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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY



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Expanding Links Between Alien Smugglers and Extremists: Threats to the United States

 [redacted]

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~~SECRET~~ [REDACTED]**Expanding Links Between Alien Smugglers
and Extremists: Threats to the United States**

[REDACTED]

Key Findings (U)

Travelers associated with various terrorist groups—including Hizballah, HAMAS, and the Egyptian Islamic Jihad—are tapping into global alien smuggling networks to abet their movements around the world, including to the United States [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The extremist groups typically rely on the alien smuggling industry for:

- **Documents.** They solicit help from document vendors who cater to illegal migrants to receive genuine—though fraudulently obtained—passports, visas, and other identification documents from corrupt officials [REDACTED]
- **Logistics.** They pay smugglers to make travel, lodging, and other logistical arrangements, and to pay off corrupt officials who ensure that organization members can slip through various travel and security checkpoints. [REDACTED]

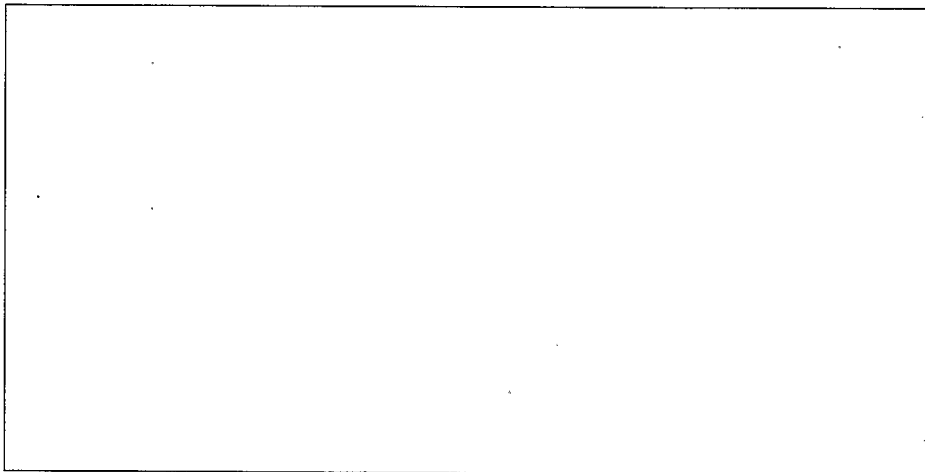
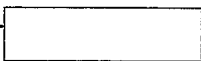
[REDACTED]

Against a backdrop of strong continued demand for global illegal migration—including to the United States—and an inability of many countries to fortify their immigration regimes, opportunities for extremists to sustain or expand linkages to alien smuggling networks and to slip into the flows probably also will grow.

- Most countries outside the developed world—especially in or near fraudulent document centers that abet terrorist movements—remain ill equipped to effectively monitor their borders largely because of underfunded and poorly trained immigration regimes.

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Expanding Links Between Alien Smugglers and Extremists: Threats to the United States

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Terrorists Tap Into Alien Smuggling Networks

[redacted]

Though the vast majority of US-bound alien smuggling activity abroad is geared to serve migrants looking for a better life, occasionally such networks abet the movement of extremists, including those looking to enter the United States illegally.

[redacted] terrorists and suspected associates are tapping into fast-growing, alien smuggling networks around the world. [redacted]

- Alien smugglers have abetted the travel of members or affiliates of more than a dozen extremist groups—including Hizballah, HAMAS, and Egyptian Islamic Jihad (EIJ)

[redacted]

[redacted]

Key Areas of Support: Documents and Transportation (U)

Alien smugglers help extremists—wittingly or unwittingly—by providing false documentation and facilitating transportation, particularly through Latin America but also in Asia, the Middle East, and Europe.

[redacted] to procure key documents and use routes where corrupt officials can guarantee safe passage. [redacted]

Such links between alien smuggling and the movement of extremists underscores the dimensions of the national security threat associated with the extensive alien smuggling infrastructure that supports US-bound illegal migrants

[redacted]

[redacted]

This assessment was prepared by the Office of Transnational Issues. Comments and queries are welcome and may be directed to [redacted]

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document vendors provide genuine—though fraudulently obtained—passports, visas, and other identification documents obtained from corrupt officials

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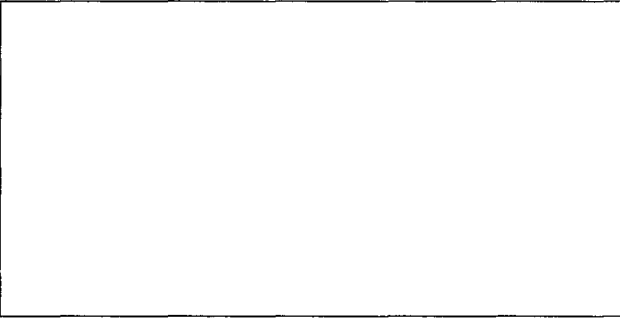
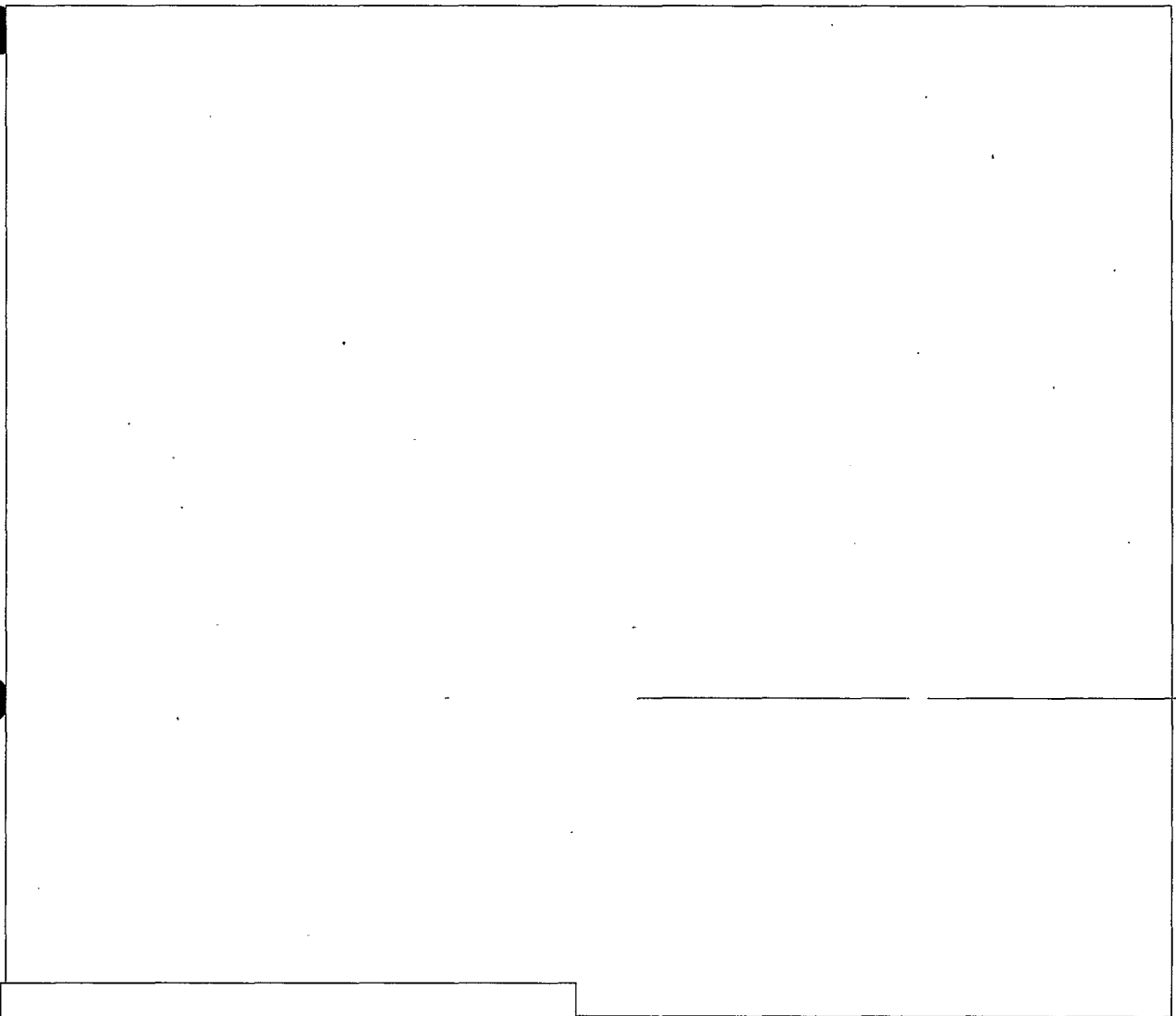
Smugglers make travel, lodging, and other logistical arrangements, and pay off corrupt officials who ensure passage through various checkpoints.

[redacted]

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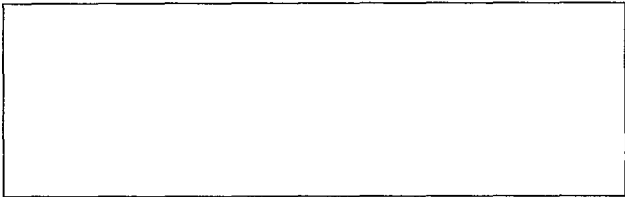


Continued Threats to Security [redacted]

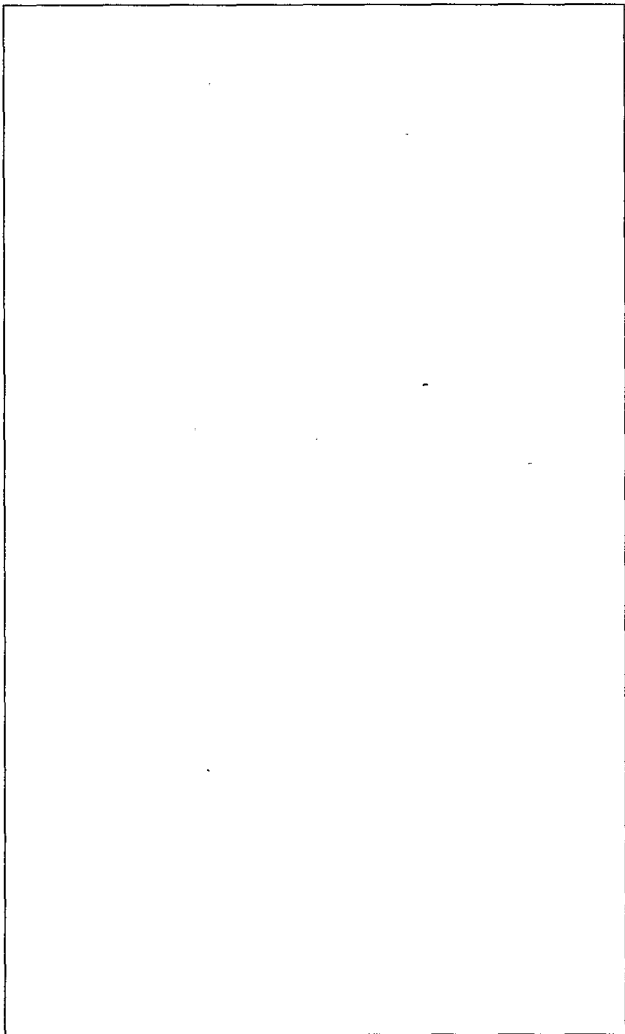
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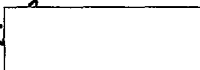
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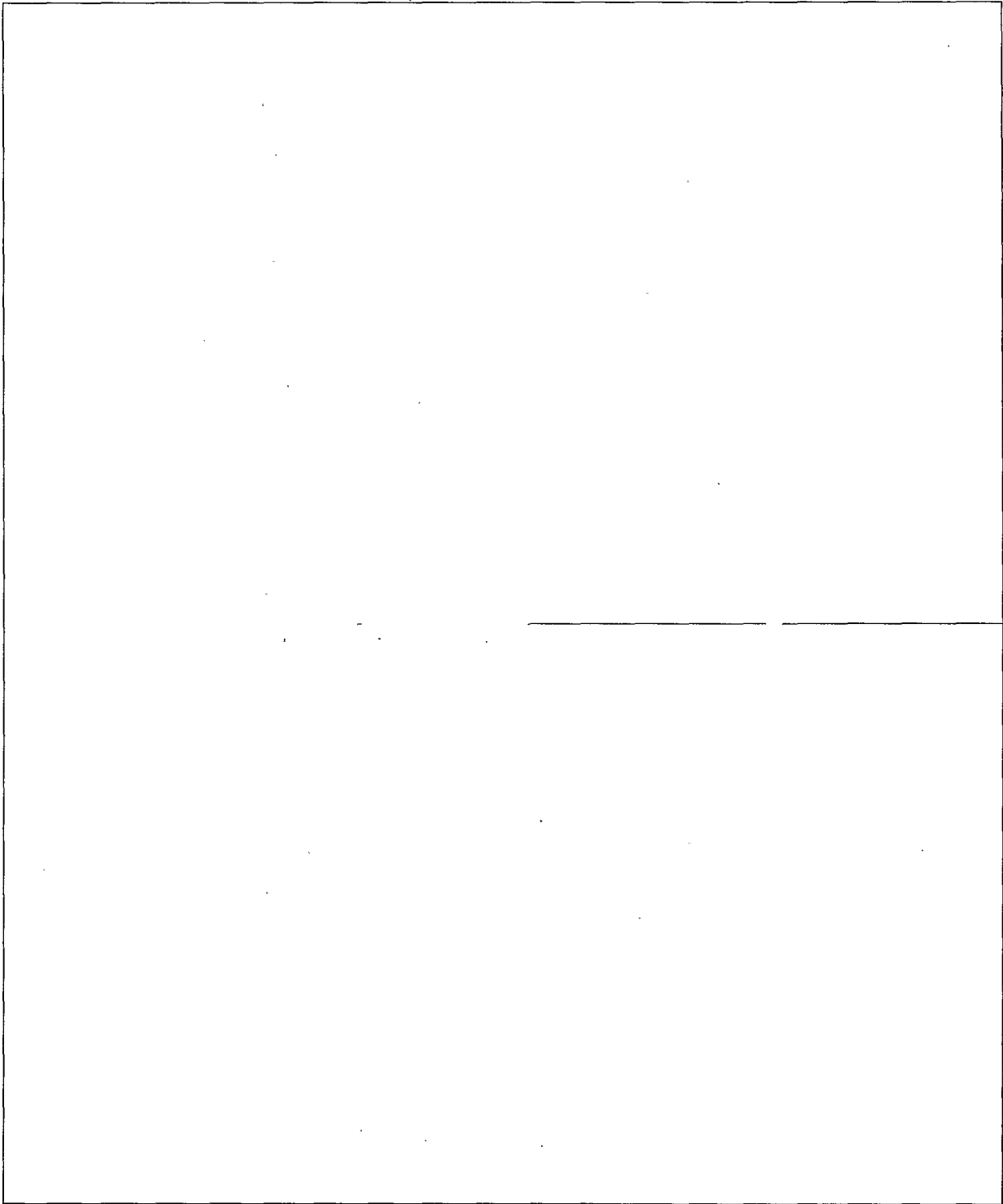
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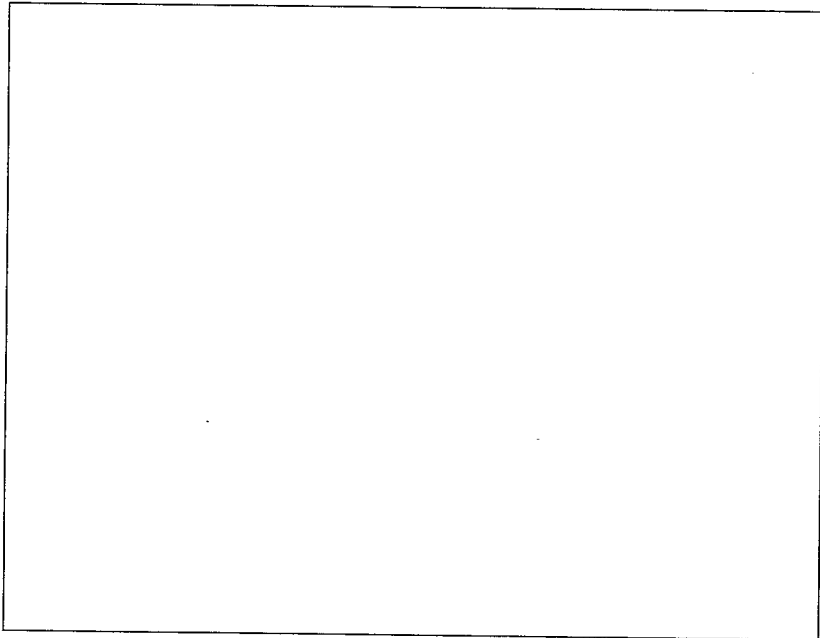
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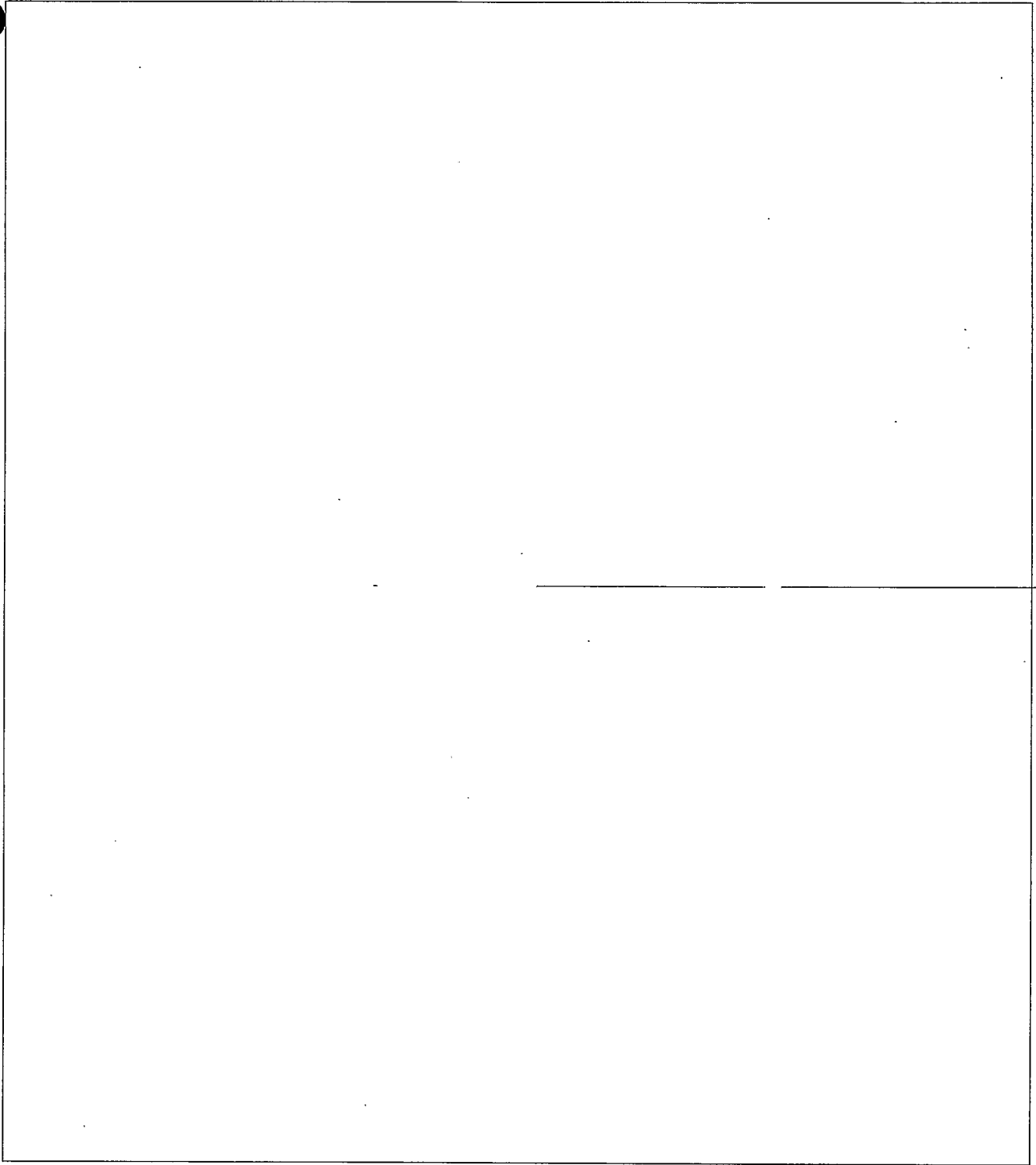


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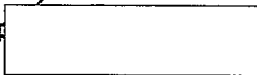
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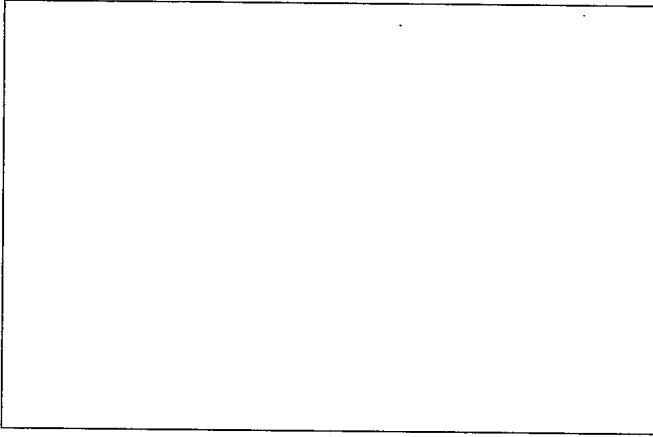
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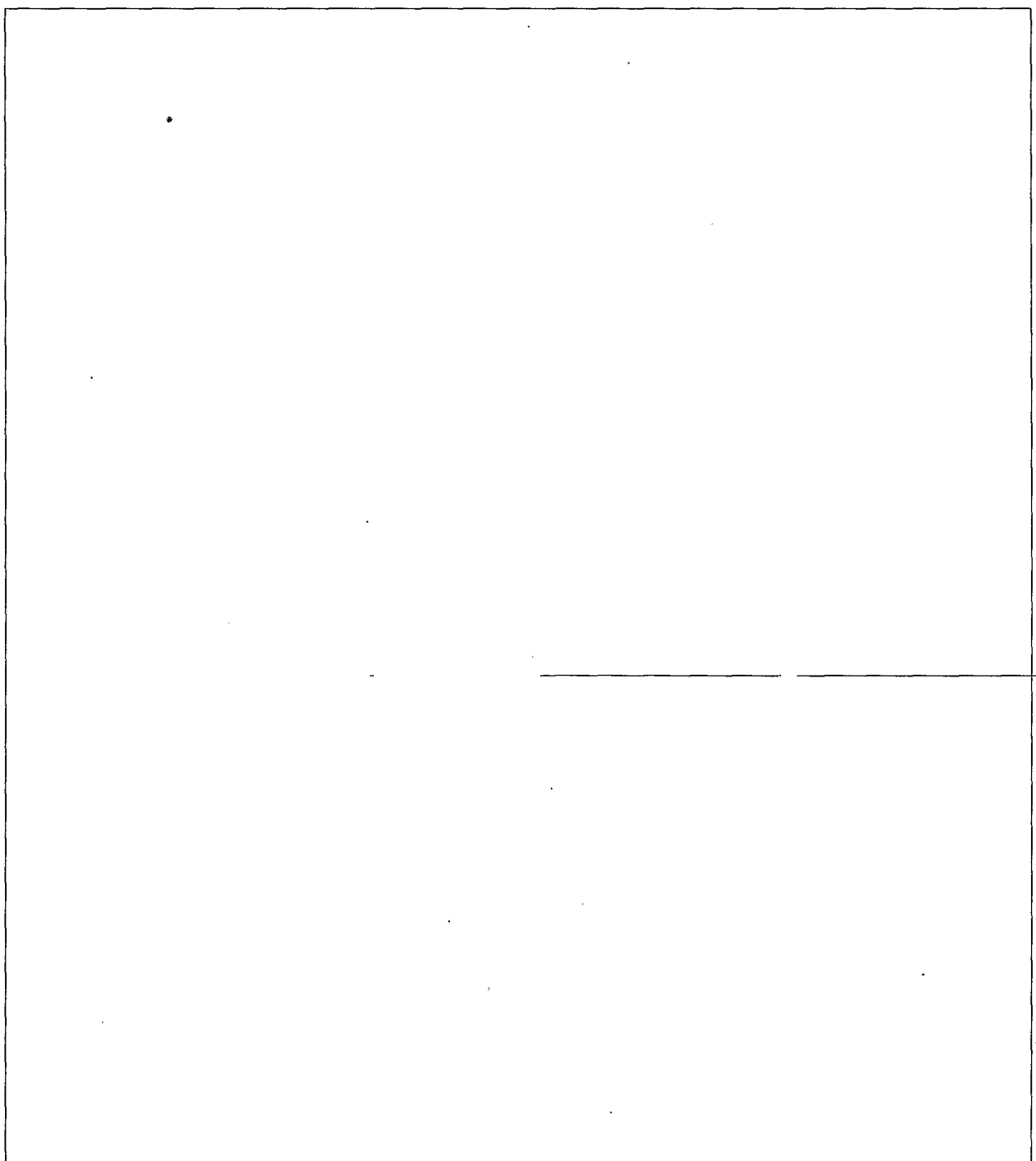


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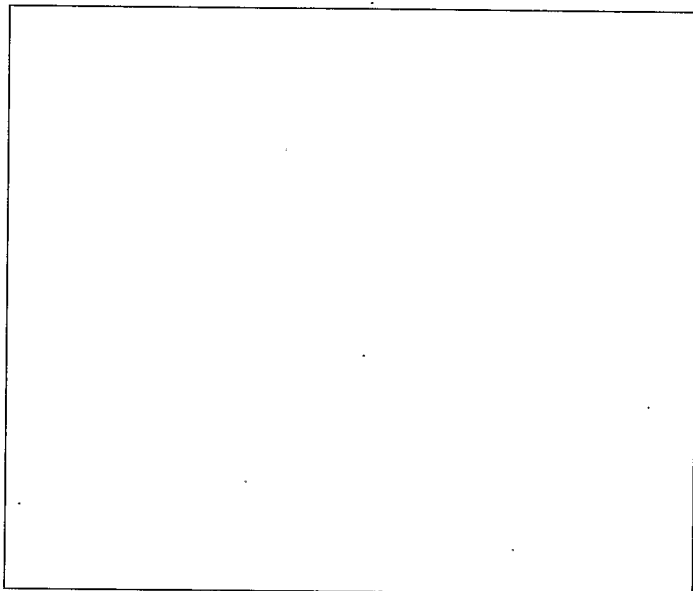
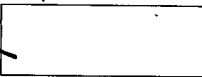
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