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07 January 1968
DIST: O/UT
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SOUTHEAST ASIA SIGINT SUMMARY

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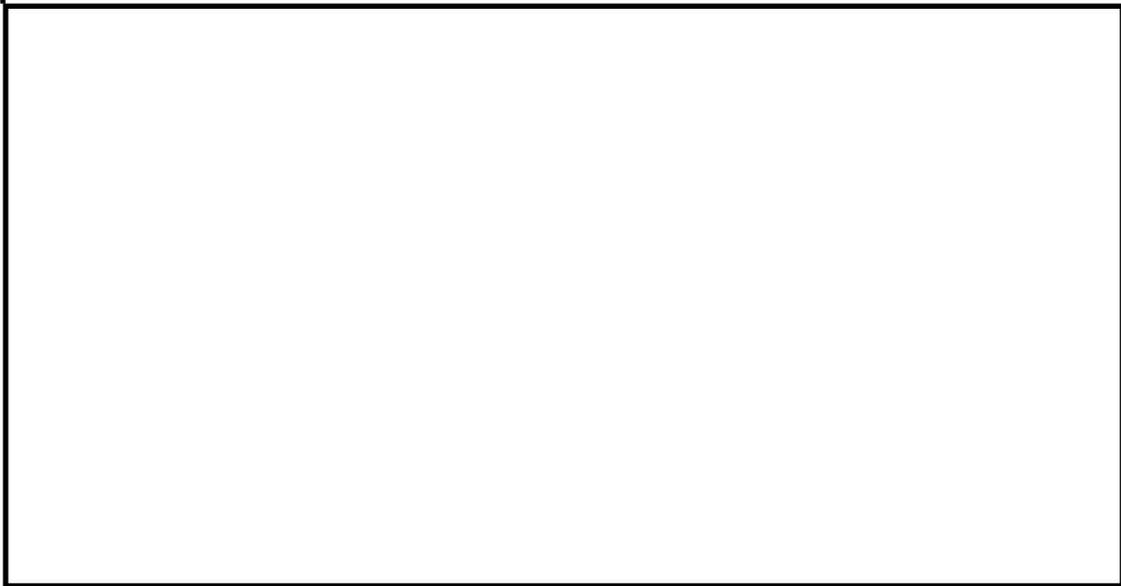
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NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
SOUTHEAST ASIA SIGINT SUMMARY

This report summarizes developments noted throughout Southeast Asia available to NSA at time of publication on 07 January 1968. All information in this report is based entirely on SIGINT except where otherwise specifically indicated.

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SITUATION SUMMARY

In South Vietnam, the establishment of increased communications between the regimental subordinates of the PAVN 2nd Division and the division's possible Forward Element highlighted activity in the Quang Nam-Quang Tin Province border area of Military Region (MR) 5. In the same general area, impending moves were reported by the Hq, MR 5 Main Force Unit Control and a subordinate of the probable Quang Nam Provincial Unit. Plans for a Vietnamese Communist attack on 4 January were revealed in a message passed between military intelligence subordinates of the PAVN 1st Division in western Kontum Province. SIGINT indicates that a radio station located near the Cambodia-Tay Ninh-Binh Long Province border of MR 1, may serve the probable Hq, Viet Cong (VC) 272nd Regiment, VC 9th Light Infantry Division.

In the DMZ area, reconnaissance by elements of the PAVN 325C Division and the resupply of the possible 812th Regiment continue to be reflected in SIGINT. The suspect infantry regiment of the PAVN 304th Division -- located in Ha Tinh Province, North Vietnam, in July 1967 -- is deploying southward and was located in Laos on 6 January. Also in Laos the movement of probable North Vietnamese troops has been reported by an unidentified element of a PAVN engineer regiment located in Laos.



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I. COMMUNIST SOUTHEAST ASIA

A. MILITARY

1. Vietnamese Communist Communications - South Vietnam

Military Region 5

In the Quang Nam-Quang Tin Province border area, developments were highlighted by the establishment of hourly radio schedules between the possible Hq, PAVN 2nd Division Forward Element and the regiments subordinate to the 2nd Division, beginning on 6 January. In this same area, the unidentified Rear Services Headquarters in Quang Nam Province -- located near 15-44N 107-59E, (ZC 194413) on 4 January -- informed a subordinate that it was in combat and requested the maintenance of close communications contact. The Hq, MR 5 Main Force Unit Control, meanwhile, indicated on 6 January that it was about to move; this unit was located by SIGINT near the Quang Nam-Quang Tin border at 15-34N 107-57E (ZC 155245) on 6 January. A subordinate of the probable Quang Nam Provincial Unit reported on 6 January that it too was about to relocate, possibly from its last SIGINT location in northeastern Quang Tin near 15-32N 108-22E (BT 180174).

In Quang Ngai Province, on 5 January the Quang Ngai Provincial Unit -- located on 21 December at 15-04N 108-40E (BS 502650) -- informed the Hq, MR 5 Provincial Unit Control that it was surrounded.

Farther south in Kontum Province, the Military Intelligence Section of the PAVN 1st Division was notified by a subordinate in a message on 4 January that "on the morning of 4 January we will prepare the 82 [mm] emplacement and, barring any obstacles, will open fire on the airfield at about 1700 [1000]." The message was intercepted 19 minutes after the announced time for the proposed attack. SIGINT located the subordinate on 27 December in western Kontum in the vicinity of 14-35N 107-40E (YB 871121).

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In the western highlands, the probable Hq, PAVN 95B Regiment was located in eastern Pleiku Province near 14-12N 108-18E (BR 090690) on 5 January, 38 km northeast of Pleiku City and 10 km east of its 3 January position. Later on 5 January, an unidentified element associated with the PAVN B3 Front was located in east-central Pleiku near 14-13N 108-02E (AR 803720), 12 km southwest of its 29 December location and 17 km south-southeast of Kontum City.

(2/G12/VCM/R061-68, 061948Z; R060-68, 061625Z; R058-68, 061337Z; R057-68, 052228Z; R054-68, 051514Z; R053-68, 050940Z; R052-68, 050745Z; T045-68, 041403Z) (~~SECRET SAVIN~~)

Military Region 1

A VC radio station which has been active in communications since 31 December 1967 is suspected to be serving the probable Hq, VC 272nd Regiment, VC 9th Light Infantry Division (LID). The station was located on 1 January in the Binh Long-Tay Ninh Province-Cambodia border area near 11-46N 106-28E (XT 599998).

This station is one of three subordinates of a communications group whose control was first noted active on 20 October 1967. The second of the three subordinates -- first observed on 12 December -- was located on 5 January in northeastern Tay Ninh near 11-37N 106-21E (XT 468839). The third subordinate, which communicates with an unidentified and unlocated station, was located on 30 December also in northeastern Tay Ninh. A possible association exists between the possible Hq, PAVN 7th Division, the tentative forward element of the 7th Division and the third subordinate, all of which relocated from the vicinity of the Binh Long-Tay Ninh Cambodia border area to northeastern Tay Ninh between 15 and 27 December. Parallel moves were also noted by stations on another communications group which was activated between 20 and 22 October and whose control authority is located in that area of the possible unidentified Front Headquarters in northern Binh Long Province.

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The probable Hq, VC 272nd Regiment was noted in sporadic communications with the Hq, VC 9th LID during November and December and may have been detached from the division headquarters for operational purposes. Collateral indicates that the VC 271st Regiment and a battalion of the VC 272nd Regiment were involved in an attack on a U.S. base area in northeastern Tay Ninh Province near 11-36N 106-23E (XT 499806) on 2 and 3 January. Collateral also states that the elements involved were reported to have moved from the Bo Duc area of Phuoc Long Province.

(2/G10/VCM/R007-68, 062015Z) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

2. DRV Communications

DMZ Area

Unidentified reconnaissance elements associated with the PAVN 325C Division continued to report on Allied activity northwest of Khe Sanh as of 7 January. Allied activity was reported on Hills 845 (16-40N 106-40E, XD 778439) and 595 (16-39N 106-41E, XD 825425) and A1 (unlocated). An artillery piece located at A1 reportedly placed scattered fire on the PAVN troop area during the day and night of 5 January but no losses were incurred.

Tactical communications serving elements of the PAVN 812th Regiment continue to reflect considerable supply activity in the DMZ area. A message of 6 January from the 4th Battalion to the regimental headquarters revealed that the battalion had received instructions to complete its transportation activity by 8 January, since "on 9 January there is to be a movement." An early message disclosed that the deadline for completion of transportation activity was 10 January. On 4 January the 4th Battalion reportedly received approximately 3900 rounds of mortar ammunition for transportation to an undisclosed destination. On the same day SIGINT located the possible 812th Regiment south of the DMZ in the vicinity of 16-50N 106-43E (XD 835629) and the possible 4th Battalion north of the DMZ in the vicinity of 16-58N 106-44E, (XD 856789).

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On 7 January, the 27th Battalion informed its 5th Company that Companies 7 and 8 and the battalion headquarters would be moving south of the Ben Hai River that night. Company 5 was instructed to block the enemy and to meet the arriving units at An Xa (16-57N 107-02E, YD 175752).

(2/G11/VCM/T0187-68, 070738Z) ~~(SECRET SAVIN)~~

PAVN High Command-304th/320th Divisions

Communications between "way stations" BRAVO and ECHO were reflected in SIGINT of 7 January. On this date, stations BRAVO and ECHO were located at 16-56N 106-52E (YD 001742) and 16-28N 106-30E (XD 608220) respectively. Station BRAVO was observed passing messages originated by the probable Hq, 320th Division, indicating that Hq 320 Division was in the area of BRAVO on the 7th. This division Hq was last located in the vicinity of Station ECHO (16-28N 106-49E, XD 9422) on 21 December. Prior to 7 January, Station BRAVO was located in the vicinity of 17-05N 106-45E (XD 8789); however, the 7 January location is believed to be a refinement of the previous one rather than an indication of movement.

On 6 January, the suspect infantry regiment of the PAVN 304th Infantry Division which deployed to Ha Tinh Province in July 1967, was located at 17-06N 106-10E (XD 256950) inside Laos. Conflicting SIGINT locations since mid-December, as well as changes in the communications patterns of the suspect regiment, had suggested the southward move of the regiment now confirmed by this 6 January location. The suspect regiment was last located on 27 December in the general vicinity of 18-20N 105-40E (WF 7127).

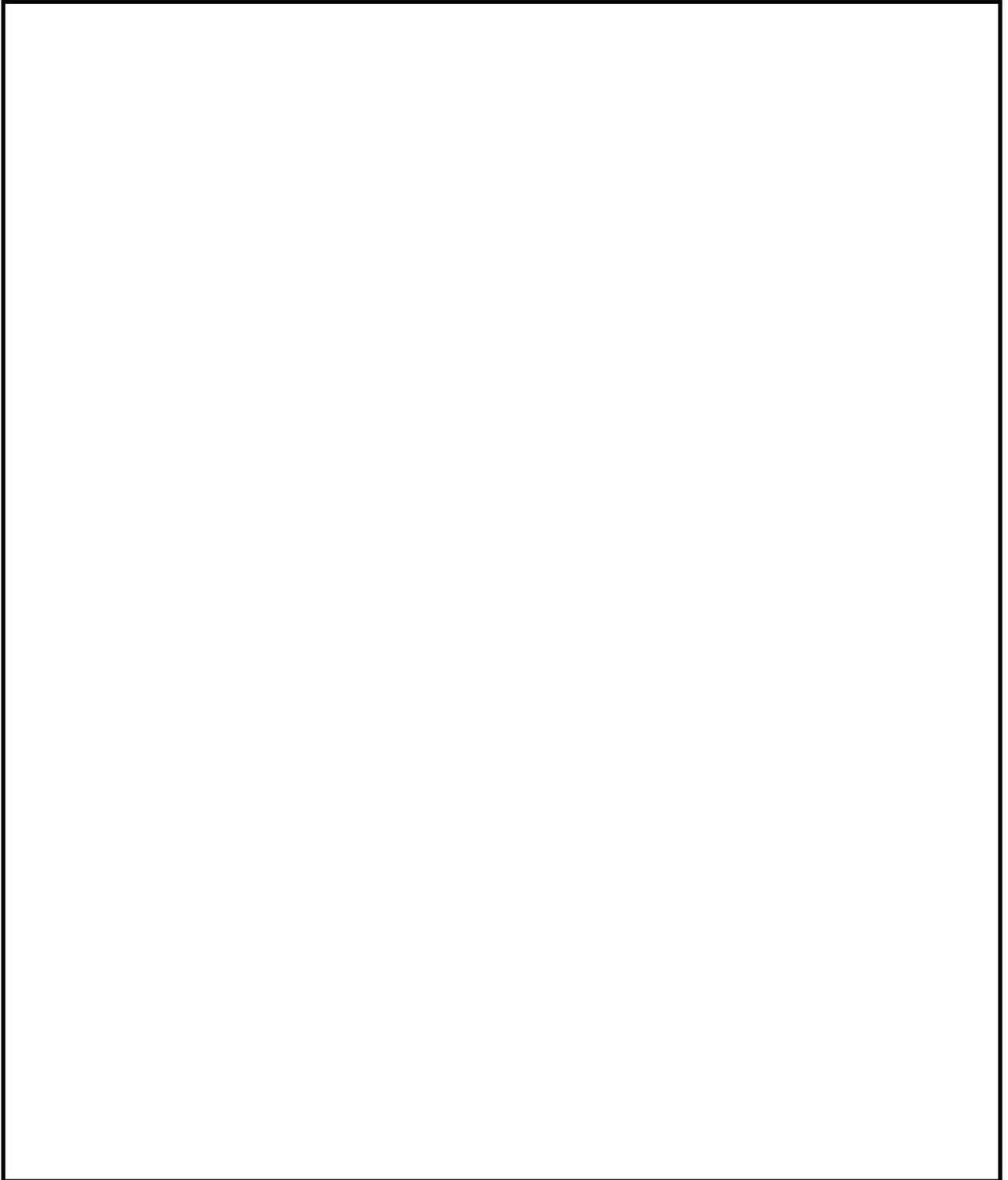
(2/G11/VCM/R028-67, 061832Z; 3/O/STY/R01, R03-68, 3/O/STY/R311-67)
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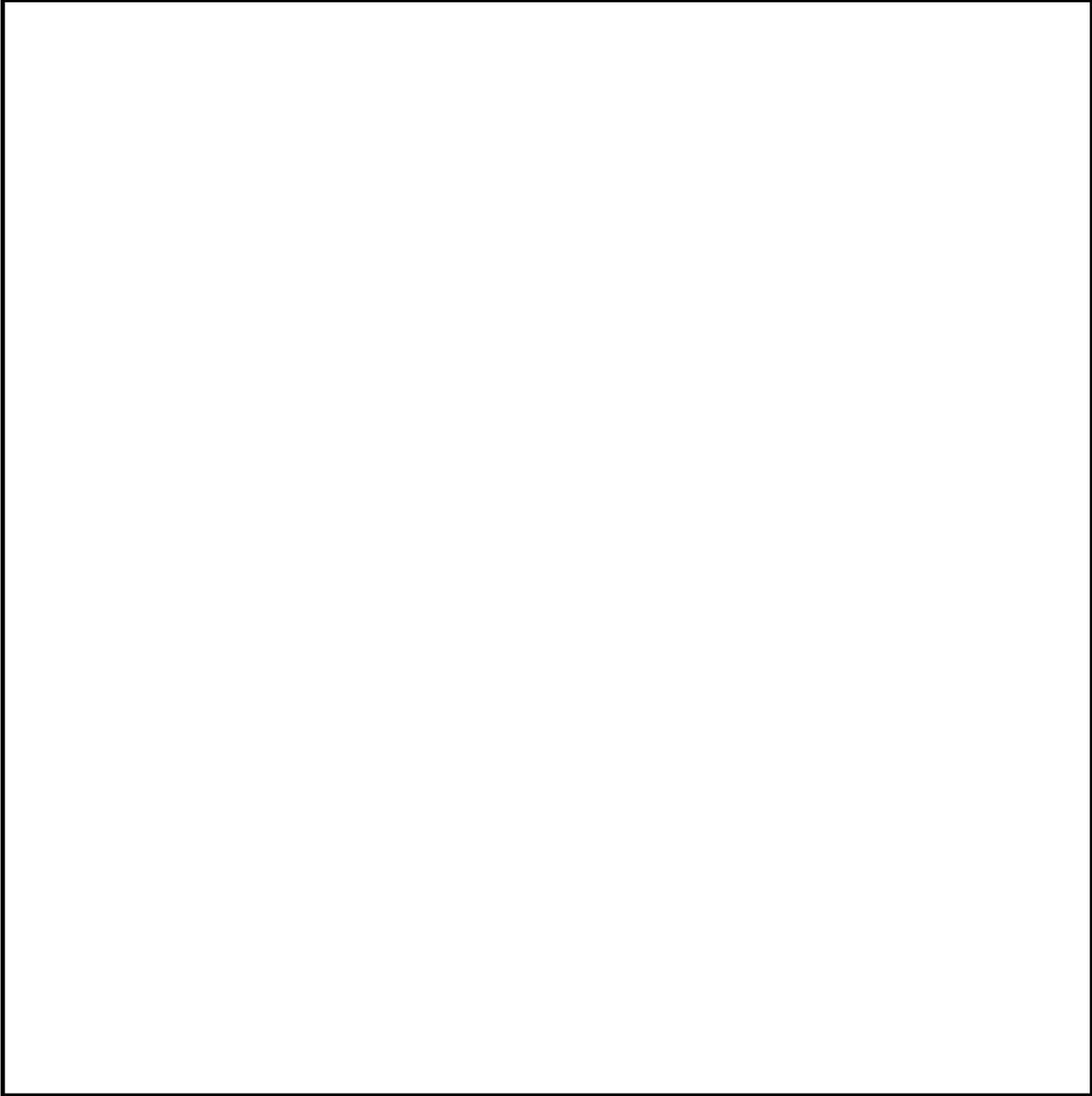


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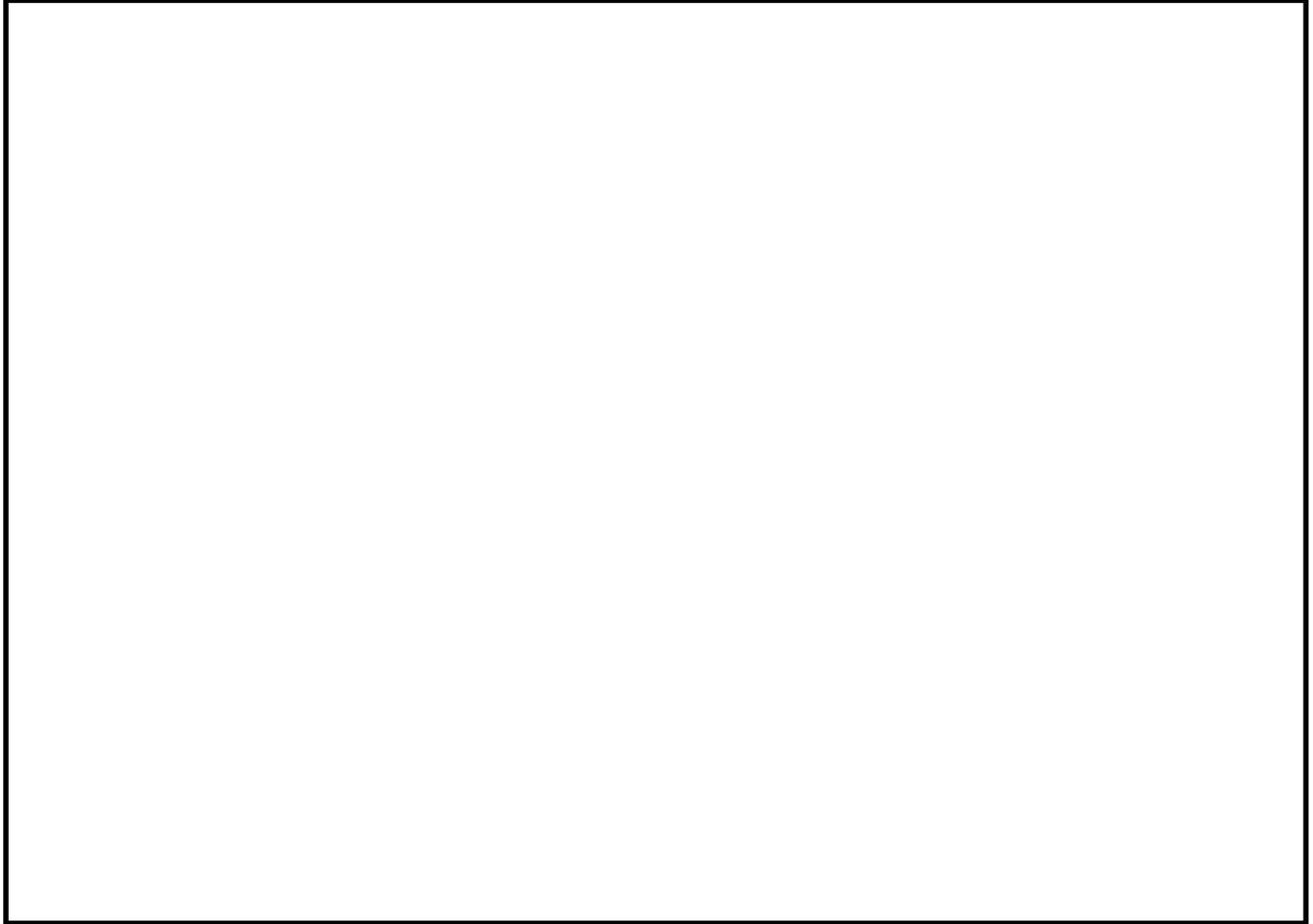


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