

~~SECRET SAVIN~~

2/O/VCM/R30-68
ALS,AVC/MTRL,OPER-G,HIGH,TCOM/.
26 JANUARY 1968
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SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY OF THE P A V N 559TH TRANSPORTATION GROUP:

OCTOBER THROUGH DECEMBER 1967

I. INTRODUCTION

This report is the first in a series of quarterly activity reports that reflect the most significant SIGINT developments on the communications network serving the P A V N 559th Transportation Group and its directly-related entities. It summarizes activities for the period October through December 1967 and updates information presented in 2/O/VCM/R205-67. A list of unit numbers arbitrarily assigned to 559th Transportation Group communications entities is appended.

II. OCTOBER

During October a continued realignment of the communications structure of the probable 559th Transportation Group was indicated. The Forward Hq, 559th Transportation Group apparently split into two elements. An element of this headquarters was located by SIGINT as early as 18 September in the vicinity of Route 91 (16-27N 106-22E, XD 454207) while other elements continued to operate from the vicinity of Routes 92 and 922 (16-17N 106-43E, XD 8500).^a Additional information indicated that Units 53 and 54, formerly thought to serve the same entity, now serve two independent entities and occupy positions in the communications chain-of-command comparable to the tentative Hq, 71st Regiment and the A Shau Valley Rear Services Headquarters.^b Also the communications authority and responsibility of the tentative Hq, 70th Regiment continued its decline first noted in May. This headquarters which communicated with 15 subordinates in January 1967 has gradually reduced the number of subordinates it communicated with to only three in October.

Also during this month, two previously unlocated subordinates of the A Shau Valley Rear Services Headquarters were located in South Vietnam: one in the vicinity of A Le Ninh (16-17N 107-22E, YD 343002) and the other at A Luoi (16-16N 107-24E, YC 382996). Messages passed by these two subordinates indicate that they are involved in road security, engineering, and first-echelon intelligence collection.^c On 7 October the A Shau Valley Rear Services Headquarters employed procedures indicative of B-52 alerts. Collateral information indicates that two B-52 raids were scheduled on that date in an area 48 km northwest of Hue, which is contiguous to the A Shau Valley.^d

III. NOVEMBER

SIGINT revealed that the relocation of the probable Hq, 559th Transportation Group from the apparent vicinity of Ha Tinh city, Ha Tinh Province, North Vietnam, into Savannakhet Province, Laos, to an area adjacent to Routes 9, 23, 911, and 913 (16-45N 106-45E, XD 153453) was completed by 1 November. This headquarters had been previously located in Laos in the vicinity of 17-07N 106-03E (XD 138940) prior to its May 1967 relocation apparently into Ha Tinh Province, North Vietnam. Available SIGINT indicates that this headquarters had completed its relocation by 1 November.^e Concurrent with the relocation, the Hq, 559th Transportation Group reactivated direct communications with Hq, Military Region (MR) 5, a link that had been silent since 2 July.

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A communications entity located within 20 km of 18-05N 105-45E (WE 7999) and previously identified as the Ha Tinh Rear Services Headquarters was identified as serving the General Directorate of Rear Services (GDRS) Forward. SIGINT since as early as mid-September had indicated the existence of such a headquarters either in the southern portion of North Vietnam or in Laos. Messages related to this headquarters indicate that the GDRS Forward apparently has direct operational as well as administrative control over the 559th Transportation Group, although the precise command relationship cannot be completely determined. It is apparent that the GDRS Forward is at least the communication senior of the Hq, 559th Transportation Group and its subordinates. In addition to direct communications with Hq, 559th Transportation Group and the major subordinates of the 559th Transportation Group, the GDRS Forward communicates with other GDRS elements in North Vietnam; Hq, MR 4 (NVN); as well as with Hq, MR Tri-Thien-Hue (TTH); the DMZ Front; and GDRS, PAVN High Command.¹

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Additionally, during November the A Shau Valley Rear Services complex was observed in gradually increasing message activity. Conversely, the tentative Hq, 70th Regiment continued in an abnormal communications posture, communicating with only four of the original 15 subordinates.

"Station 70" apparently undertook an additional function as a rear services headquarters in support of logistics for the DMZ Front. This is the first SIGINT association between elements of the PAVN 559th Transportation Group and the DMZ Front.² Collateral identifies "Station 70" as the final preparation point for North Vietnamese units entering South Vietnam. Also,

IV. DECEMBER

During December three major control entities (the tentative Hq, 70th Regiment; the tentative Hq, 71st Regiment; and the probable Hq, Binh Tram 5) were involved in significant relocations. The Hq, 70th Regiment moved approximately 25 km to a location it occupied prior to 14 May in the vicinity of 16-34N 106-15E (XD 320321); also the first significant relocation of the Hq, 71st Regiment occurred by 12 December when it was located near Route 96 at 15-47N 106-51E (XC 986450) in Saravane Province, Laos, about 12 km from its previous position; and the probable Hq, Binh Tram 5 moved approximately 20 km northward to the vicinity of 14-52N 107-15E (YB 4242) along Route 96. The move of Binh Tram 5 was especially significant since this was the second relocation by this headquarters within two months.¹

Further indications of a communications restructuring was evidenced in December. The Forward Headquarters, 559th Transportation Group was observed reestablishing communications with the GDRS; Hq, 559th Transportation Group; tentative Hq, 71st Regiment; probable Hq, Binh Tram 5; the A Shau Valley Rear Services; and Hq, MR TTH. The forward headquarters was also observed acquiring at least three new temporary subscribers. The entity may have resumed its headquarters function or it may have assumed a new function/echelon; however, its present role remains undetermined.^k

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During December a number of new unidentified subscribers--whose communications procedures are presently unique to the PAVN 304th Division--appeared on the watch facilities serving both GDRS and Hq, 559th Transportation Group.^l Additionally, the A Shau Valley Rear Services complex--which is suspected of supporting the infiltration of men and material into MRs 5 and TTH--was observed in gradually increasing message activity and other unusual communications activity including the reactivation of a former subordinate. Concurrent with these activities was the movement of the PAVN 31st Regiment through the A Shau Valley and the subsequent deployment of the 304th and 320th Divisions from NVN into the Lao Panhandle.^m During the same time frame, the communications complex serving rear services entities located in Quang Binh and Thanh Hoa Provinces of North Vietnam continued to reflect the shipment of large volumes of ordnance items to entities in the DMZ area as well as the 559th Transportation Group.

Reference to a forthcoming communications change was made in late December by an unidentified subscriber to the PAVN 559th Transportation Group watch net.ⁿ To date, however, there has been no indication that a new communications plan has been employed, and no dates for implementation have been observed in the communications activity of the 559th Transportation Group. This same activity was indicated on the PAVN Operational Complex that serves PAVN tactical entities in Laos. These indications of communications changes may be related since some subordinate terminals of the 559th Transportation Group are suspected of being associated with these same PAVN tactical entities. There have been no other indications of a communications change on the PAVN Operational Complex to date.

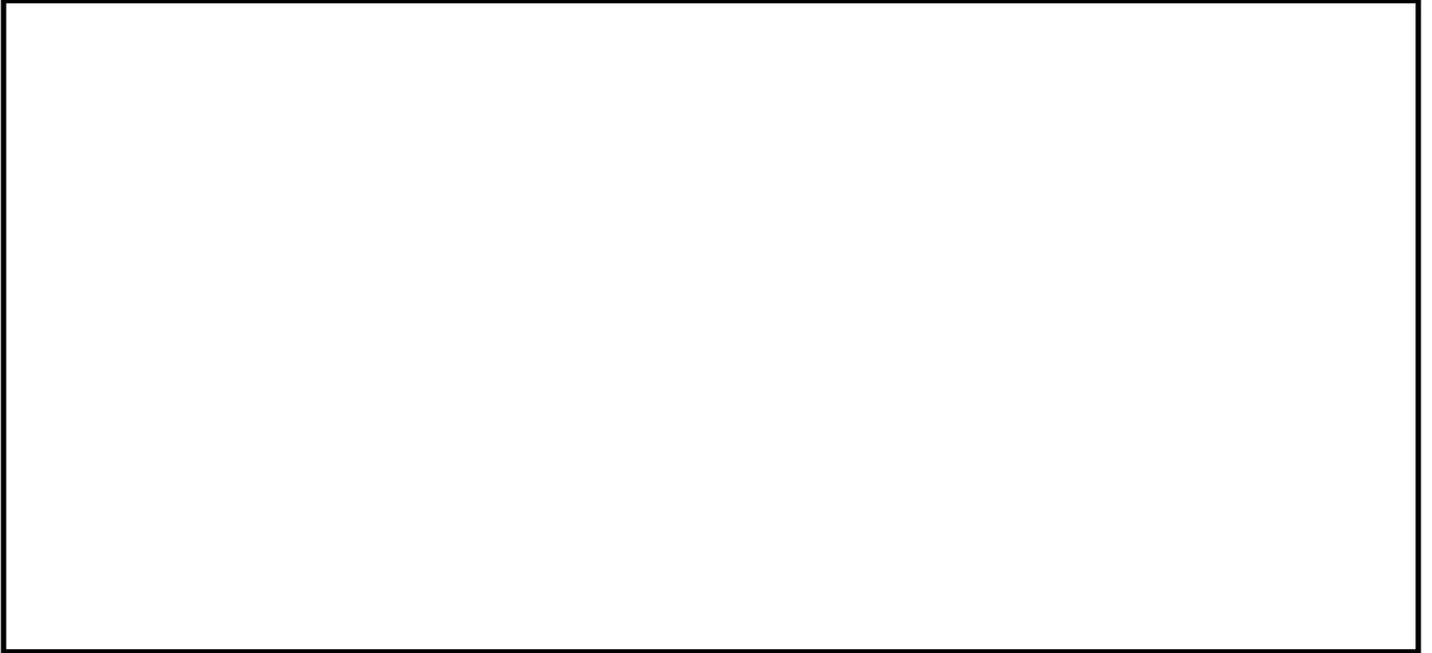
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- a. 3/O/STY/R233-67
 - b. 2/O/VCM/RL93-67
 - c. 3/O/STY/R233-67
 - d. 3/O/STY/R241-67
 - e. 3/O/STY/R264-67
 - f. 3/O/STY/R274-67
 - g. 3/O/STY/R285-67
 - h. 3/O/STY/R284-67
 - i. 3/O/STY/R296-67; R297-67; R303-67
 - j. 3/O/STY/R296-67; R301-67
 - k. 3/O/STY/R290-67
 - l. 2/O/VCM/R264-67; R265-67; R266-67
 - m. 2/O/VCM/R06-68
 - n. 3/O/STY/R309-67

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APPENDIX

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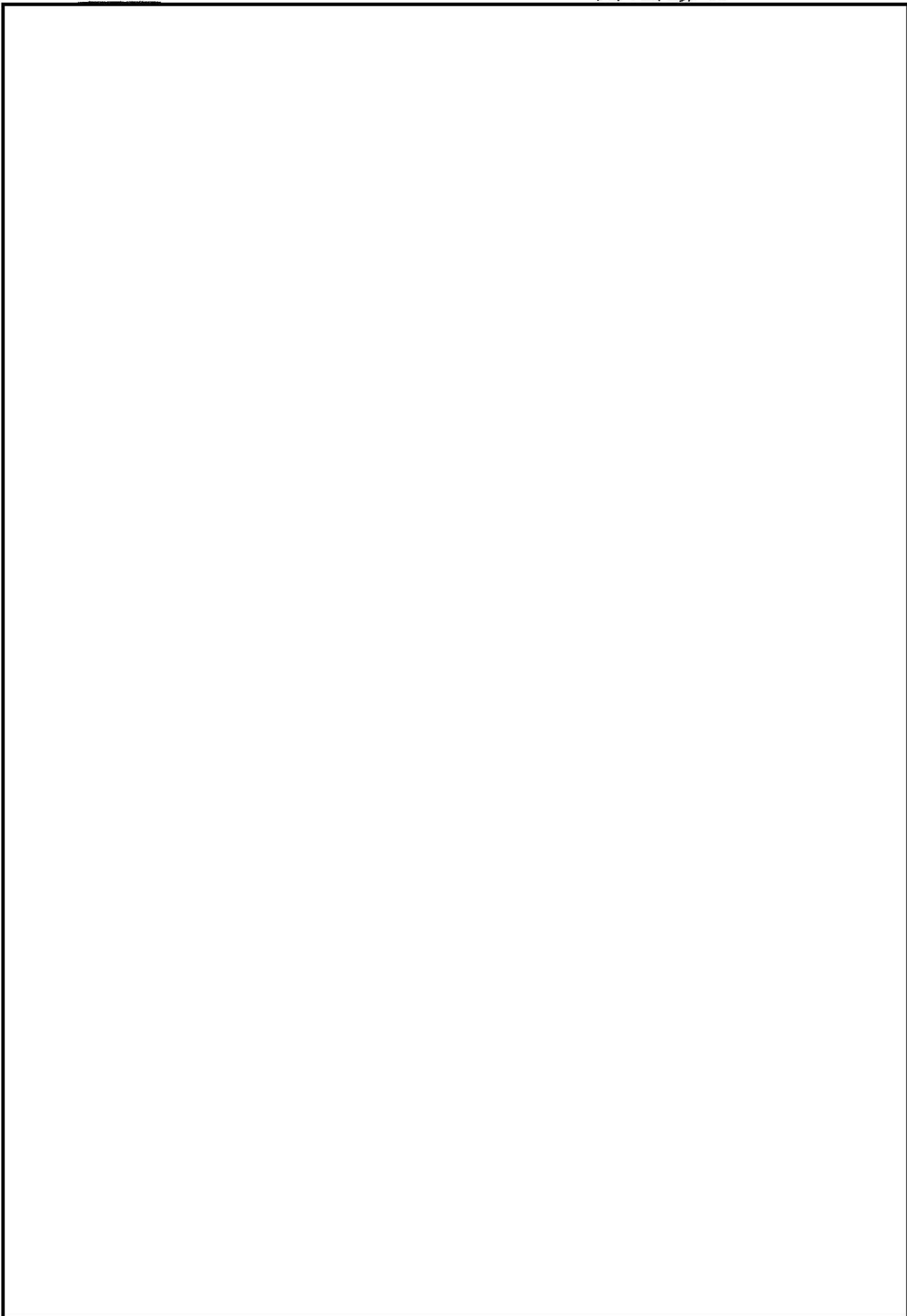
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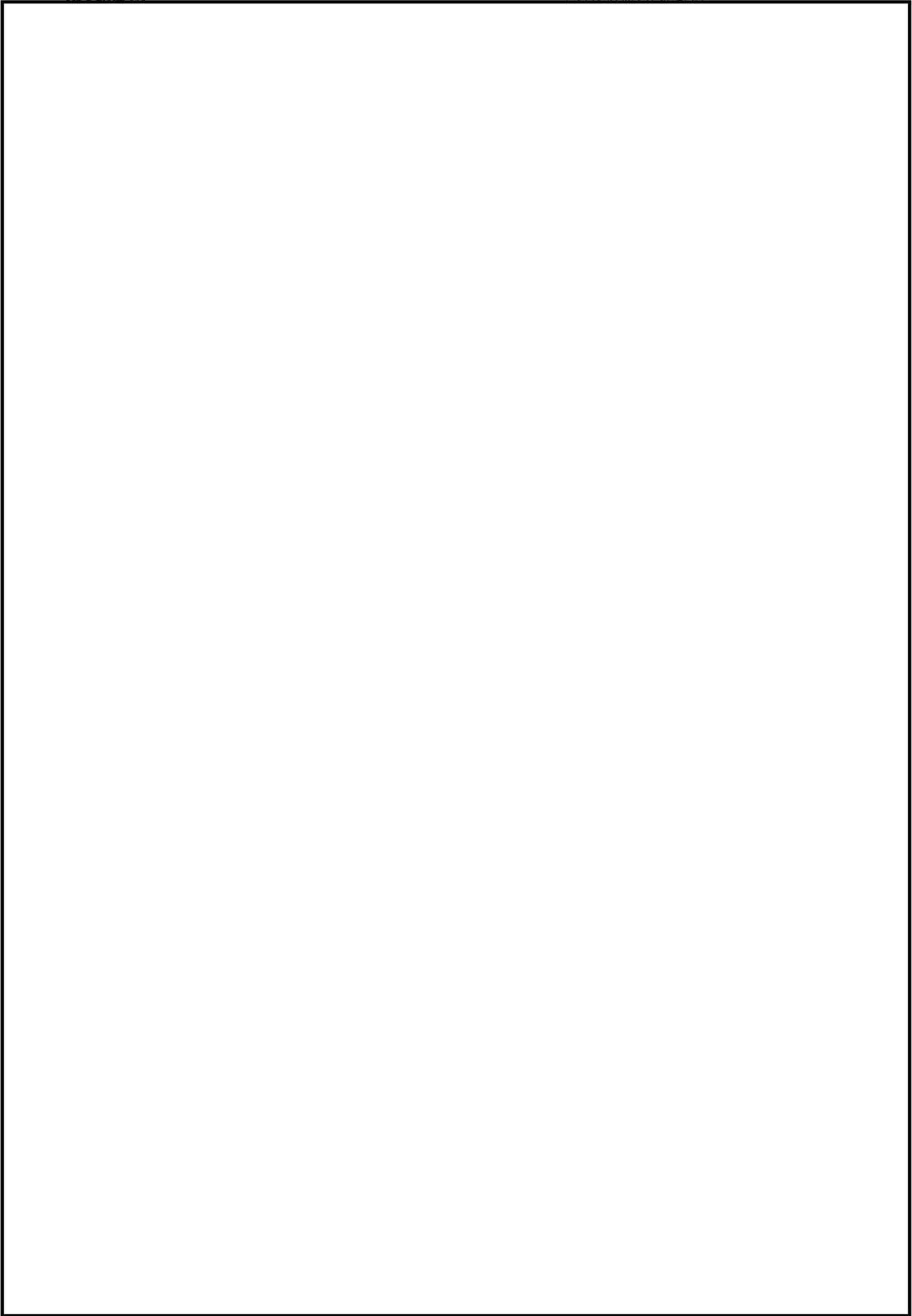


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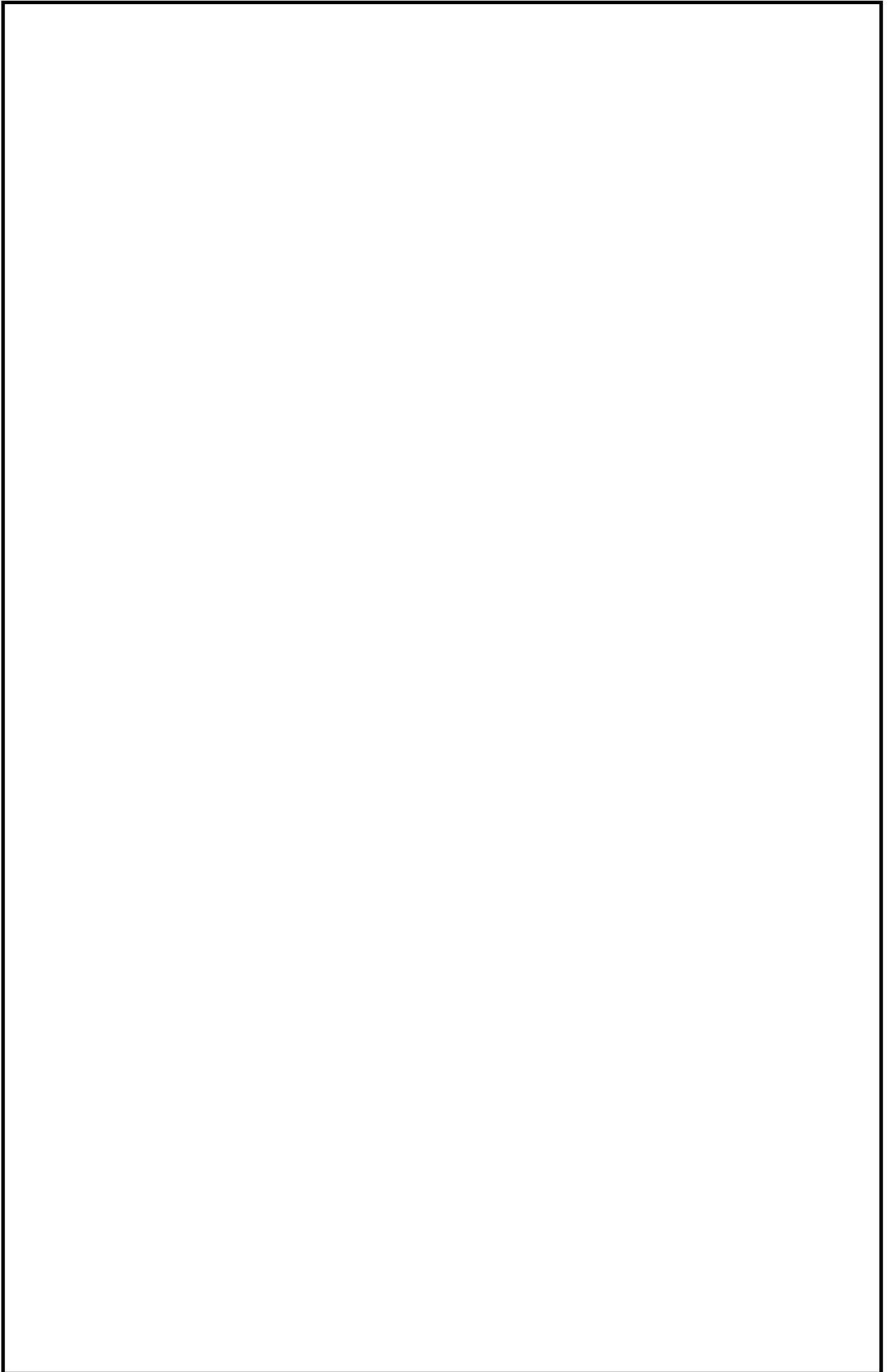
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