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USCIB: 9.3/44

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5 August 1955

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS OF USCIBEC:

Subject: USCIB COMINT Requirements List.

References: (a) USCIB 9.3/41 dated 8 April 1955.
(b) USCIB 9.3/39 dated 1 April 1955.

1. Pursuant to USCIB decision contained in reference (a), USCIBEC continued its efforts along the lines set forth in paragraph 4 of reference (b).

2. It was agreed to proceed forthwith by having each member who so desired submit a COMINT Requirements List with a view to effecting a marriage that would produce a single List that could be fitted within the framework of the National Intelligence objectives presented in DCID 4/4 of 14 December 1954.

3. The COMINT Requirements Lists referred to in paragraph 2 above were forwarded to an Ad Hoc Committee chaired by the Department of Defense member, consisting of representatives from the Departments of Army, Navy, Air Force, the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency.

4. The enclosure constitutes the agreed upon consolidation of the various Lists and is forwarded for USCIBEC consideration at a special meeting to be held at 1000, Thursday, 11 August 1955, in Room 2E-687, Pentagon.


H. D. JONES

Acting Executive Secretary, USCIB

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Declassified and approved for release by NSA on 03-27-2014 pursuant to E.O. 13526

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28 July 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Guidance for COMINT Activities

REFERENCE: NSCID-9, Revised, dated 29 December 1952

In accordance with the reference, USCIB has reconsidered the needs of its member departments and agencies for information which may be derived from COMINT activities and has prepared a revised consolidated statement of the objectives to which these activities should be directed. The statement is contained in TAB A entitled "USCIB COMINT Objectives List." It is designed to serve as long-term guidance for the allocation of United States COMINT resources to meet the needs of the departments and agencies authorized to receive COMINT.

TAB A contains the continuing COMINT objectives which should constitute the mission of NSA and the currently definable COMINT requirements pertaining to each Objective.

TAB B attached is an expanded version of TAB A in which the COMINT sources considered relevant to the COMINT Objectives and Requirements are listed. The COMINT sources are those whose communications, by their content or the information derivable from their study, are considered most likely to produce the information needed to fulfill a particular requirement.

The COMINT Objectives and Requirements are presented in order of their importance based upon (1) the priority national objectives set forth in DCID 4/4, (2) the unique character of COMINT as a source of information and (3) the value of this information in relation to intelligence from other sources. USCIB has not attempted, however, to cover basic requirements for technical development and continuity. It recognizes that NSA must provide for continuing knowledge of communications and communications security practices of nations and national services not included in the COMINT Objectives List. In addition, USCIB considers it imperative that the Director, NSA, in the allocation of COMINT resources, continue to provide for the close support of field and theater military commanders to be effective instantly in time of need.

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TAB B has been prepared with the intention that the Director, NSA use it as a guide in preparing, and presenting to USCIB at an early date, a proposed implementing plan which will take into account the technical factors involved, his requirements for technical development and continuity, and his obligation to provide close COMINT support to field commanders. It is anticipated by USCIB that approval of an implementing plan may have the effect of superseding TAB B.

In recognition of the need for flexibility in the guidance mechanism, USCIB considers that individual member departments and agencies should be authorized to provide supplemental guidance to NSA in accordance with the principles and procedures outlined in TAB C.

The Director, NSA is requested to report to USCIB at least annually concerning his responsiveness to the requirements imposed, the basic allocation of available and programmed COMINT resources, the estimated extent to which they can be applied to accomplish the COMINT objectives, and the additional resources, if any, estimated to be necessary in order to carry out his mission.

USCIB recommends that you approve this memorandum and its attachments as basic guidance for the conduct of the U. S. COMINT effort and forward them to the Director, National Security Agency, for his implementation.

They will be revised by USCIB as necessary.

ALLEN W. DULLES
Chairman, USCIB

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TAB A

COMINT OBJECTIVES LISTPREFACE

The Objectives and Requirements in the COMINT Objectives List are in priority order so that each entry in each column is considered more important than those which follow it.

Insofar as possible and reasonable, COMINT production resources should be directed to the accomplishment of the tasks in the order listed. It should be noted that all of the Objectives and Requirements are important to U.S. planning, decision and action and require the allocation of some resources.

The COMINT Objectives have been designed to remain valid over a long period of time, and to require little, if any, alteration.

The COMINT Requirements are the major categories of information known to be needed at present for satisfaction of pertinent objectives. It is anticipated that occasional changes to the Requirements may be necessary.

The priority placement of an objective or requirement does not determine the need for timeliness. Some items of COMINT information require immediate reporting because their importance to National Security or their value to current diplomatic, governmental, and military operations, depends upon their timely receipt. In those predictable instances where rapid handling of information is required, the COMINT producer will be advised through the supplemental guidance mechanism. The members of USCIB appreciate, however, that they will be dependent in many instances on the judgment of the COMINT producer for the selection of information that requires expeditious handling.

The absolute highest delivery precedence is to be given to information concerning Soviet Bloc actions indicative of imminence of war, once it is found as a result of application of the priorities specified by this list. Such information is to be delivered immediately and directly to all USCIB consumers and to all other recipients to whom NSA is authorized to make delivery.

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Perishable information vital to current U.S. diplomatic, governmental or military operations should also be reported with maximum feasible speed to the consumers primarily concerned, once such information is recognized in any of the COMINT material being processed.

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Note: The term Soviet Bloc as used in the listing is intended to mean USSR, the Eastern European Satellites, Communist China, North Korea and North Vietnam.

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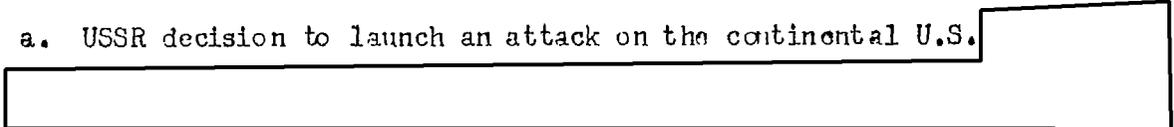
USCIB COMINT OBJECTIVES LIST

COMINT OBJECTIVE

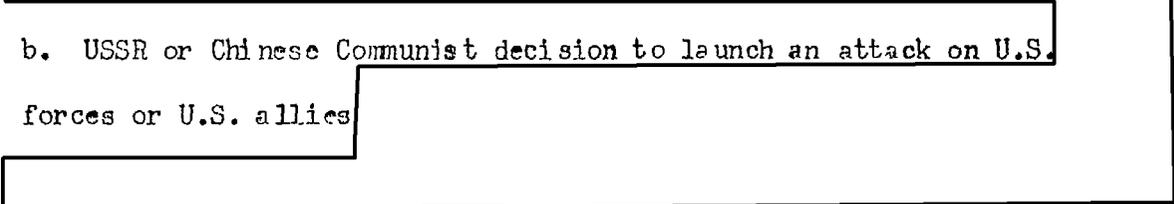
1. To provide COMINT information on Soviet Bloc politico-military strategic plans and intentions, particularly to initiate hostilities.

COMINT Requirements

a. USSR decision to launch an attack on the continental U.S.



b. USSR or Chinese Communist decision to launch an attack on U.S. forces or U.S. allies



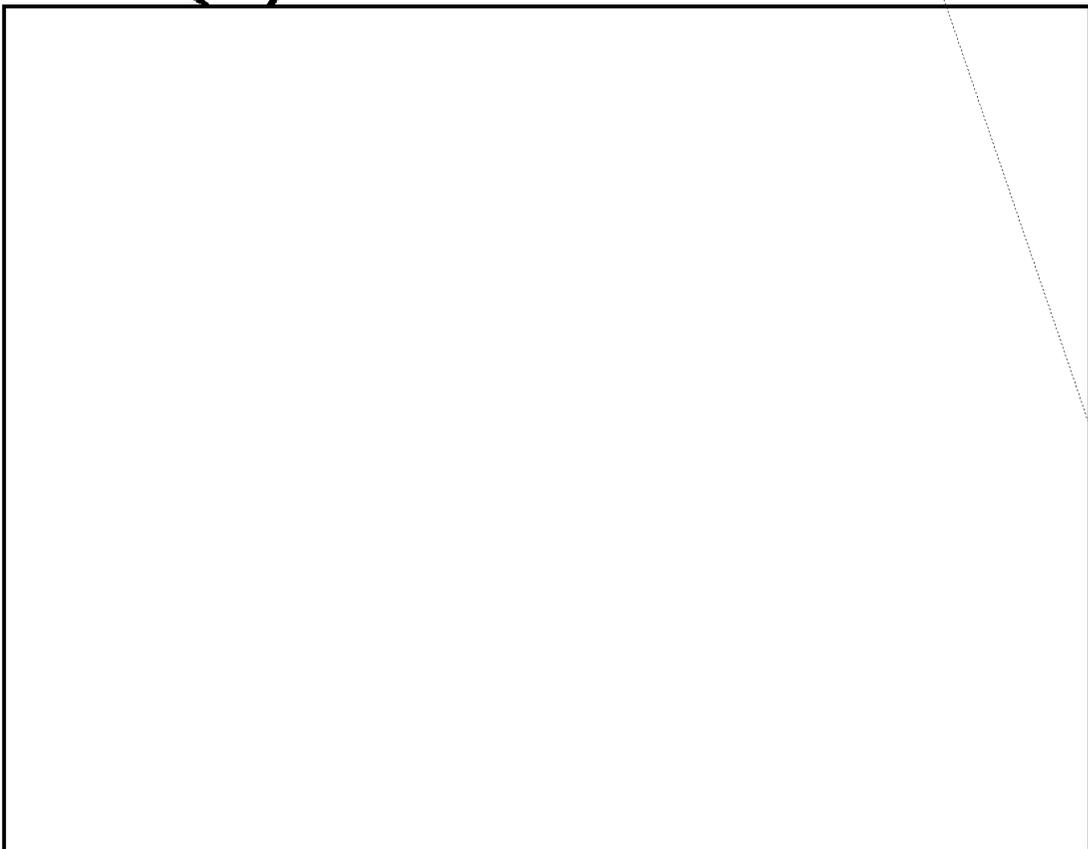
c. Instructions to or by the other Soviet Bloc countries to initiate hostilities against the U.S. or its allies.

COMINT OBJECTIVE

2. To provide COMINT information on Soviet Bloc striking forces (i.e., those forces disposed for and capable of launching an attack on the U.S., its forces or its allies) particularly with regard to the initiation of hostilities.

EO 3.3(h)(2)
PL 86-36/50 USC 3605

COMINT Requirements

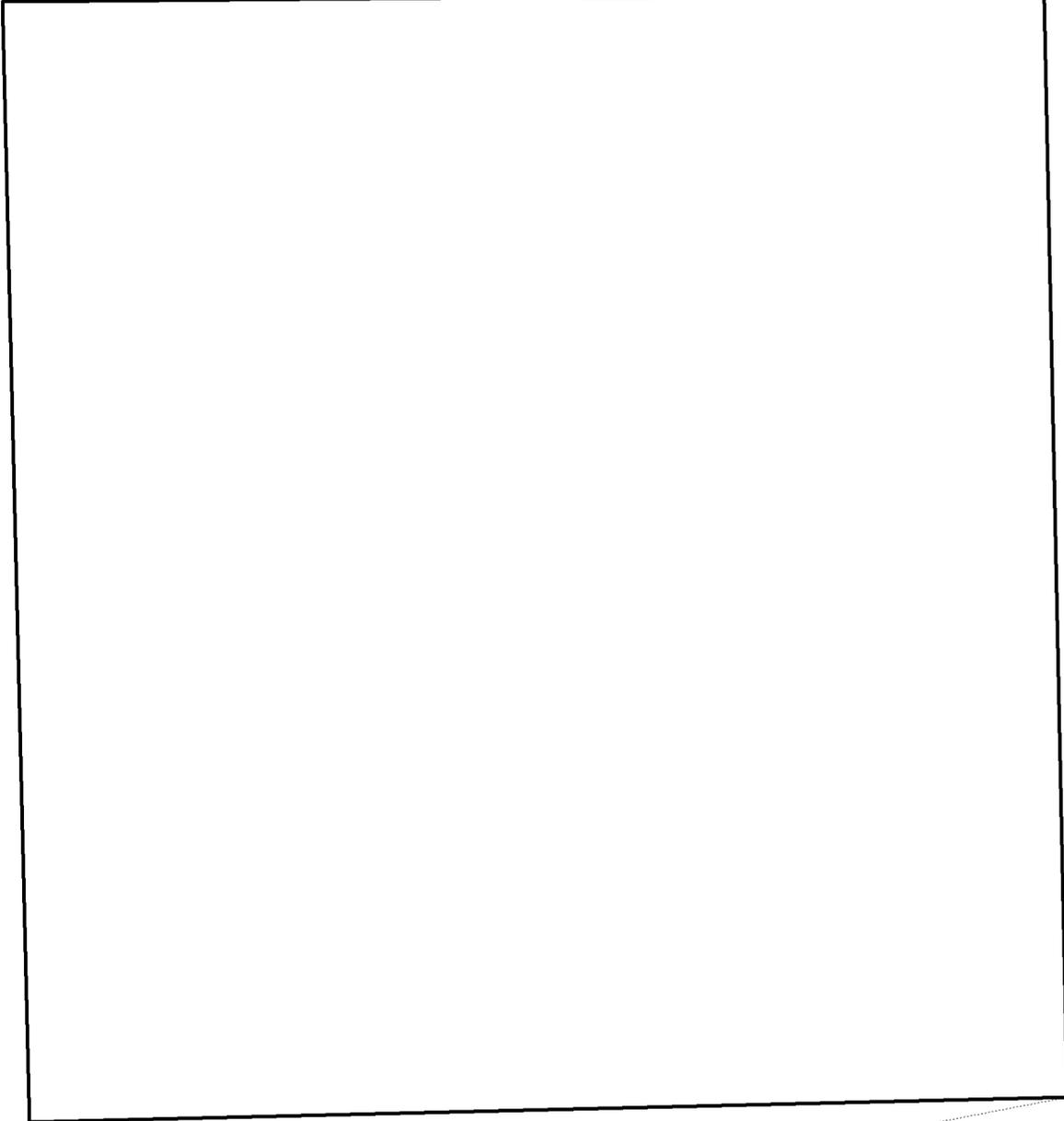


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COMINT OBJECTIVE

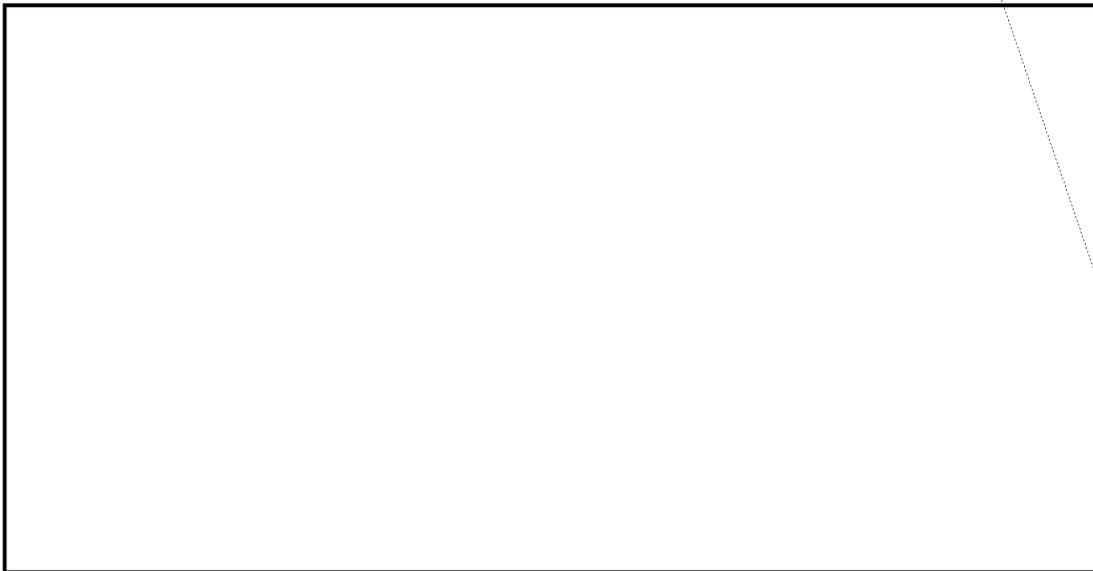
3. To provide COMINT information on Soviet Bloc



COMINT OBJECTIVE

EO 3.3(h)(2)
PL 86-36/50 USC 3605

4. To provide COMINT information on those Soviet Bloc forces



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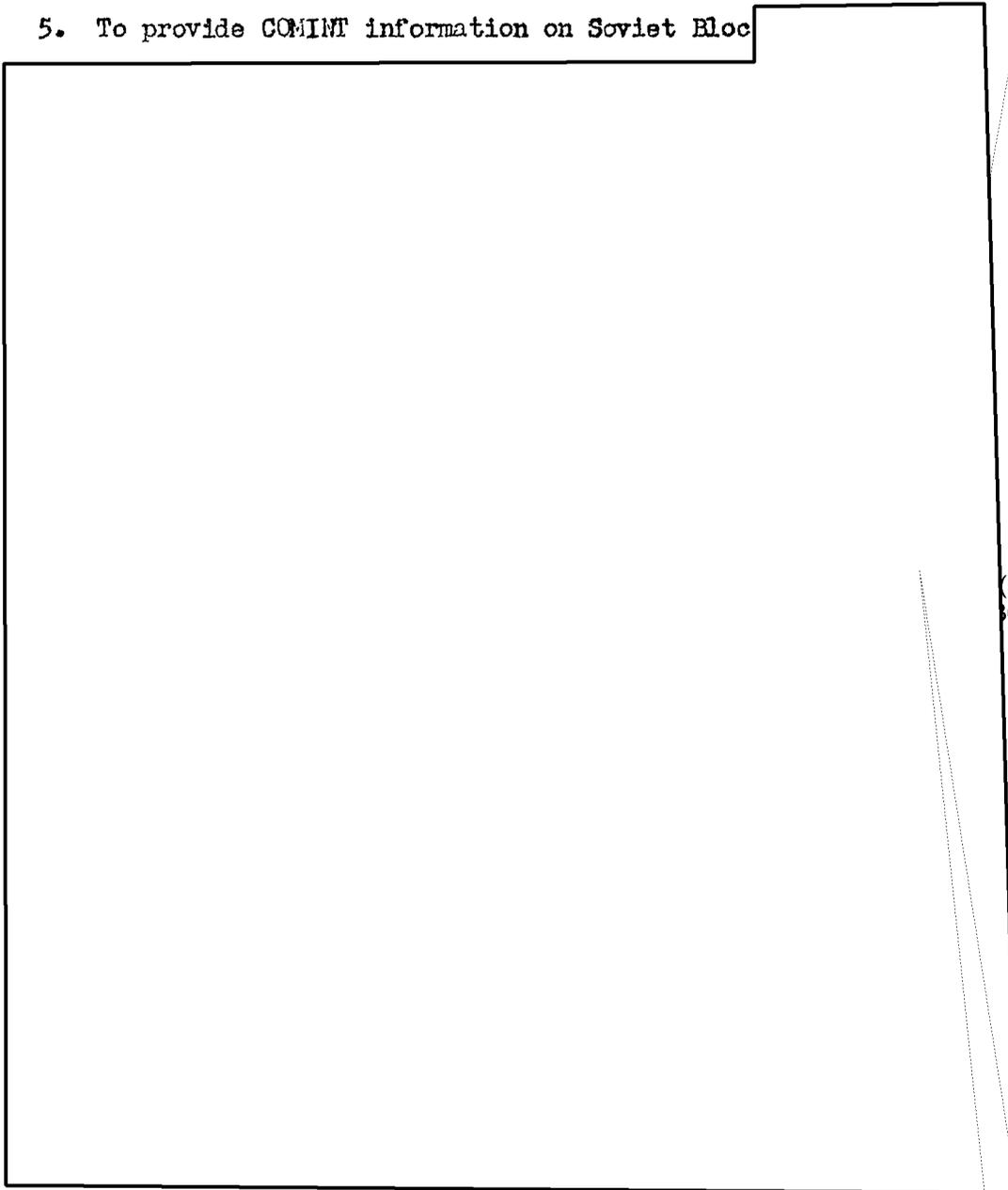
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COMINT OBJECTIVE

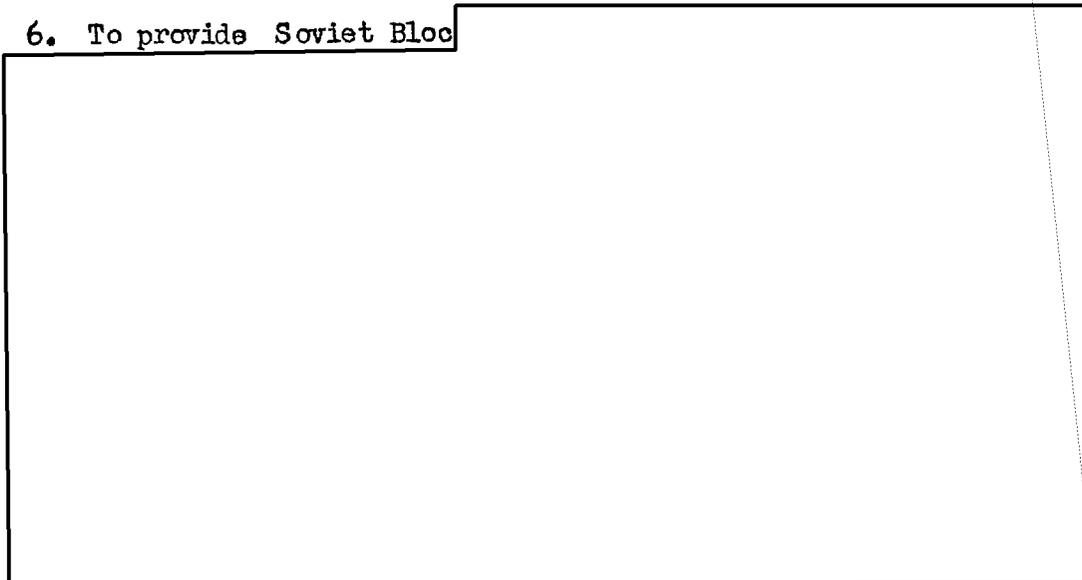
5. To provide COMINT information on Soviet Bloc



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COMINT OBJECTIVE

6. To provide Soviet Bloc



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COMINT OBJECTIVE

7. To provide COMINT information on the
strengths and weaknesses of the Soviet Bloc.

COMINT Requirements

COMINT OBJECTIVE

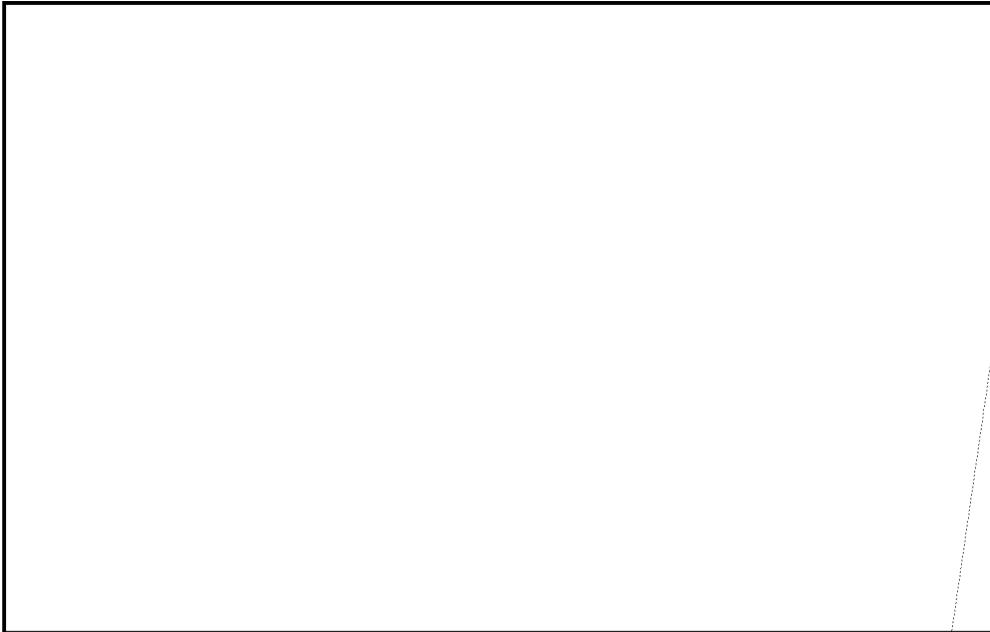
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8. To provide COMINT information on those forces capable
of reinforcing Soviet Bloc



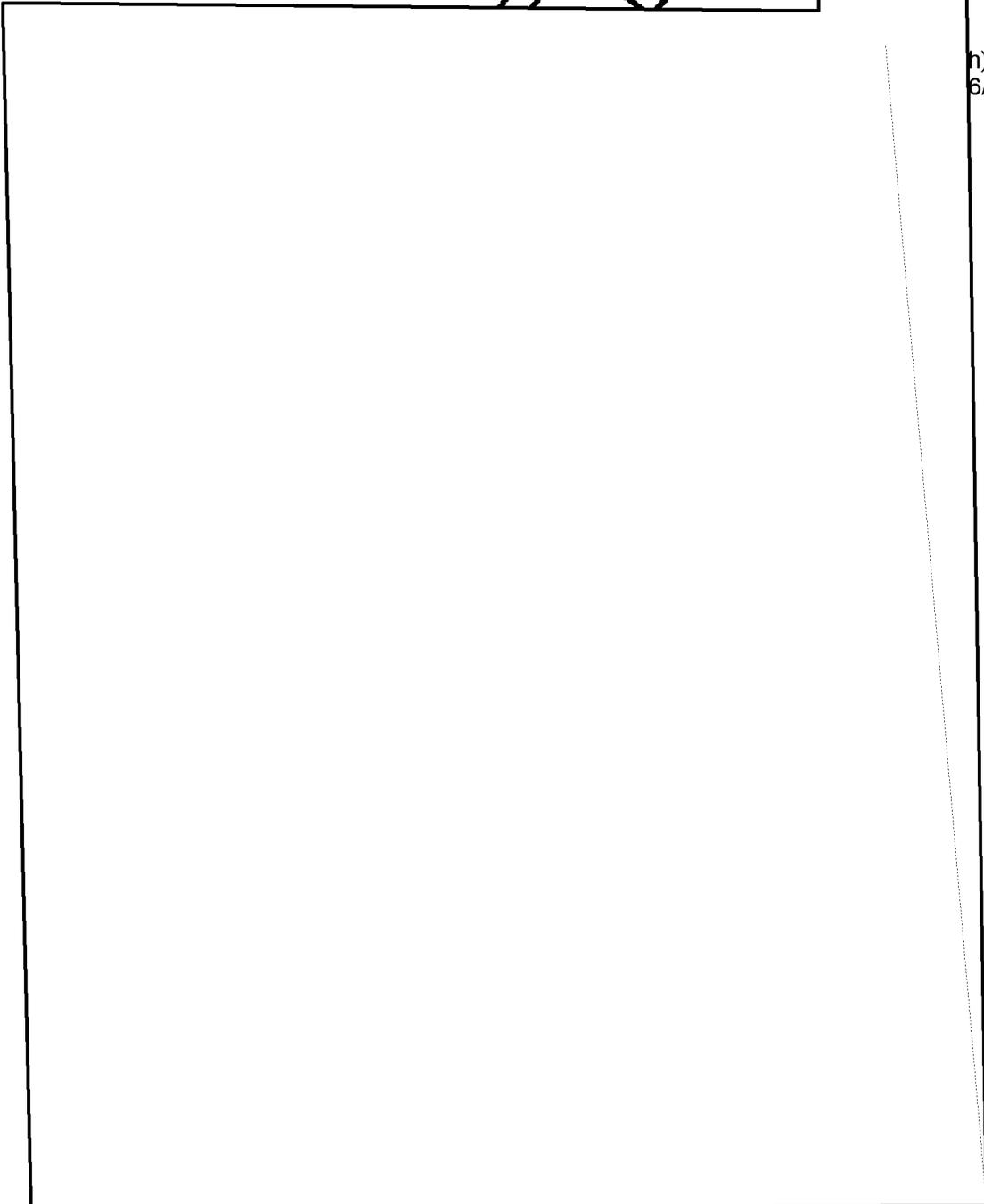
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COMINT OBJECTIVE

9. To provide COMINT information on Soviet Bloc economy



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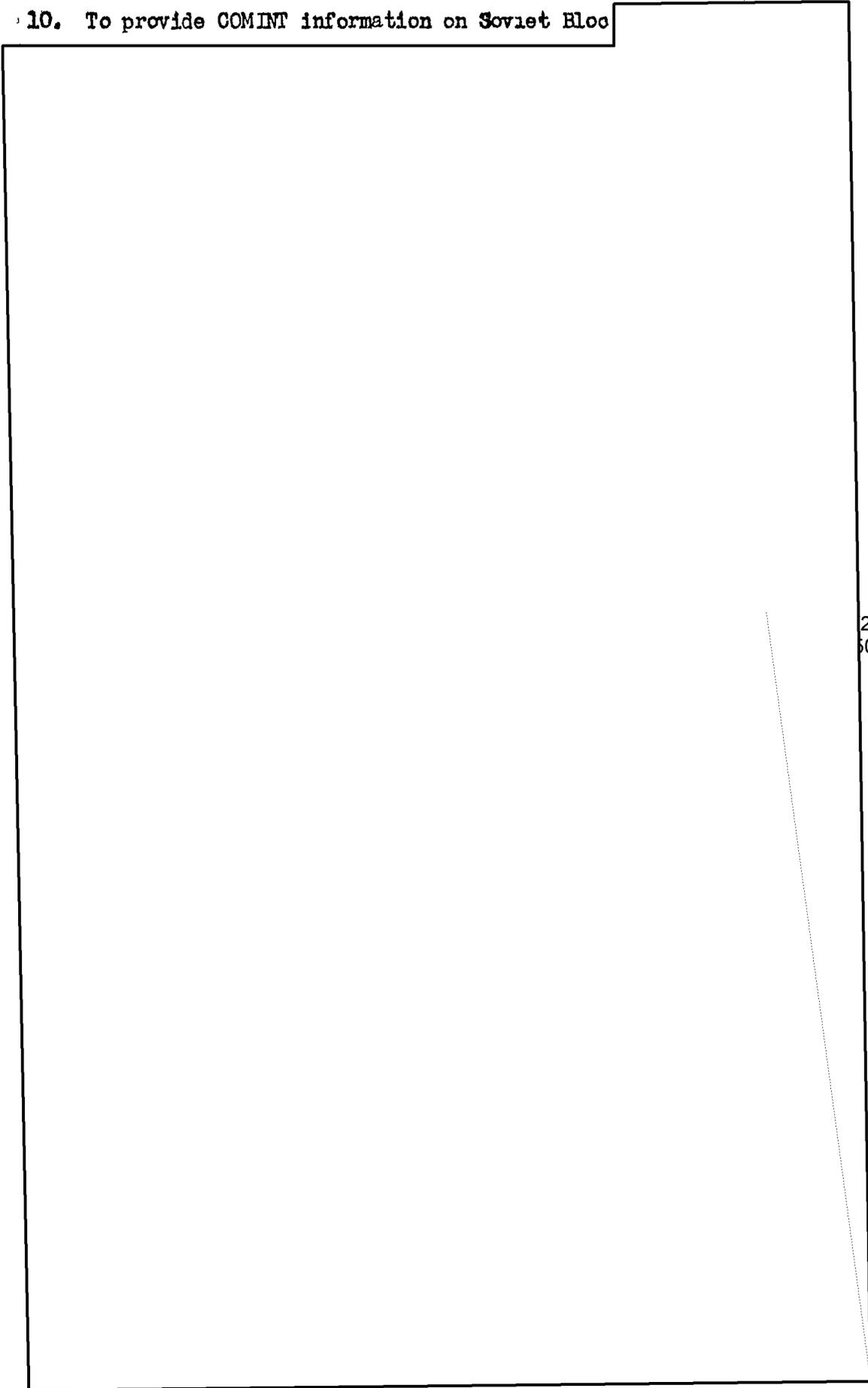


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COMINT OBJECTIVE

10. To provide COMINT information on Soviet Bloc



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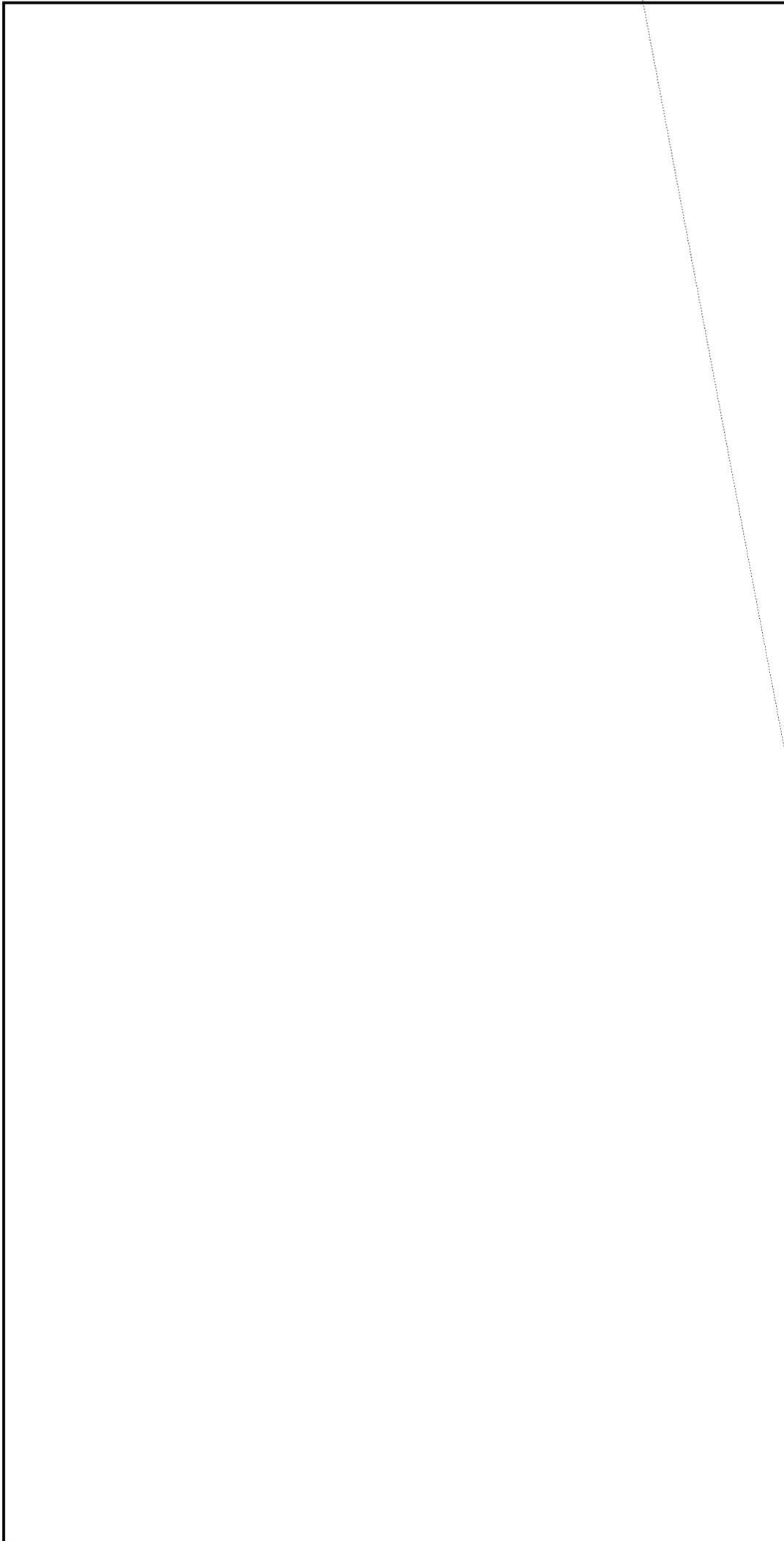
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COMINT OBJECTIVE



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USCIB COMINT SOURCE LIST

The Preface to the COMINT Objectives List applies to this Source List. The following additional information should also be considered.

The COMINT Sources are categorized as Primary or Ancillary. Primary Sources are those now believed to be the principal sources from which information might be obtained to satisfy the Requirement. Ancillary Sources are those which may produce information to supplement that obtained from the Primary Source.

The following points should be noted in applying the COMINT Objectives List:

a. In general, the priority of the collection and processing effort to be directed against a Source is set by its first appearance as a Primary Source. However, where the Objective and Requirements associated with that initial Primary Source listing do not require collection or processing of all the material available from the Source, the priority of effort against the remainder derives from any subsequent appearances as a Primary Source. Ancillary Sources not appearing anywhere as Primary Sources take priority in the order of their listing, but after all Primary Sources.

b. The priority for publication of any item of information from any Source is determined by the Objective or Requirement to which it relates, and irrespective of the position of the Source on the List. It is intended that only that information which relates to listed Objectives and Requirements will normally be published.

Note: The term Soviet Bloc as used in the listing is intended to mean USSR, the Eastern European Satellites, Communist China, North Korea and North Vietnam.

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USCIB COMINT OBJECTIVES LIST

COMINT OBJECTIVE

COMINT SOURCES

1. To provide COMINT information on Soviet Bloc politico-military strategic plans and intentions, particularly to initiate hostilities.

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COMINT Requirements

Primary



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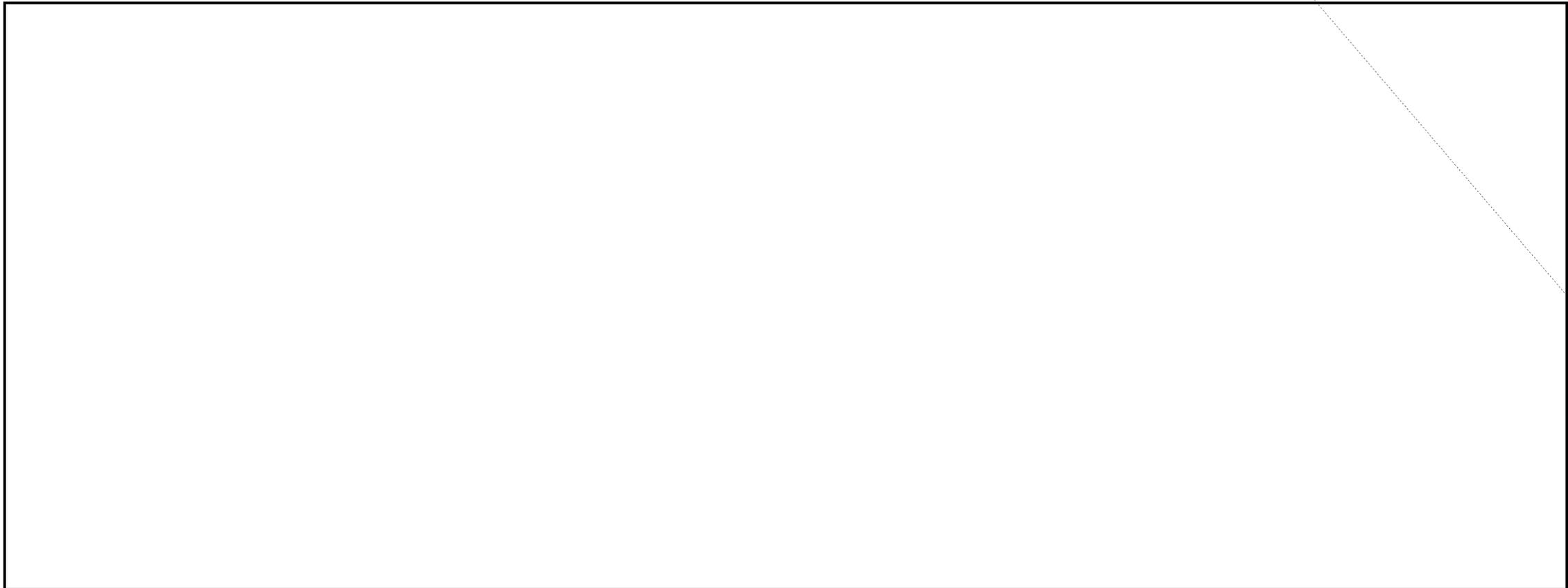
2. To provide COMINT information on Soviet Bloc striking forces
(i.e., those forces disposed for and capable of launching an attack on
the U.S., its forces or its allies) particularly with regard to the
initiation of hostilities.

Same as for Objective 1 plus the following:

EO 3.3(h)(2)
PL 86-36/50 USC 3605

COMINT Requirements

Primary



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d. Capabilities, plans and intentions of the USSR to attack U.S.

forces or allies in the Western Hemisphere.

Same as for Requirements 2a, b and c.

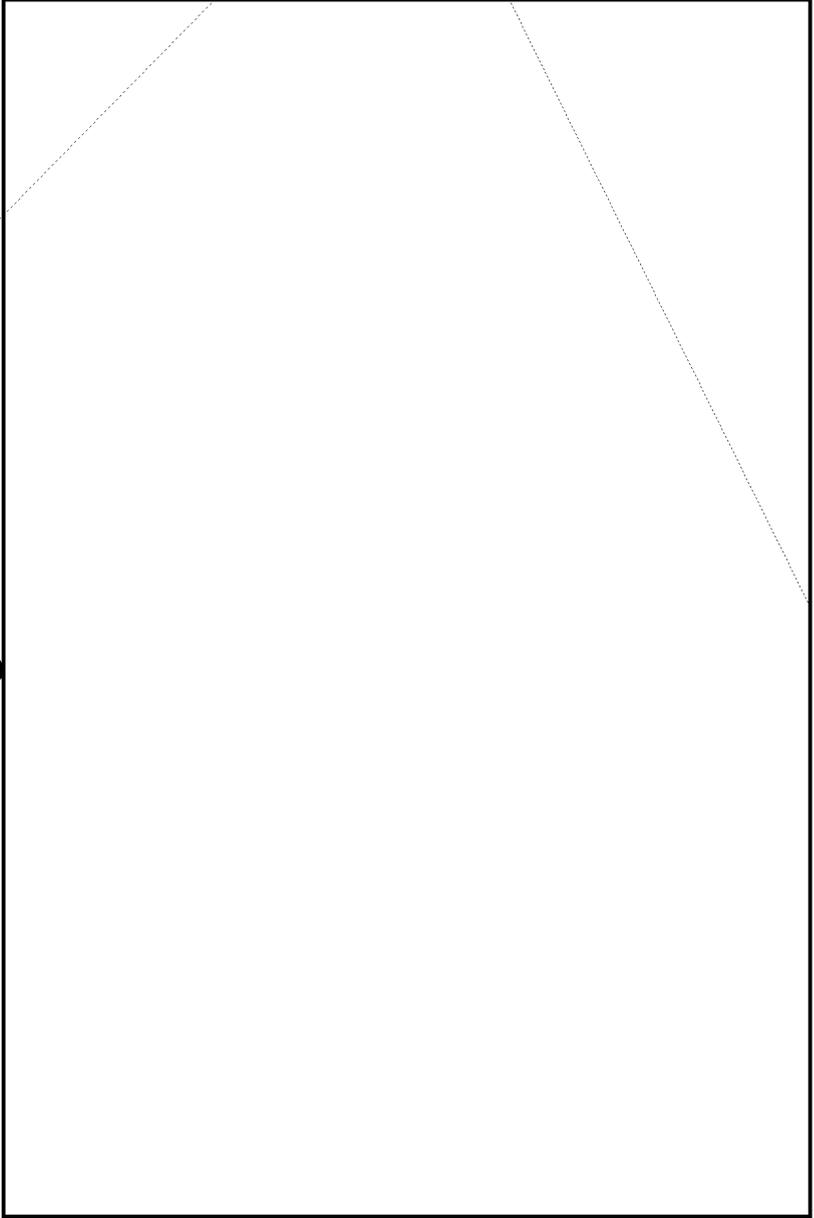
e. Capabilities, plans and intentions of the Soviet Bloc armed

forces to attack U.S. forces or allies

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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f. Capabilities, plans and intentions of the Soviet Bloc to attack

U.S. forces or allies

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Ancillary



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COMINT OBJECTIVE

3. To provide COMINT information on Soviet Bloc development,

Same as for Objective 1 plus the following:



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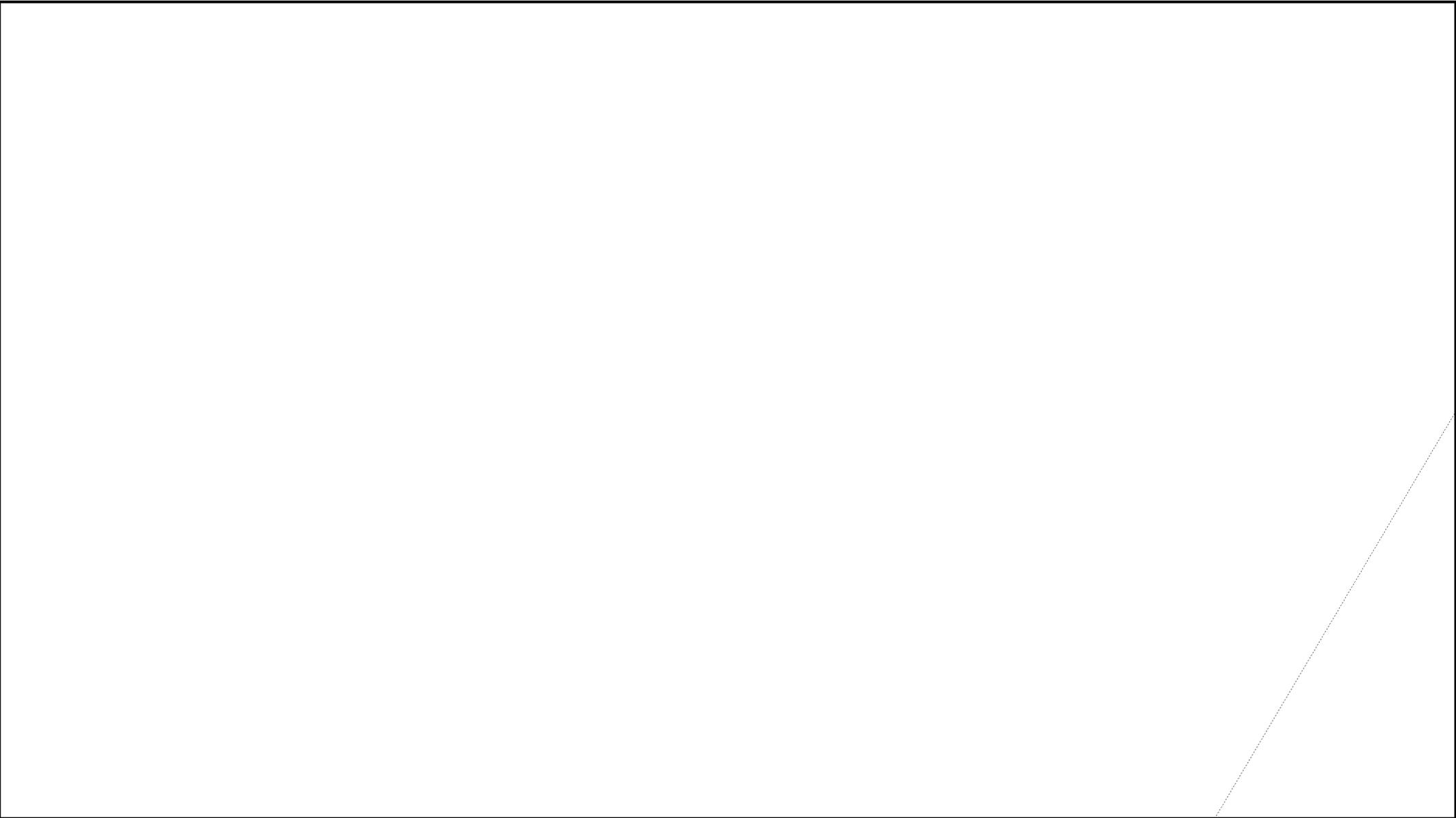
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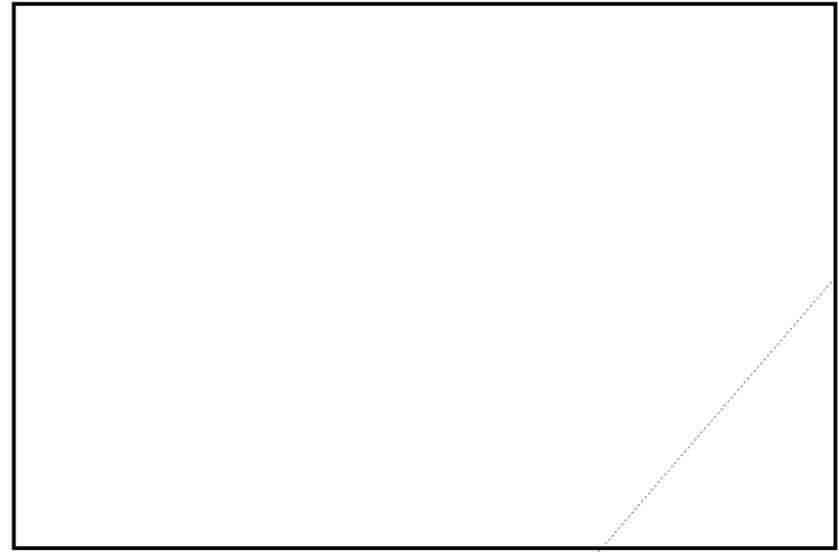
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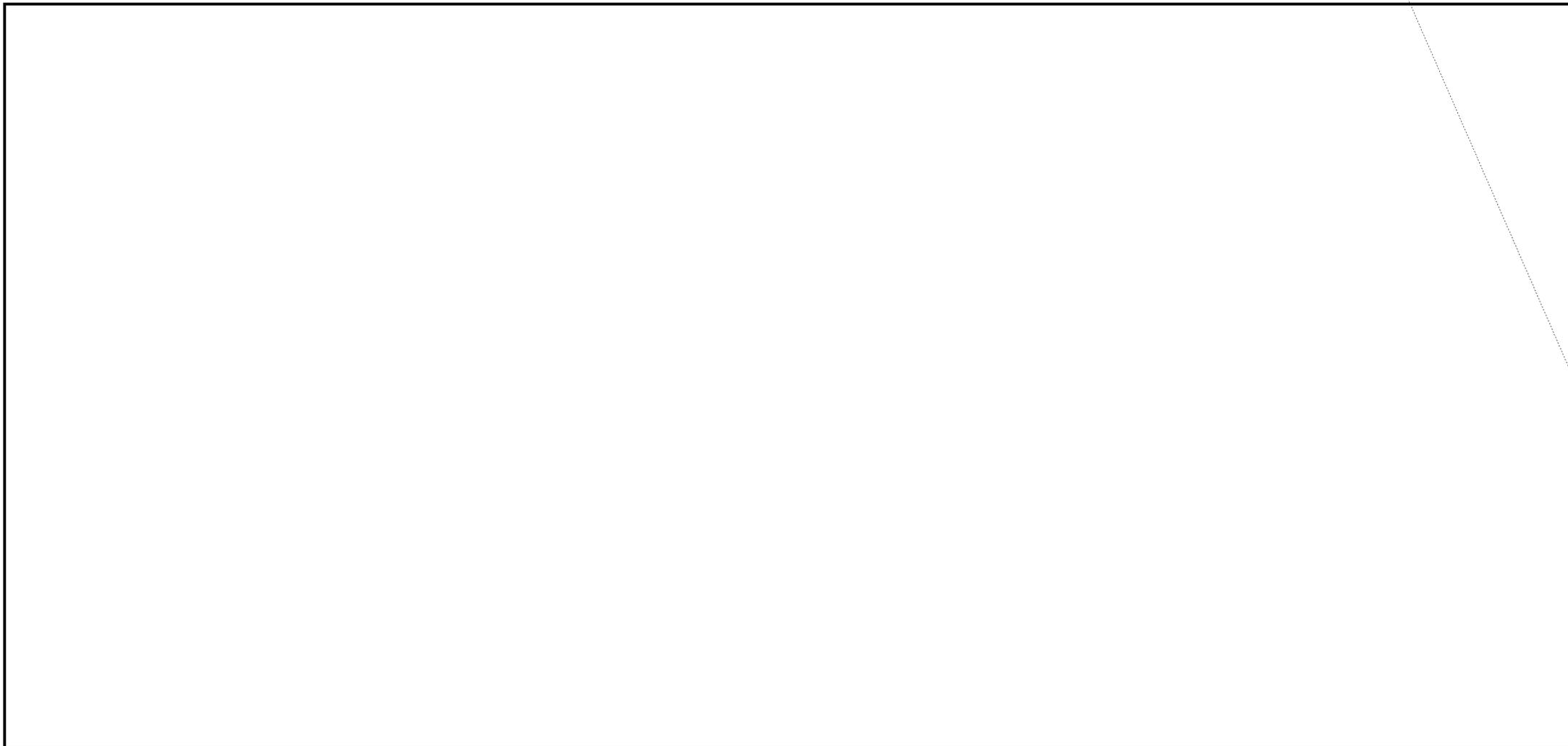
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COMINT OBJECTIVE



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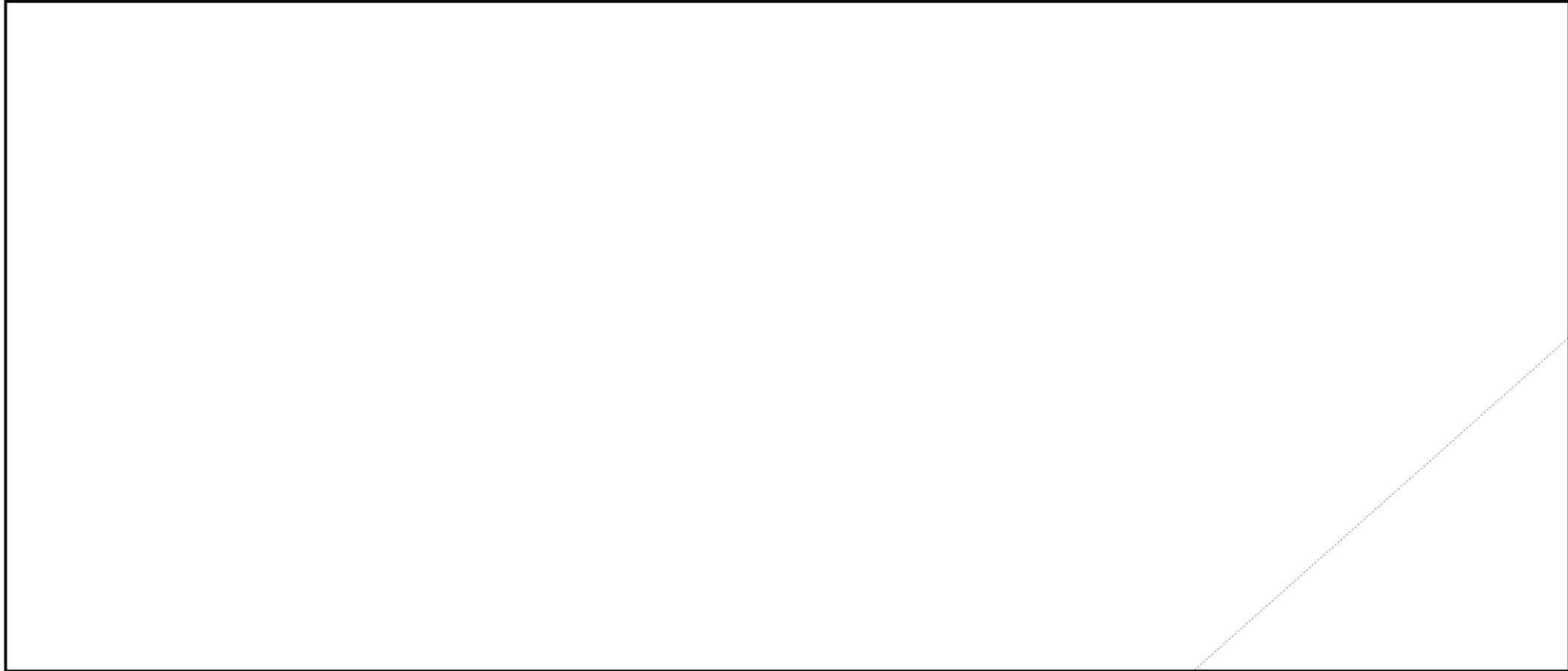
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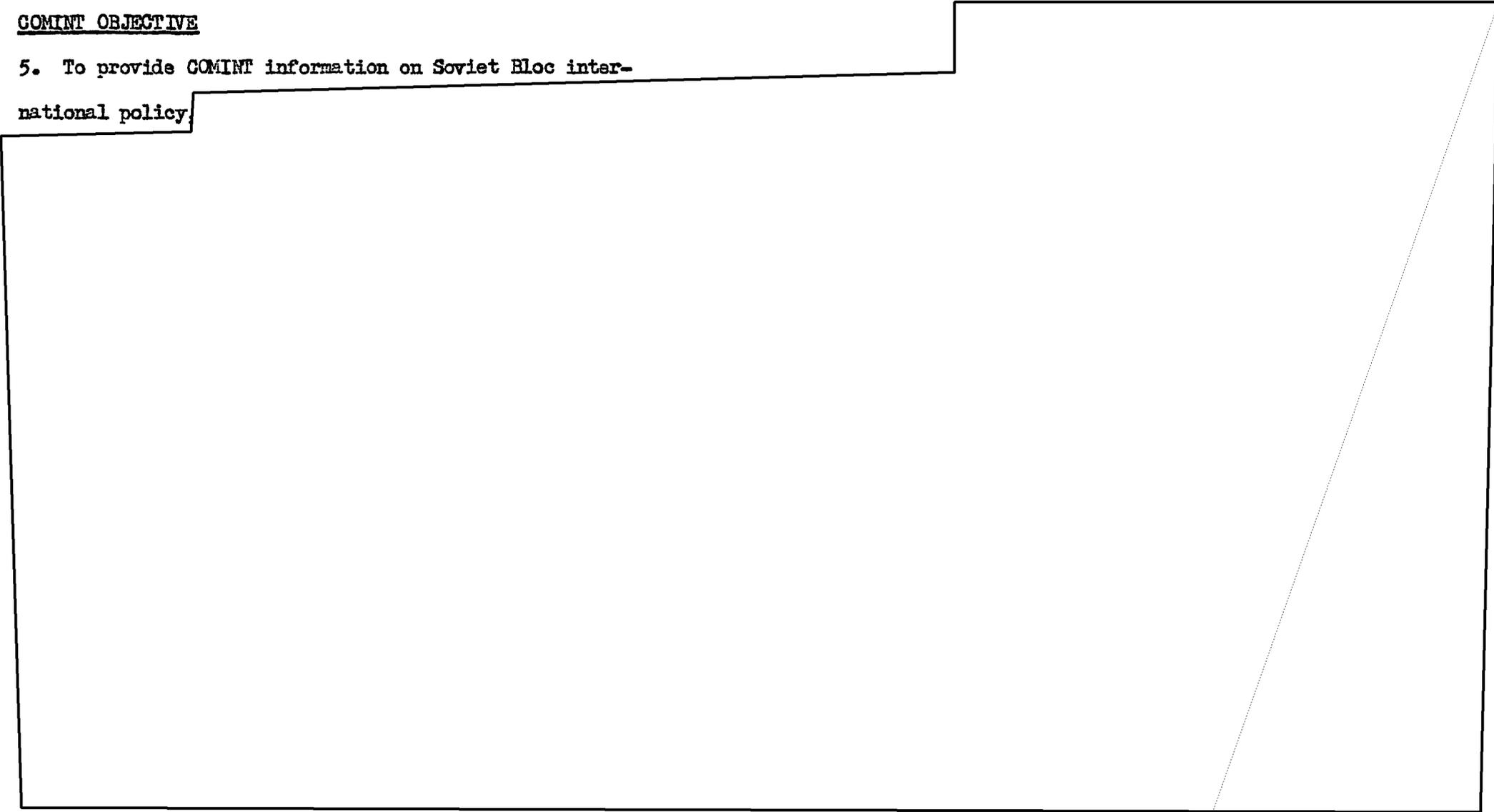
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GOMINT OBJECTIVE

5. To provide GOMINT information on Soviet Bloc international policy.



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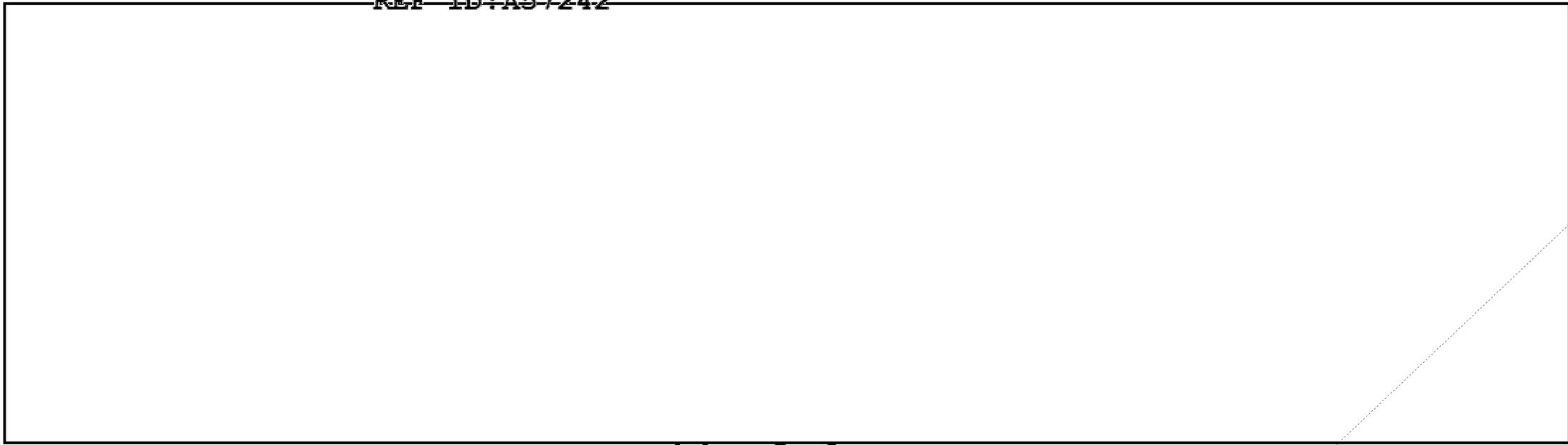
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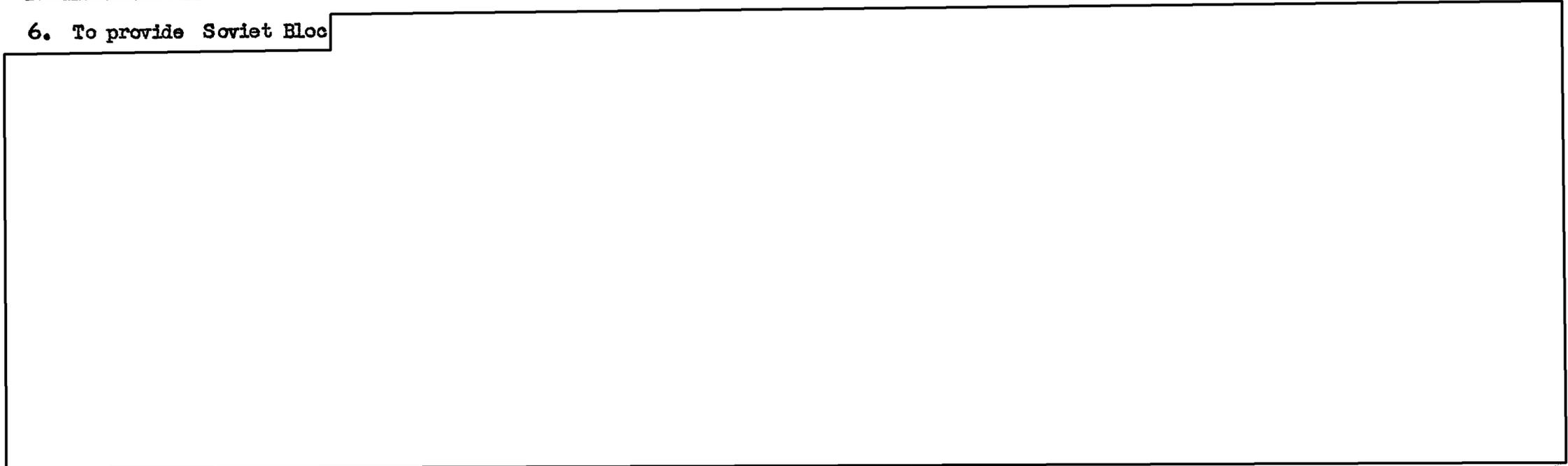
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GOMINT OBJECTIVE

6. To provide Soviet Bloc



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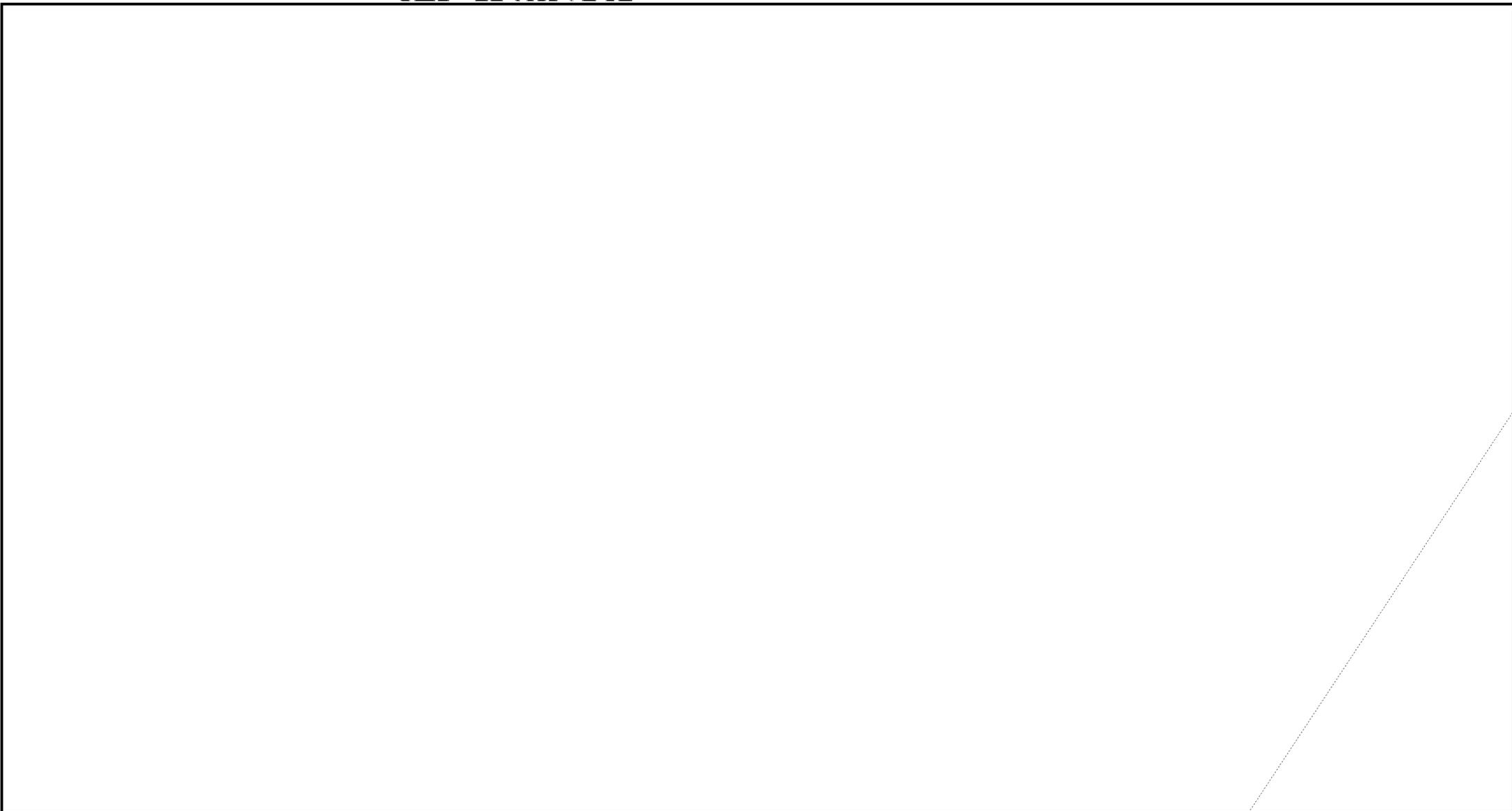
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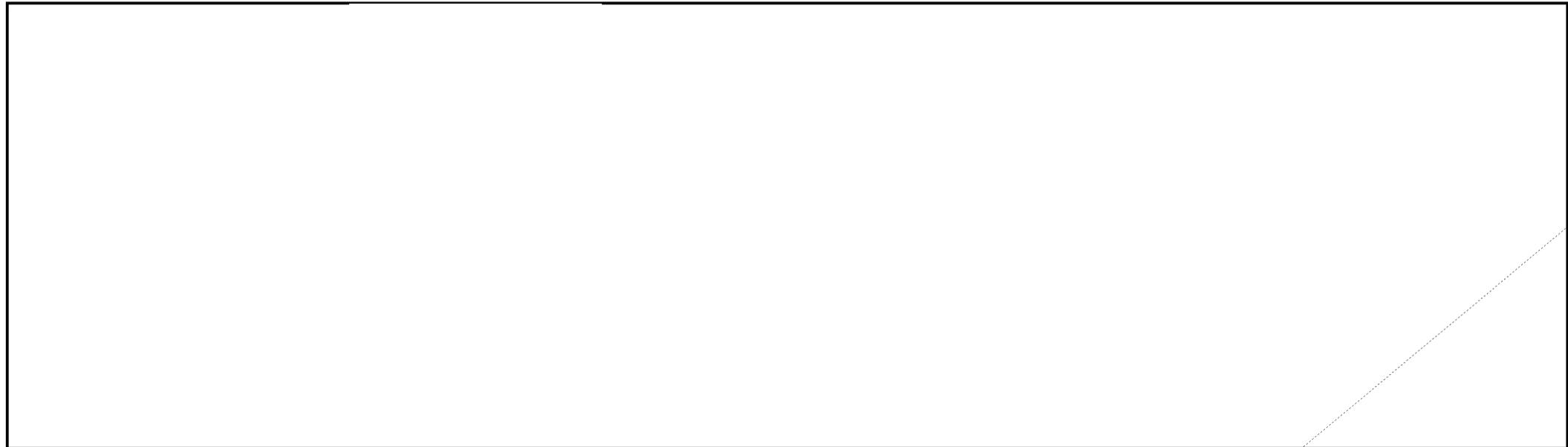
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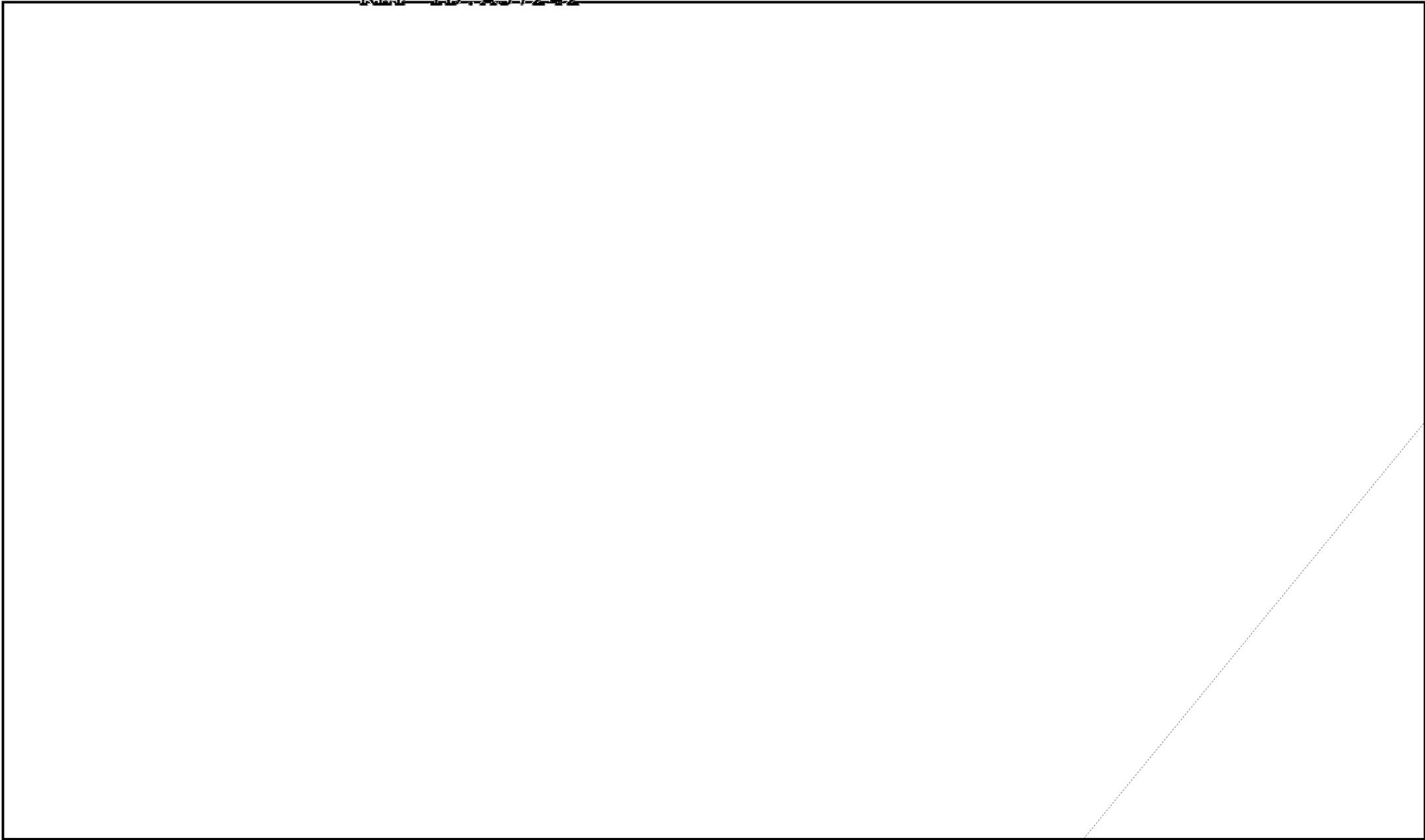
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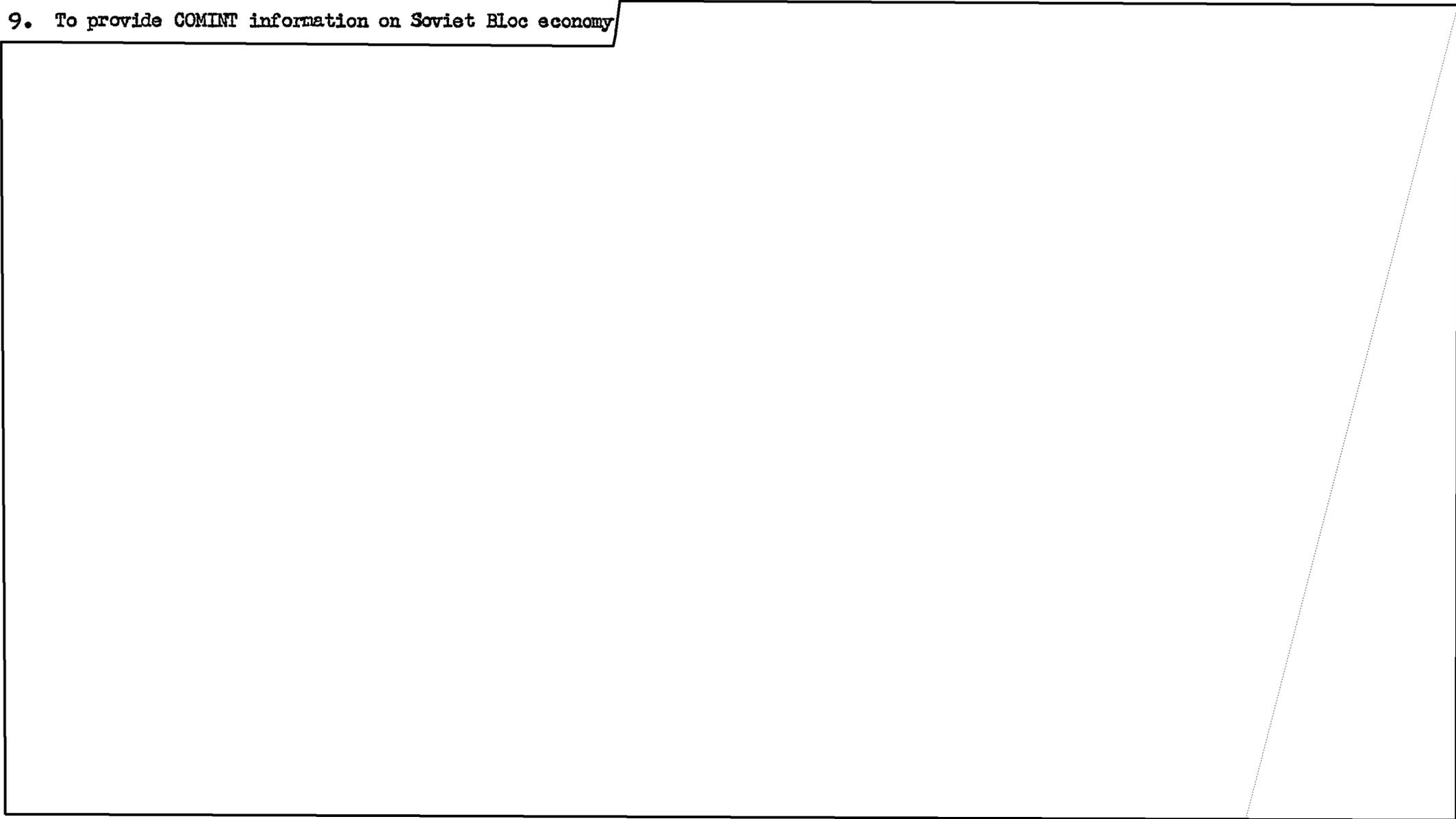
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9. To provide COMINT information on Soviet Bloc economy



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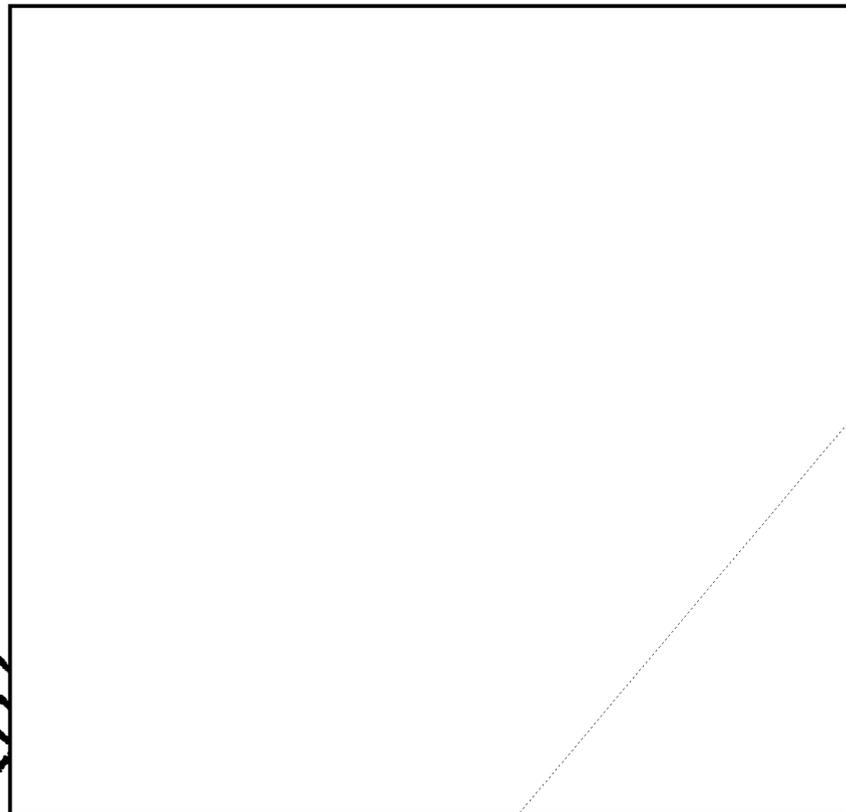
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COMINT OBJECTIVE

Primary



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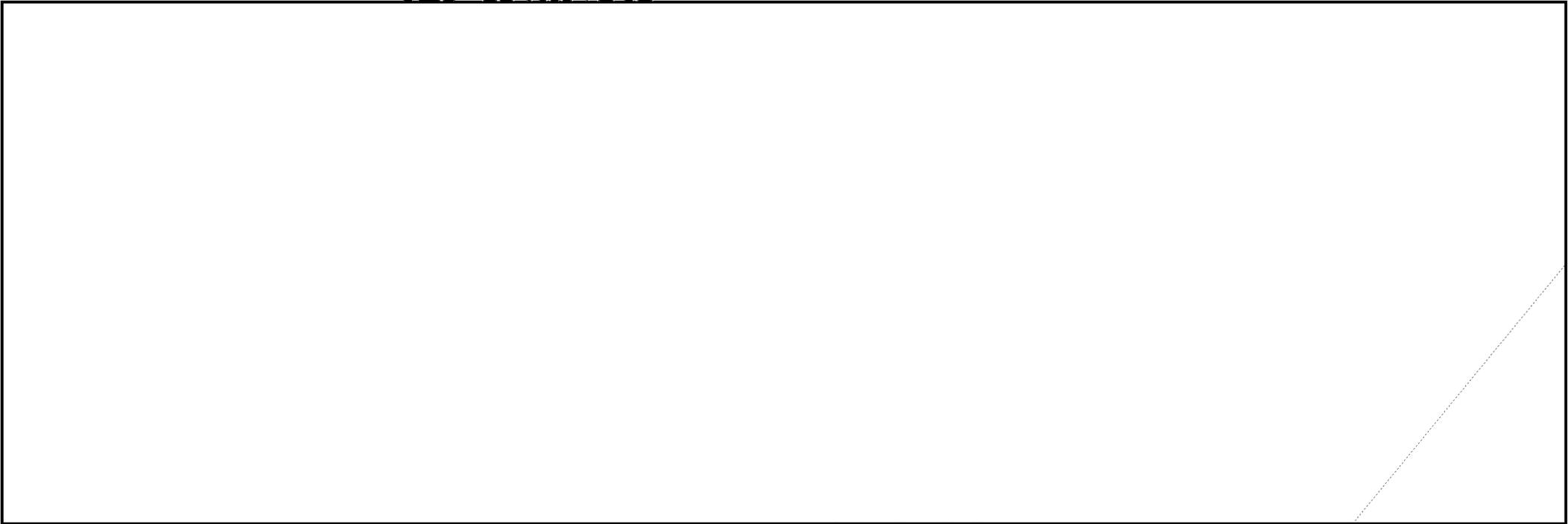
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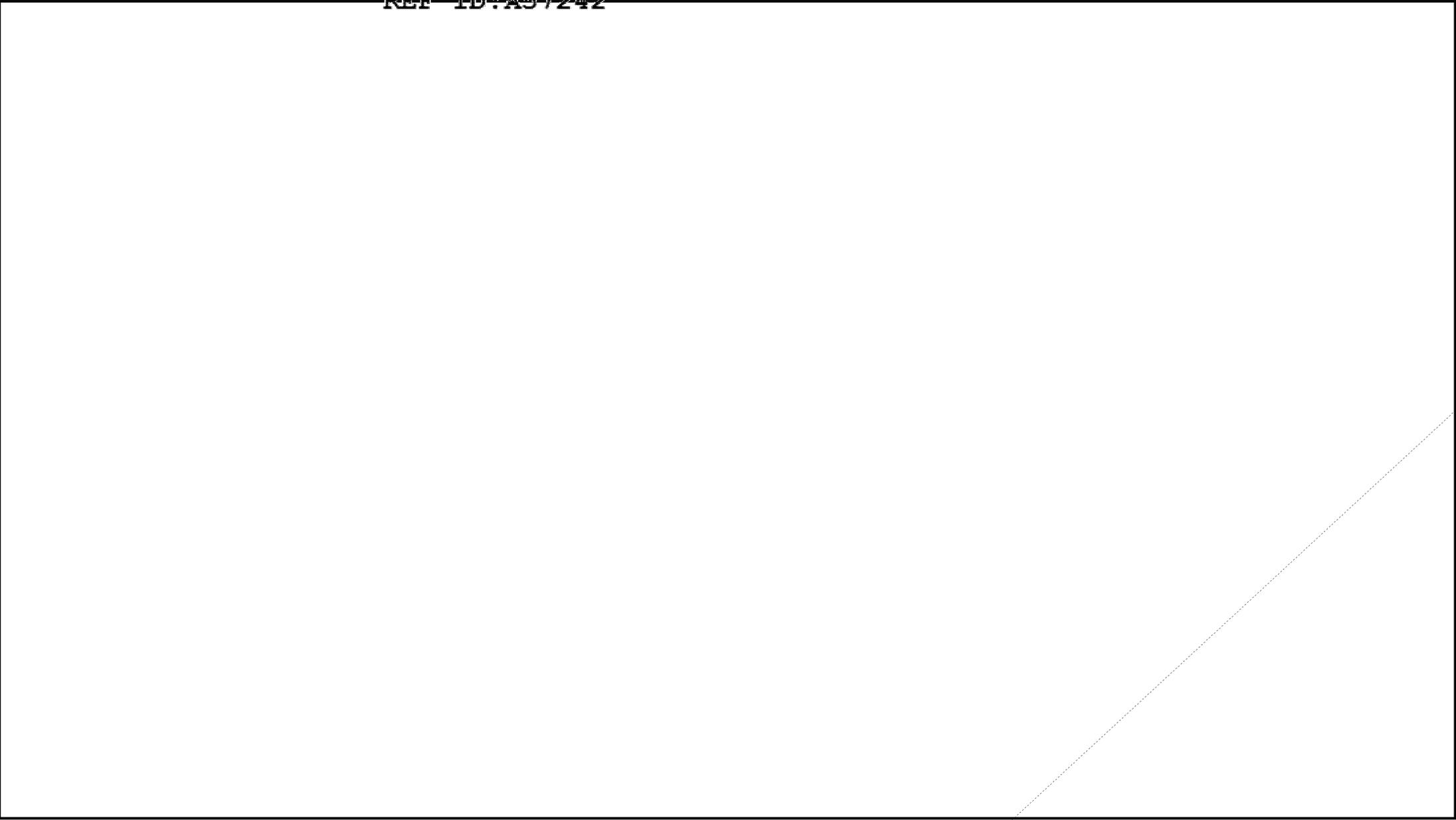
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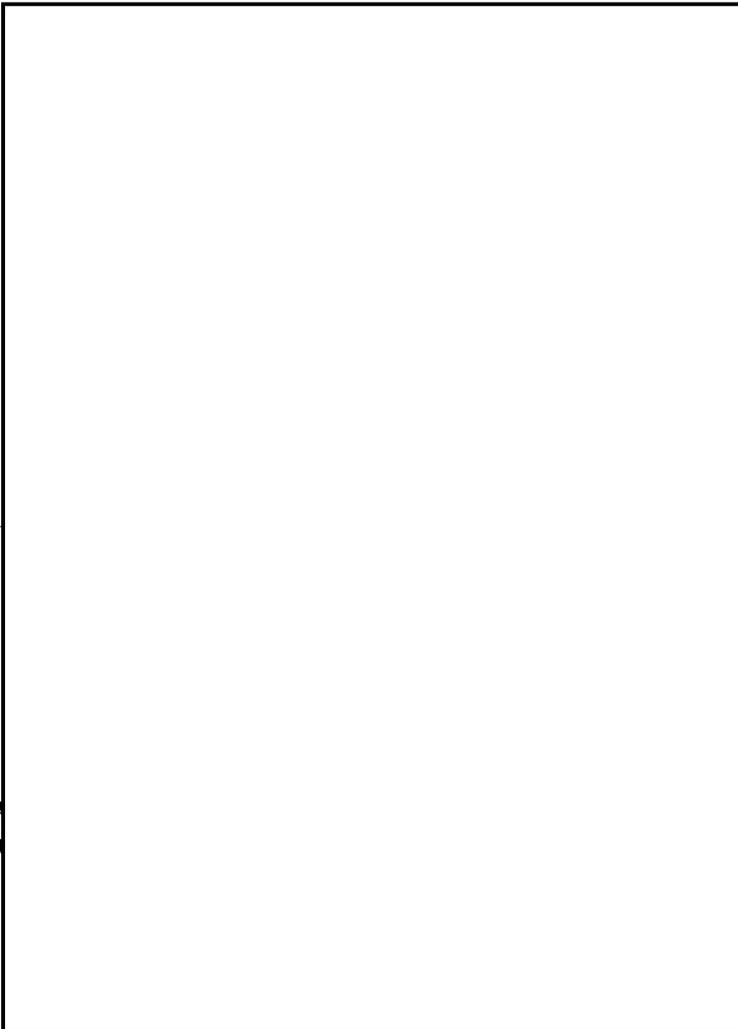
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COMINT OBJECTIVE

Primary



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PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES FOR SUPPLEMENTAL GUIDANCE

PRINCIPLES

1. Supplemental guidance must be consistent with the COMINT Objectives List, and be within the limits established by the approved Implementing Plan.
2. The primary purpose of Supplemental Guidance is to facilitate identification and production by the National Security Agency of that COMINT information which best satisfies each listed COMINT objective or requirement.
3. Supplemental guidance will be, in the main, in the form of supplementary or amplifying details about the needs, both long term and short term, of USCIB agencies for information to be produced in fulfillment of the COMINT Objectives List. Such details will be originated and furnished by the interested members of USCIB, both individually and collectively; and either instigated by them or requested by the National Security Agency.
4. The mechanism designed to provide supplemental guidance must be responsive both to the needs of the USCIB agencies for specific information related to priority Requirements; and to the needs of the National Security Agency for advice on, and interpretation and clarification of, basic guidance.
5. Coordination of supplemental guidance among the USCIB agencies is essential in those cases where two or more agencies have a common interest in the information which might be produced in response to a listed COMINT Requirement. Provision must be made to facilitate such coordination.
6. USCIB empowers USCIBEC to act authoritatively on matters of supplemental guidance.

PROCEDURES

7. Supplemental guidance may be prepared individually or collectively by the interested members of USCIB. Supplemental guidance shall be prepared in writing to the extent feasible and shall be related directly to the COMINT Objectives List. Written statements of long-term supplemental guidance shall be approved by USCIBEC prior to submission to NSA.

8. Each member of USCIB should designate an individual empowered to act in his name in matters of consumer-producer relations concerning supplemental guidance..

9. The NSA representative for supplemental guidance matters, in conducting his business, should deal with similarly accredited representatives either individually or collectively, at his discretion; keep a full record of all such transactions available to all representatives designated in accordance with paragraph 8, above, and if unable to resolve a matter of supplemental guidance to his own and to their satisfaction refer it directly to USCIBEC for immediate consideration.

10. Accredited representatives, if dissatisfied with the action of the Director, NSA's representative for supplemental guidance, should have the same recourse open to them through their USCIBEC members.

11. If USCIBEC should find itself unable to arrive at a unanimous decision on any matter of supplemental guidance in the space of one meeting, the Chairman thereof is to refer the entire matter to USCIB for resolution unless USCIBEC is able to unanimously agree that the matter is not of an urgent nature and can be handled in accordance with the procedure set forth in paragraph 7 of USCIB Directive #2.

12. Any supplemental guidance which would necessitate a significant reallocation of resources from that approved in the Implementing Plan must be treated as a change in basic guidance, must be approved by USCIB, and forwarded as a change to the basic guidance.

13. In those cases where USCIBEC approves unanimously of an item of supplemental guidance which would require a significant reallocation of COMINT resources, and specifically designates it as being of emergency nature, it is empowered to deliver it to NSA in advance of USCIB consideration, and NSA to act upon it in advance of its inclusion in the basic guidance.

14. Any NSA reallocation of COMINT facilities reflecting a significant change to the approved Implementing Plan is to be reported to USCIB by NSA, whether the change results from a modification in the basic guidance or

results from technical COMINT considerations. NSA is not required to report changes in allocation not reflecting a significant change in the Implementing Plan to USCIB, except in summary in its annual report. Any individual member agency, of course, is authorized to raise such changes for consideration in USCIB as it sees fit.

15. The Director, NSA may carry out changes in the NSA Implementing Plan in advance of their consideration by USCIB when time does not permit prior consideration by USCIB.

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