ninh Province.

In other activity, two of the MI elements of Hq, VC 5th LID--the Military Intelligence Section (MIS) and one subordinate--reappeared in communications on 29 December and resumed reporting on 6 January. Except for sporadic contacts between the MIS and another subordinate during late December and early January, the 5th LID MI elements had been inactive since 12 September 1967.

In a message of 8 January, the MIS instructed the subordinate--located on 6 January in central Phuoc Long Province near 11-51N 107-06E (YU 290108)--to "report daily" on the situation of the rice supply, transportation activities, and manpower. The subordinate was further instructed to "report

-5-

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3/O/STY/R20-68

immediately to inform the division" of the "rice situation and the organization of transportation." In a 10 January message, the subordinate was instructed to "maintain close contact with 75" (probably a reference to the VC 275th Regiment) and to "guide E-4 [probably the VC 274th Regiment] back to the pre-determined location." The MIS, was located on 21 January in the Phuoc Long-Long Khanh Province border area near 11-26N 106-58E (YT 162651).

(2/G10/VCM/R27-68, 221445Z; T151-68, 212130Z; T150-68, 212115Z; T149-68, 212100Z; 3/O/STY/R271-67) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

Military Region 2

On 22 January, SIGINT revealed that the unidentified Party-associated station located in Dinh Tuong Province has again relocated, this time to 10-36N 106-07E (XS 2372), 28 km northwest of its 19 January location.

This unidentified Party-associated station has recently been noted in similar movements. Collateral reports that Allied Operation CORONADO IX is currently being conducted in Dinh Tuong Province.

(3/O/STY/R19-68) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

Military Region 4

Attempts to establish radio communications with the possible Hq, MR 4 were observed on 19 January by Hq, VC 9th LID and 20 January by an element of Hq, VC 5th LID. Similar activity was noted between 8 and 19 December, involving the possible Hq, MR 4 with Hq, 9th LID and the possible Hq, PAVN 7th Division. The possible Hq, MR 4 was last located on 3 January in north-central Tay Ninh Province.

(3/O/STY/R05-68; R309-67; 2/G10/VCM/R1582-67, 191520Z DEC)
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2. DRV Communications

DMZ Area

Communications of the probable 8th Battalion, PAVN 29th Regiment, on 19 January mentioned 12.7-mm guns, the first SIGINT reference to AAA weapons in the Khe Sanh area. The same message also mentioned a blocking position on Dong A Hai Peak (16-40N 106-35E, XD 715445).

(2/G11/VCM/T605-68, 221607Z) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

PAVN High Command

Since 16 January, the PAVN 812th Regiment has been noted in direct communications with the PAVN High Command communications complex serving units and personnel infiltrating into South Vietnam. Although this regiment is regularly noted in communications with the DMZ Front, this is the first time it has been noted in direct communications with Hanoi. On 20 January, a radio terminal tentatively identified as serving the 812th Regiment was located within 2500 meters of 16-35N 107-09E (YD 296357), approximately 36 km south-southeast of its 9 January location at 16-52N 106-41E (XD 803650).

(2/G11/VCM/R127-68, 200741Z) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

DRV Naval Activity

Apparently no unusual operations will be conducted by the North Vietnamese Navy during the forthcoming TET truce, according to SIGINT of 21 January. In a message from the DRV Naval Headquarters at Haiphong, all squadron commanders were advised that the TET truce this year would allow the troops to rest on 28 and 29 January.

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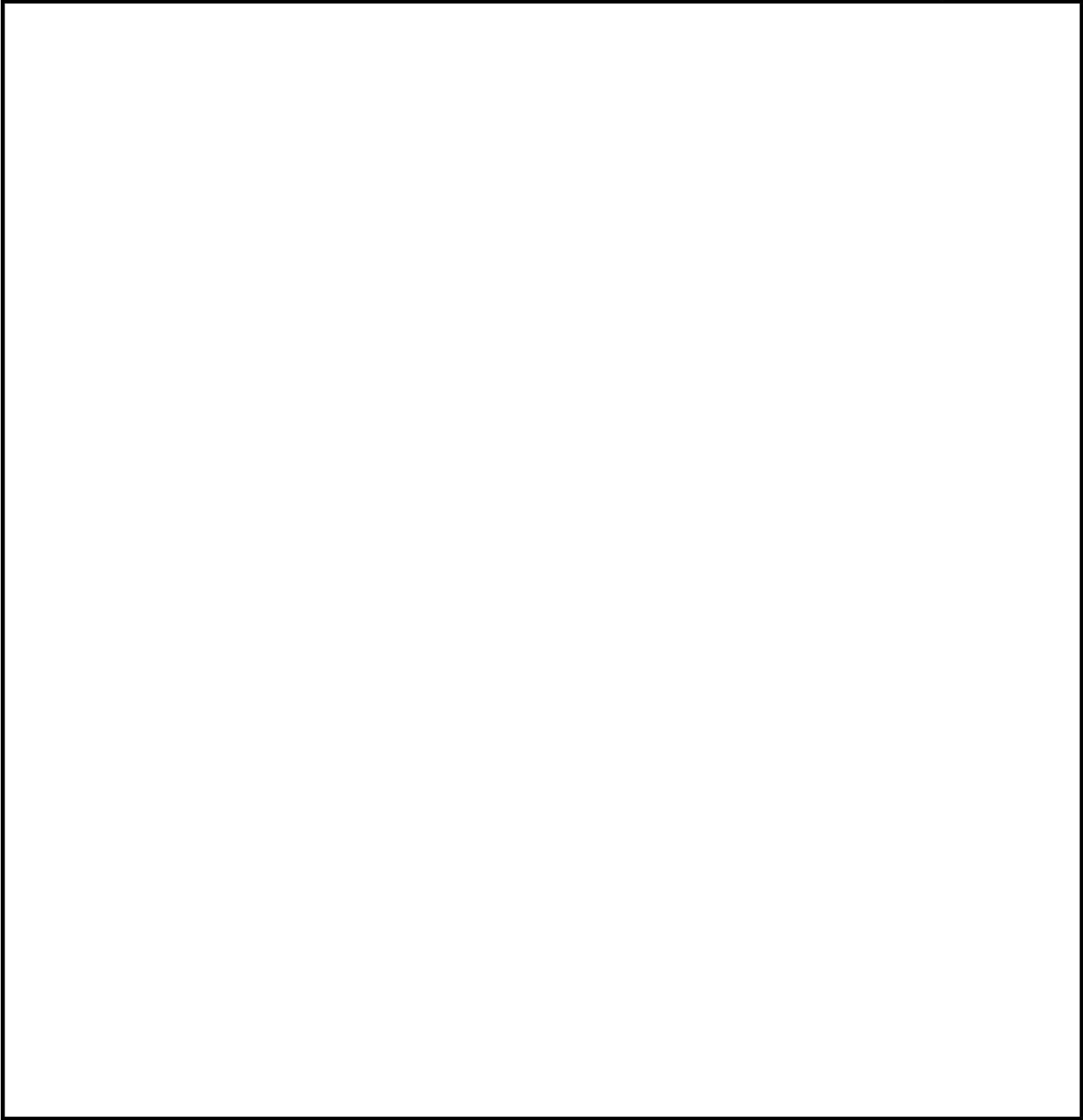
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During the 1967 TET truce period, DRV Naval vessels carried out a probable resupply mission to Bach Long Vi Island (20-10N 107-40E, YH 8528) and possibly to Long Chau Island (20-37N 107-10E, YH 3081). In addition, a DRV Naval exercise involving a minimum of six combatant vessels was conducted on 11 February 1967 south of the Cac Ba Island area.

(3/O/STY/R33-67, 3/C/STY/R34-67) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

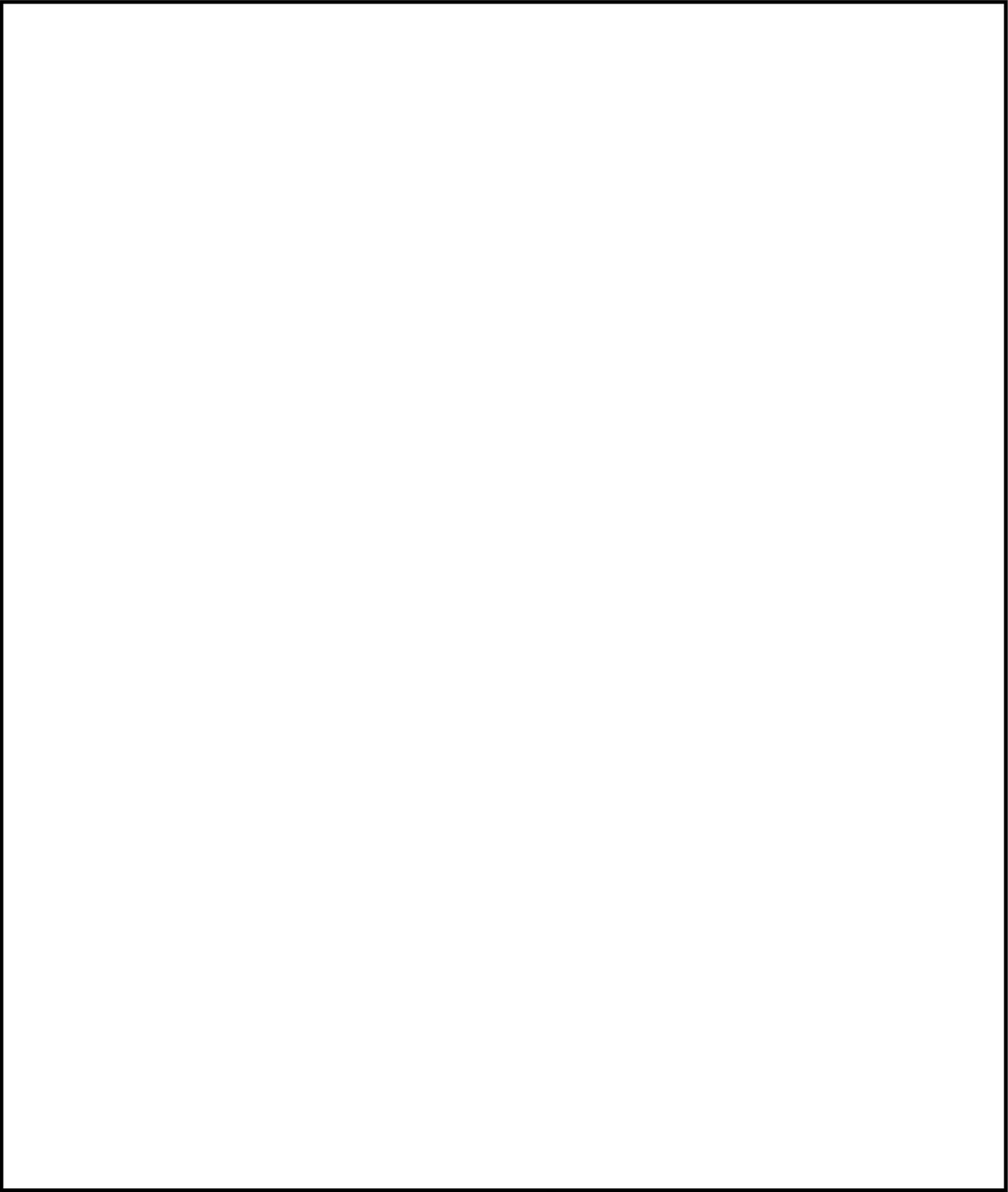
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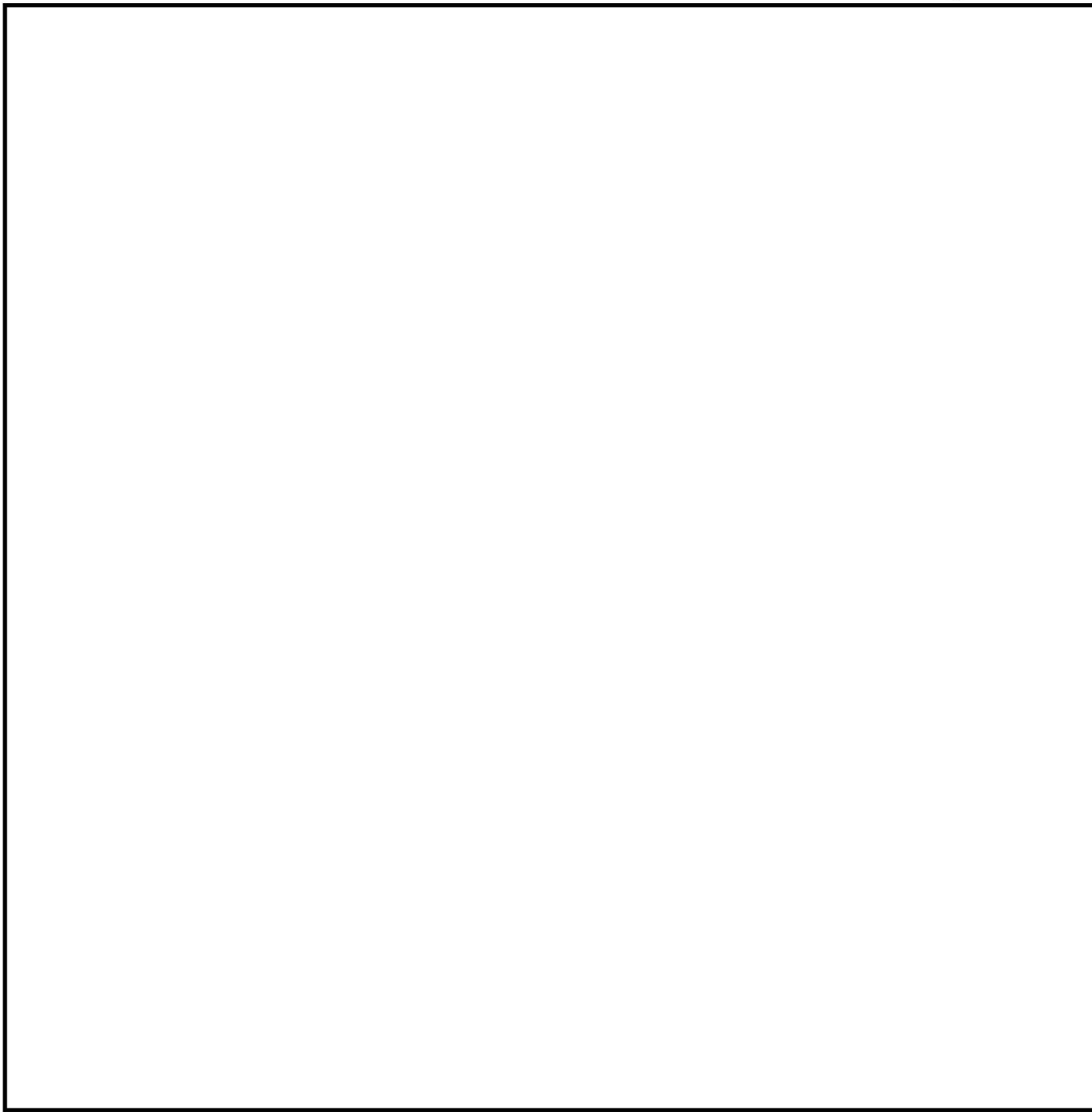
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