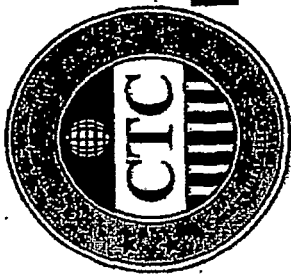


[Redacted]

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DCI Counterterrorist Center



(b)(1)
(b)(3)
EO 12958 1.4(b)<25Yrs
EO 12958 1.4(c)<25Yrs
EO 12958 1.4(d)<25Yrs
EO 12958 1.4(e)<25Yrs
EO 12958 3.5(c)

- Read and Return -

Attack on the USS Cole: Preliminary Findings 10 November 2000

- Read and Return -

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APPROVED FOR
RELEASE DATE:
25-April-2012

[Redacted]

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~~TOP SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

Key Assessment

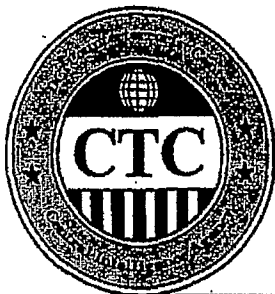
- ➔ Attack on the USS Cole was carried out by a cell comprised of residents of Yemen, some with family ties to Saudi Arabia and to the transnational (mujahidin) network.

- ➔ Cell likely had support from Bin Ladin's al-Qa'ida organization.
 - Assessment based on the identities of key suspects in the plot.
 - Intelligence links the key suspects and the operation to al-Qa'ida.

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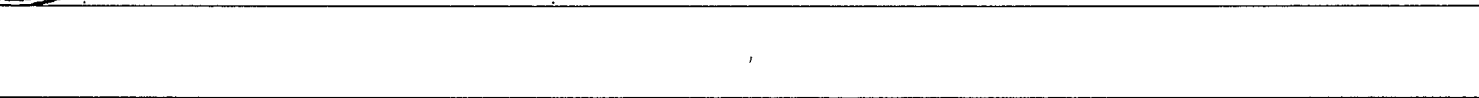
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Investigation Results



identified [redacted] players in the operation.

[redacted] one is in custody. [redacted]

[redacted] working to locate the other three.

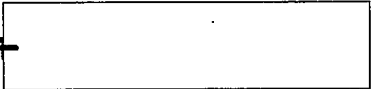
- ➔ Operatives first attempted to attack US vessel in Aden on 3 January 2000. Attack failed when explosives-laden boat sank.

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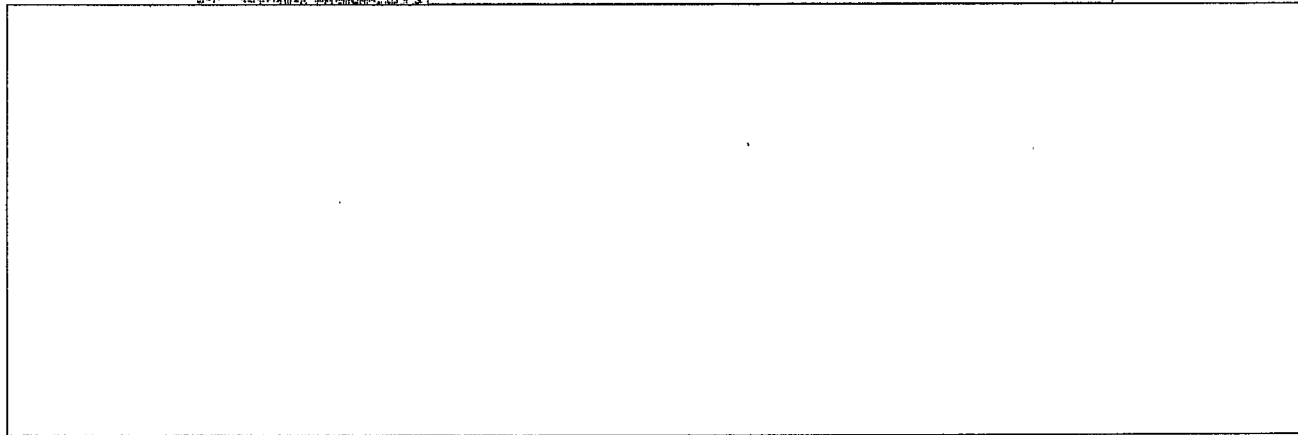


Suspects' Links to UBL/Mujahidin

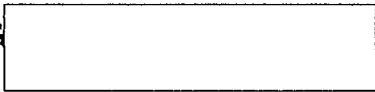


➔ Intelligence reporting indicates that each  suspects has ties to the transnational mujahidin network and/or al-Qa'ida

- Hassan al-Khamri 
- Jamal al-Badawi 

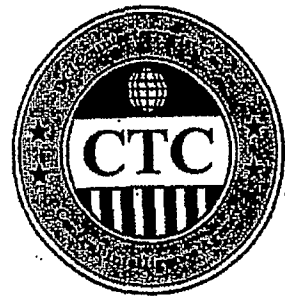


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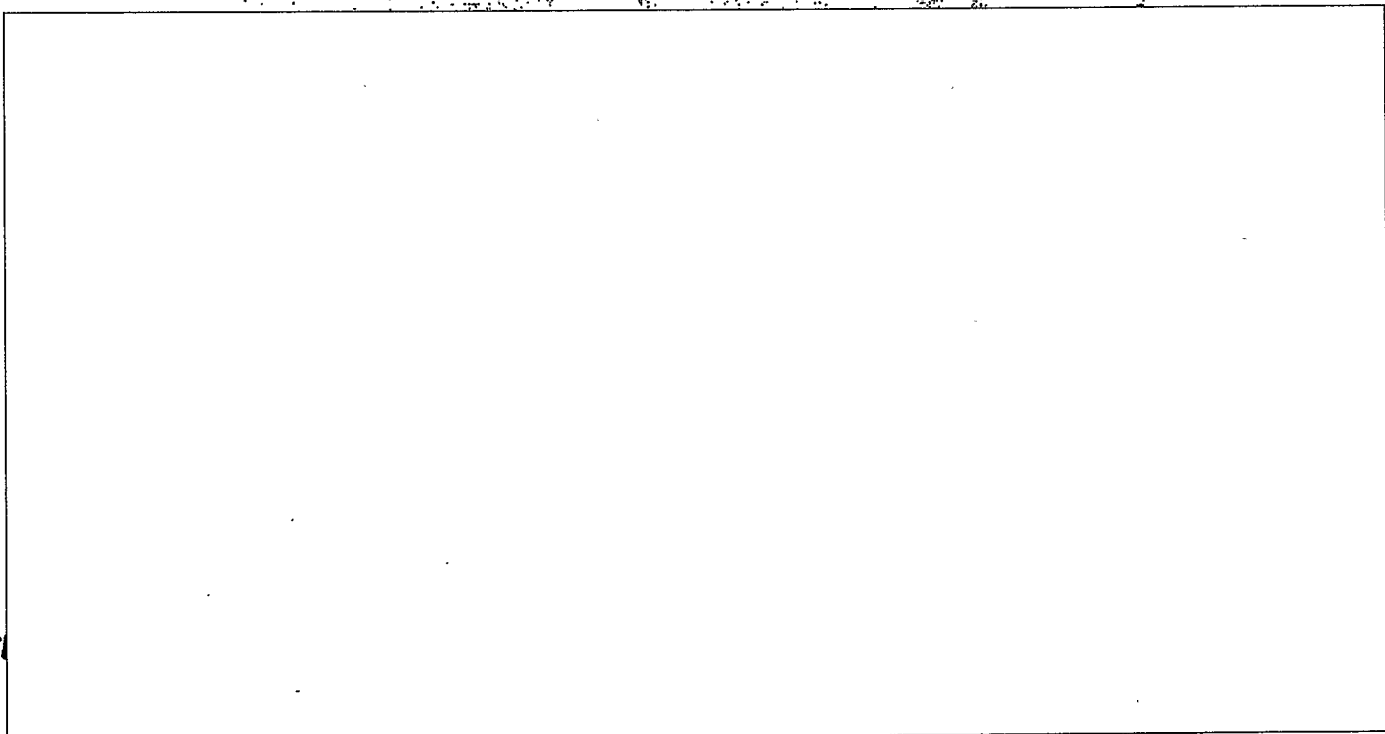
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Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri



- ➔ Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri figured prominently in Africa Embassy bombing investigation and the 1998 plot to smuggle "Sagger" missiles into Saudi Arabia.



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Other Intelligence Pointing to a UBL Role



[redacted] [redacted]

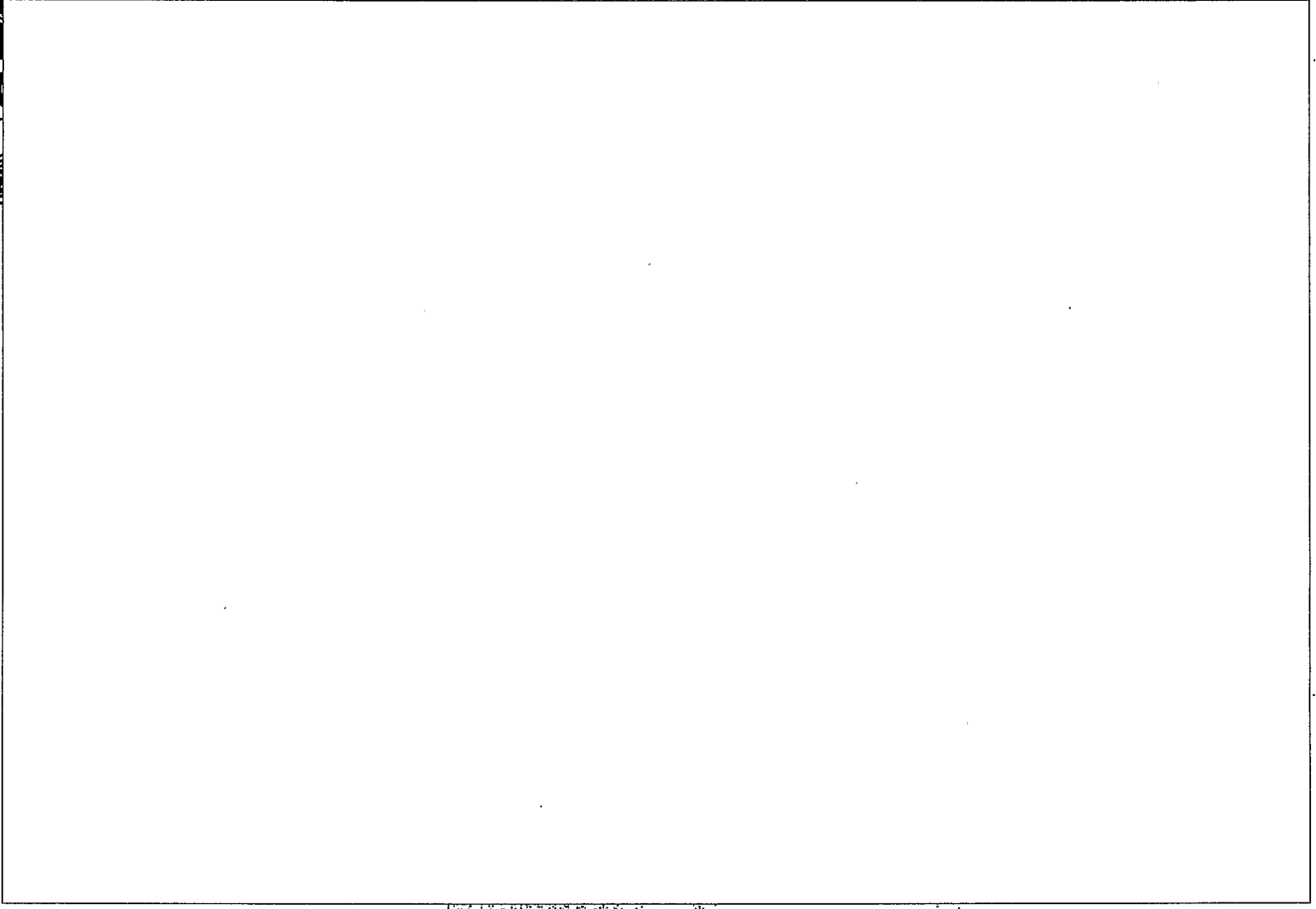
plans for an operation
against US Navy by a Bin Ladin-affiliated group.

[redacted]

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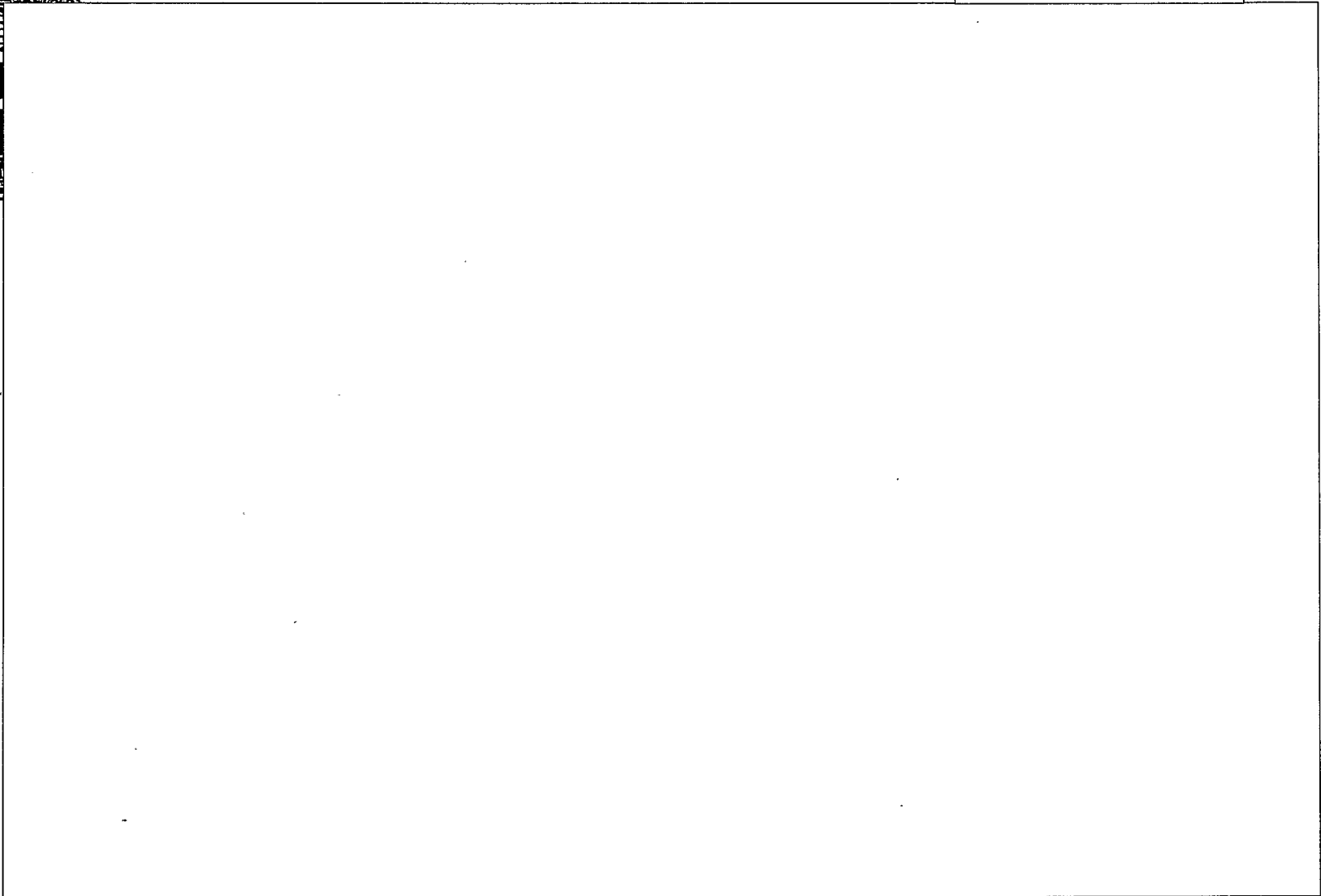
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Gaps in the Bin Ladin Case



➔ Caveats:

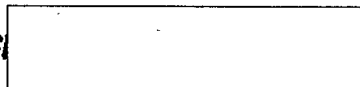


some names

of suspects.

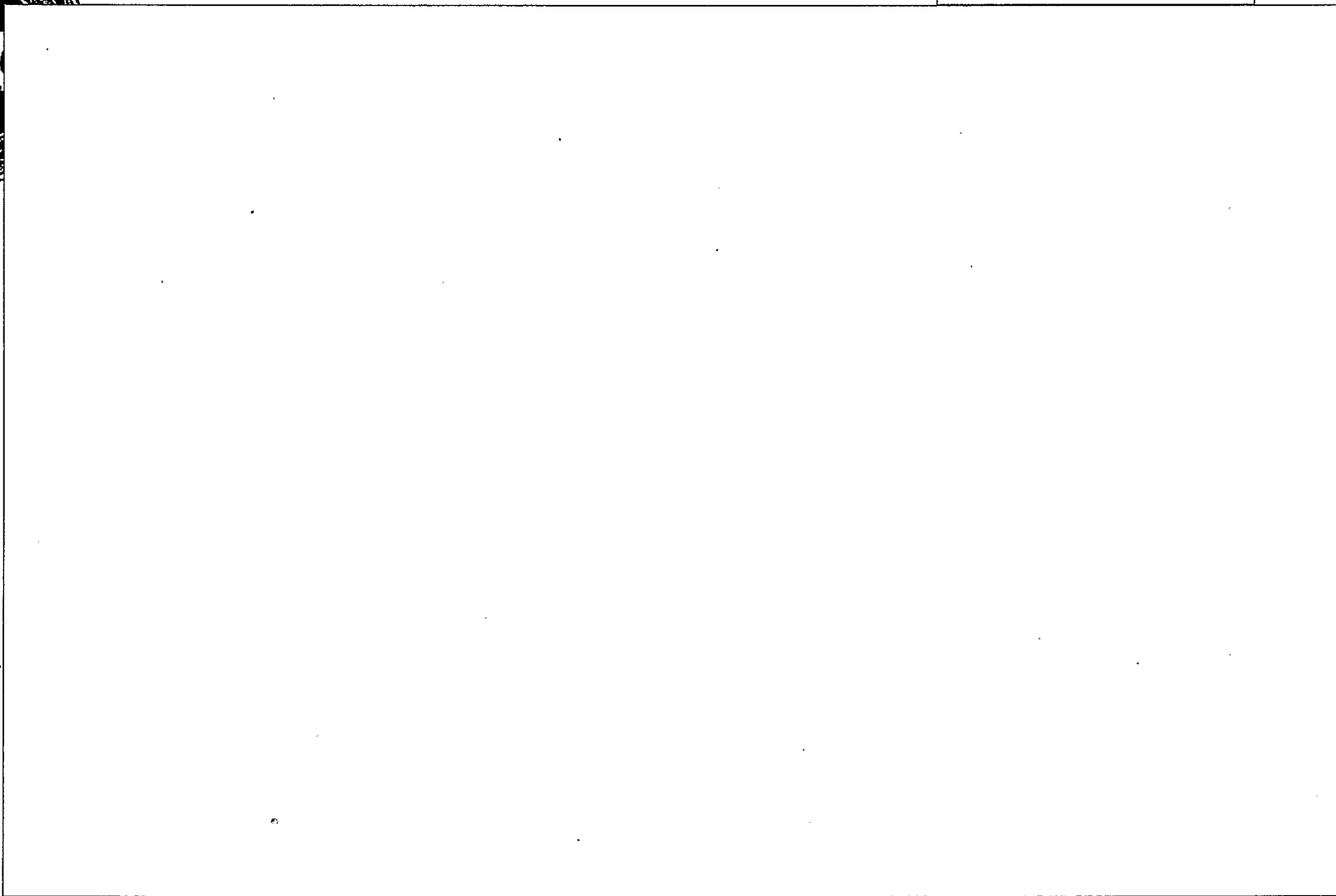
- Intelligence reporting on the command and control aspects of the operation is not conclusive

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