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OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

E-14

SYSTEMS ANALYSIS
(Strategic Programs)

18 August 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION LIST

SUBJECT: Strategic Flexible Response Options

Attached for your information is a revision to the DPRC paper on Flexible responses which reflects comments received on the July 2 draft. If you have comments or suggestions, please give them to me by COB, August 30. Since the next revision will probably be the last one, I would like to have line-in/line-out suggestions.

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Date: JUN 05 2018

J. J. Martin
J. J. Martin
Director

Strategic Retaliatory Division

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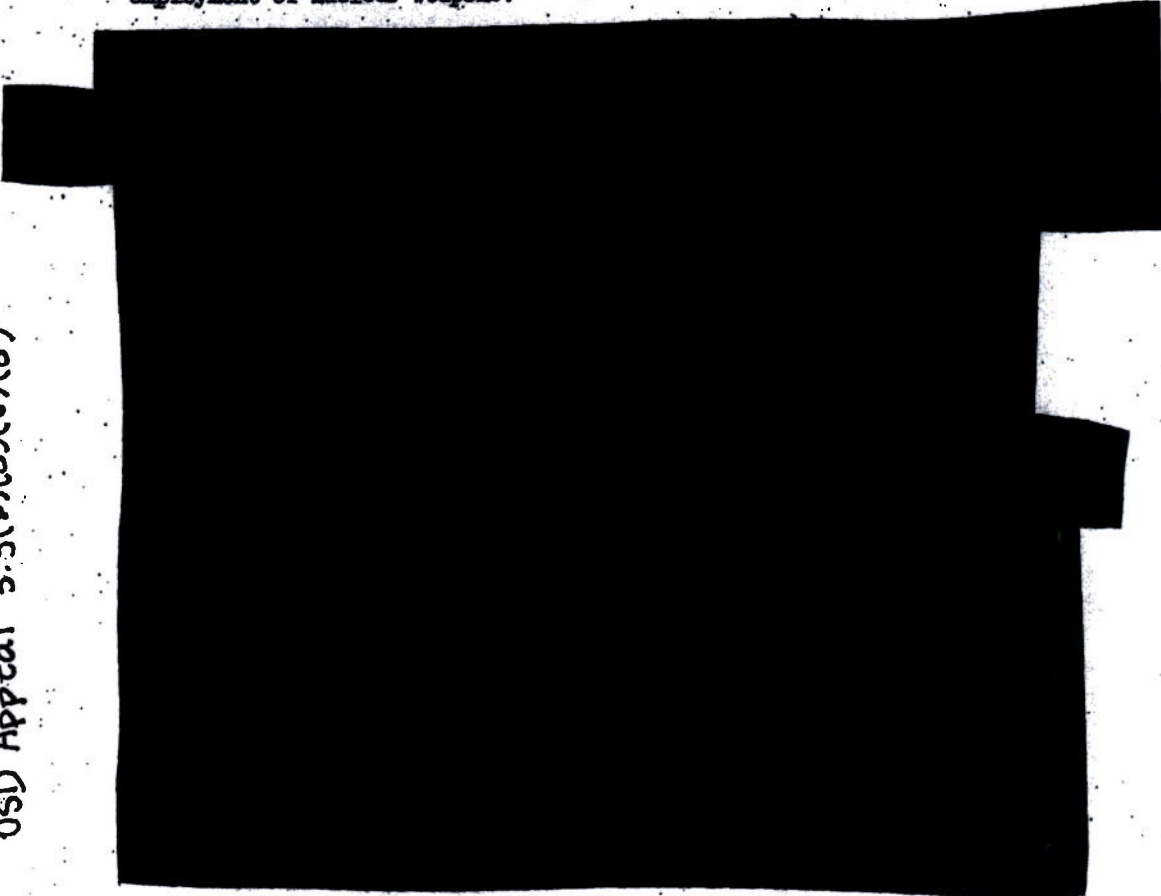
Strategic Flexible Response Options

This document consists of 45 pages.

Number 1 of 1 copies, series B1 *pol*

I. The Problem

The Defense Program Review Committee (DPRC) has directed a comprehensive review of the U.S. strategic force posture and objectives, with a view towards possible revision of the NSIM 16 sufficiency criteria. As a part of this review, this paper defines and analyses the major issues concerning greater flexibility in the employment of nuclear weapons.



JS Appeal OIF 3.3(b)(6)
OSD Appeal 3.3(b)(5)(u)(8)

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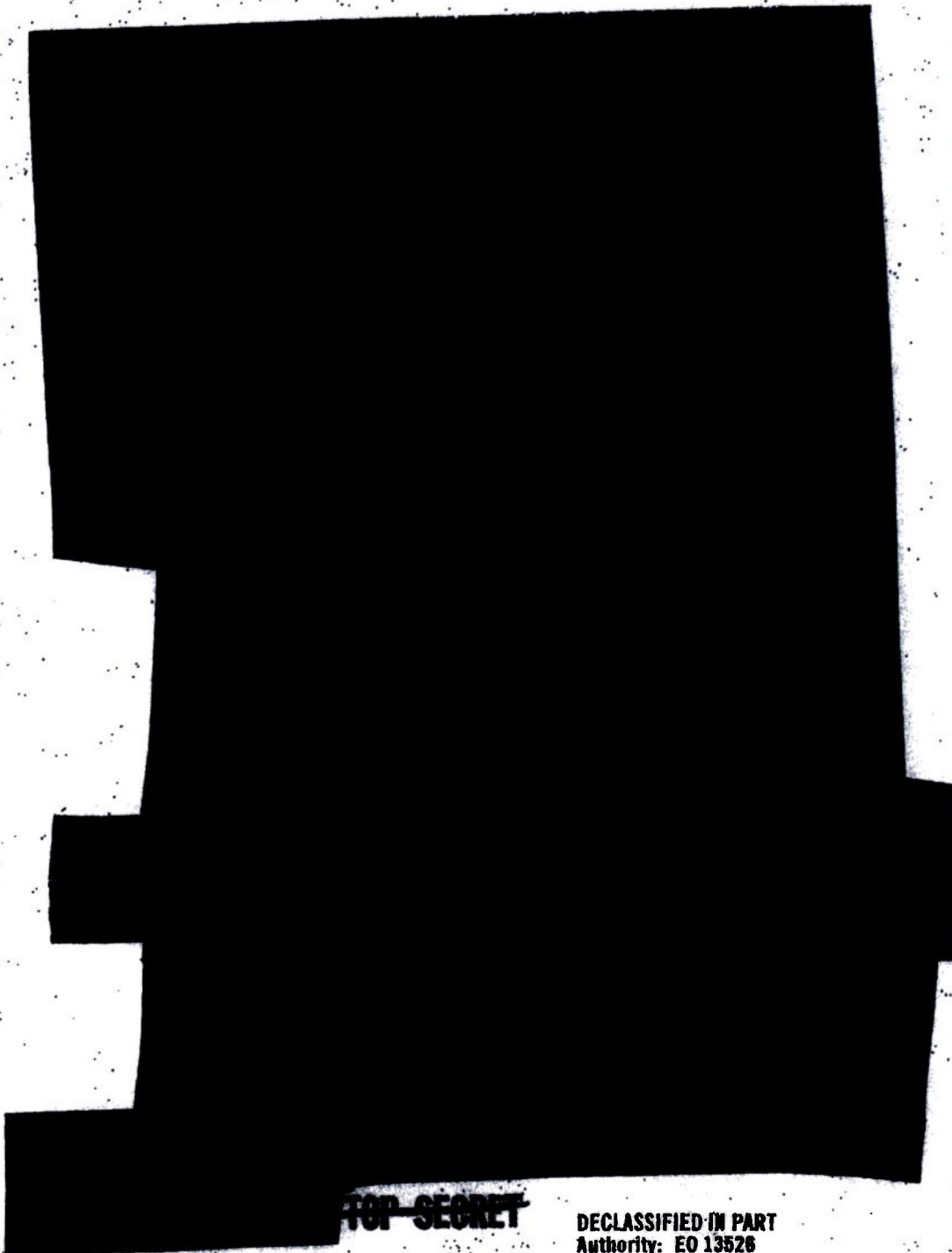
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JS Appeal DIF 3.3(b)(8)
OSD Appeal 3.3(b)(5)(8)



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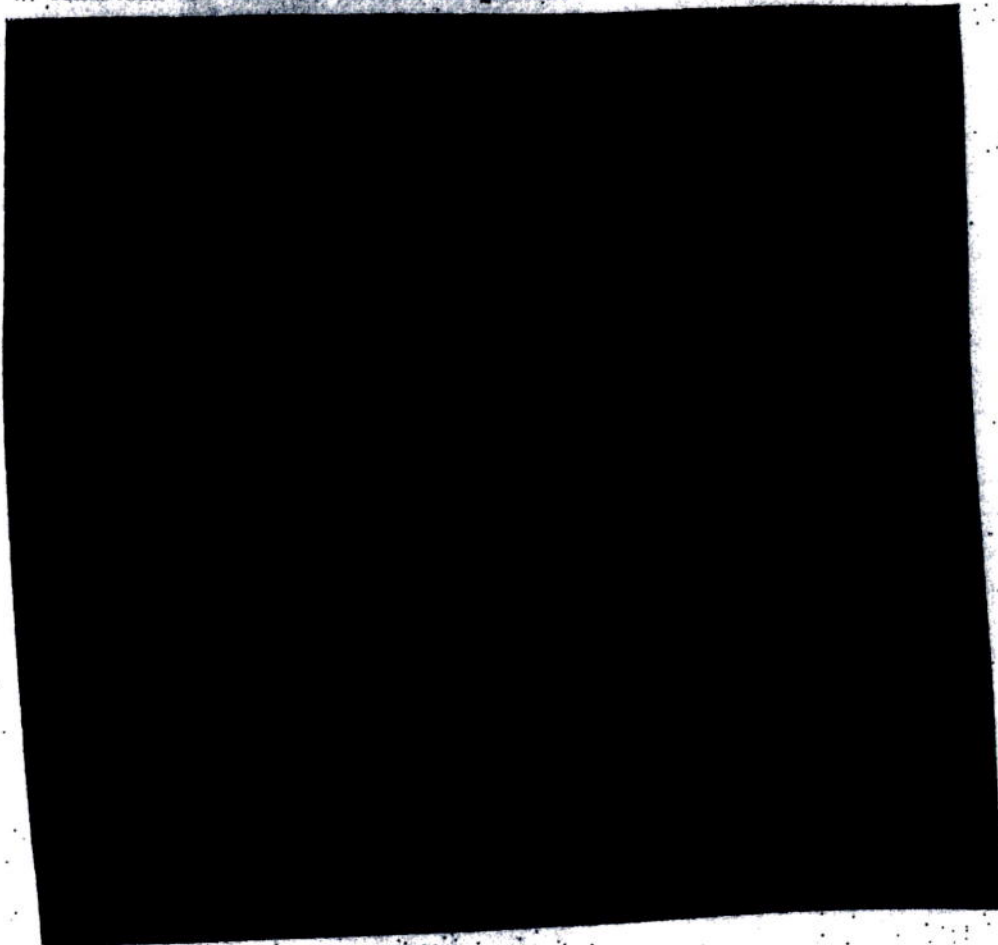
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A major purpose of this paper is to examine current U.S. capabilities for flexible nuclear responses, analyze some alternatives for increased flexibility and identify major issues regarding strategic flexible responses.

A. Current Nuclear Weapon Employment Plans

Assessment of the U.S. capability for flexible nuclear responses must consider the characteristics of our strategic weapons, our command and control system, and our post-strike reconnaissance capabilities, as well as the flexibility inherent in our nuclear weapons employment plans. Nevertheless, consideration of current employment plans is a useful starting point, since having suitable plans is a minimum condition for flexible nuclear responses.

JS Appeal OIF 3.3(b)(5)(g)
OSD Appeal 3.3(b)(5)(g)

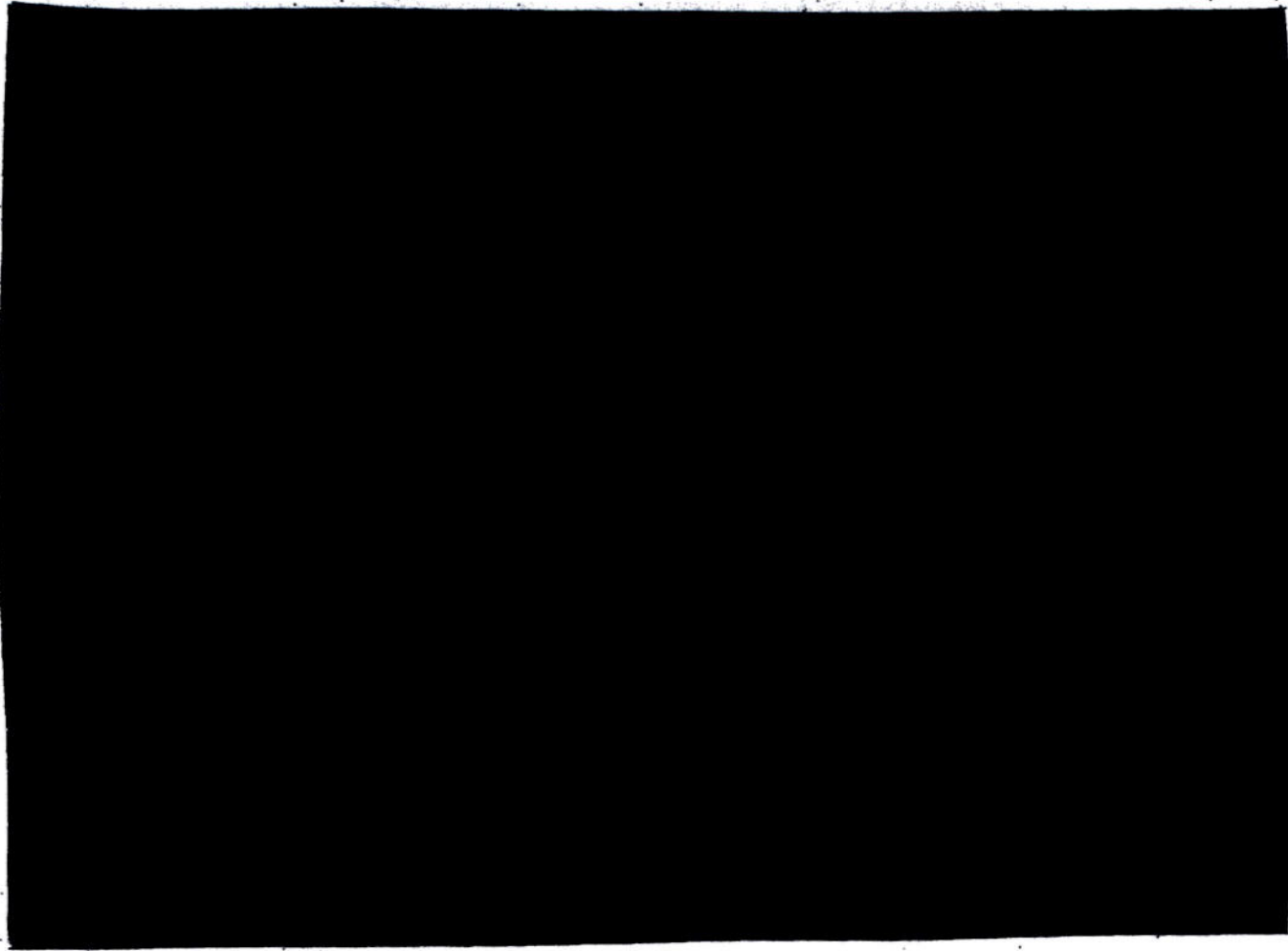


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JS Appeal OIF 3.3(A)(S)(G)(8)
OSD Appeal 3.3(A)(S)(8)

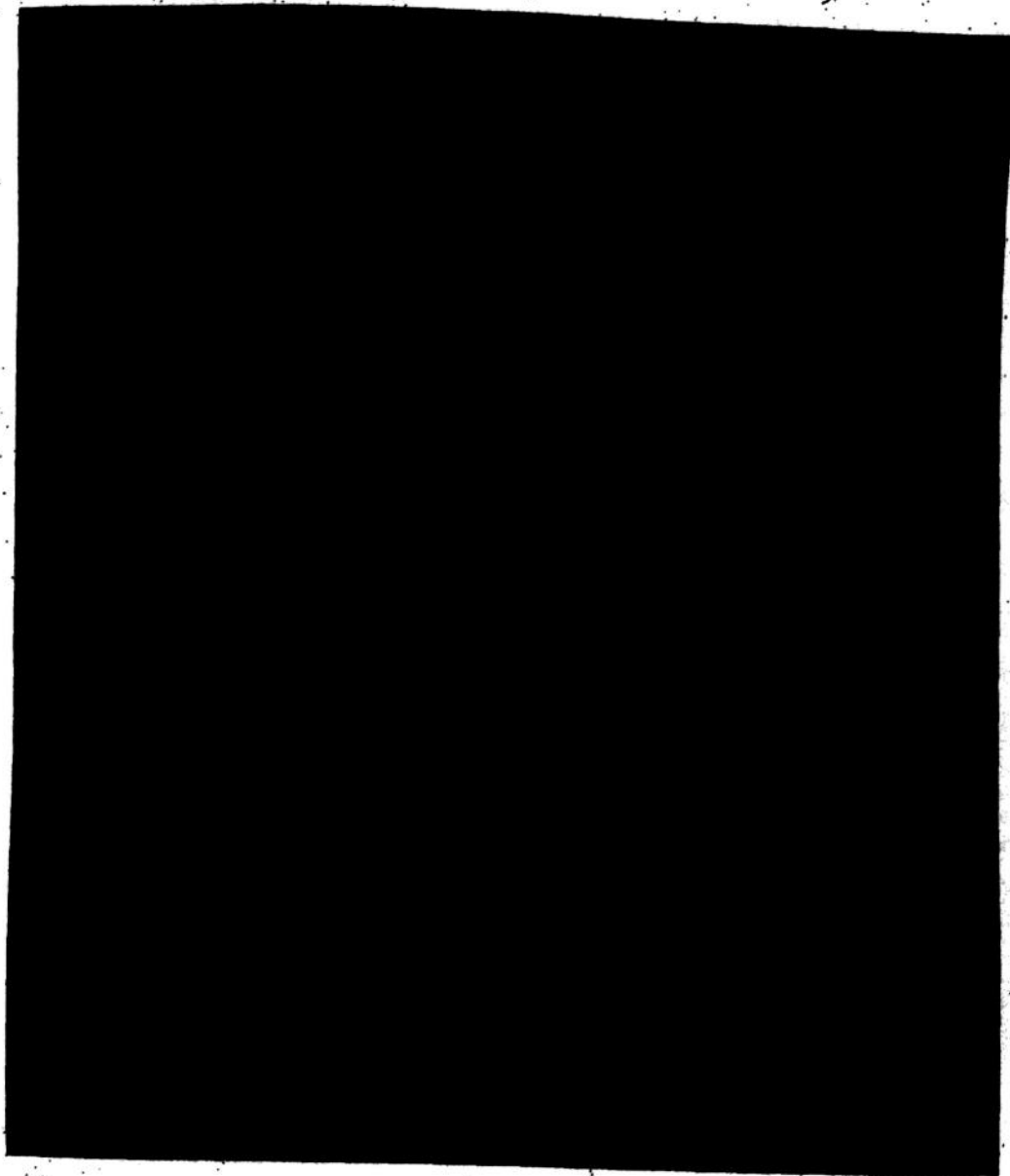
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JS Appeal DIF 33(b)(5)(C)
OSD Appeal 33(b)(5)



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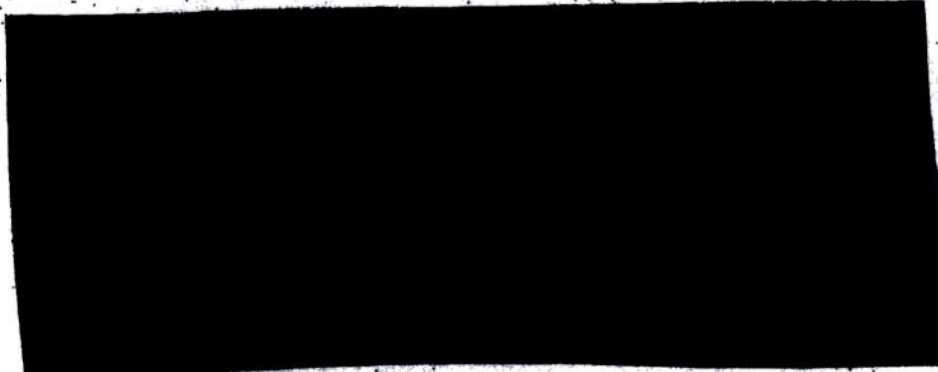
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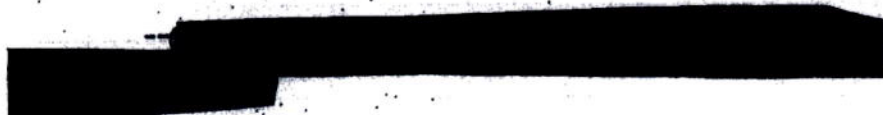
B. Major Issues

The foregoing review of nuclear weapons employment plans shows that:



Thus, the primary issue is whether additional flexibility should be provided. In order to understand this issue and to identify further issues, it is necessary to discuss more than the modifications of targeting staffs, plans, and procedures. We must also consider the objectives for flexible response options; the risks associated with such options; and the adequacy of current and programmed weapons, command and control, and reconnaissance systems for the more flexible employment of nuclear weapons. Accordingly, the following topics are examined in subsequent sections:

-- Strategic flexible response concepts and objectives.



- Technical issues in planning for greater flexibility.
- Alternative military postures for greater flexibility.
- Summary of issues for decision.

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JS Appeal OIF 3.3(b)(5)(6)
OSD Appeal 3.3(b)(5)

JS Appeal DIF 33(b)(5)(6)
OSO Appeal 33(b)(5)

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II. Strategic Flexible Response Objectives and Concepts

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necessary to protect our allies. [REDACTED]

Flexible responses executed to achieve either objective would be part of a complex and risky bargaining process for high stakes. Military actions would be taken and concessions would probably have to be made on both sides before essential differences could be effectively negotiated.

We might have to redefine our assessment of what constitutes the vital U.S. interests in such a crisis and might have to recognize certain territorial gains by the other side. Thus, the mere capability for flexible nuclear options will not guarantee outcomes favorable to the United States, at least not as measured by peacetime standards. The crucial question is, however, not whether flexible responses will achieve their objectives, but whether we should take the risk of not having these options available during an intense crisis.

Subject to these caveats, there are several general characteristics that strategic flexible responses should have:

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different
as
character.

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JS Appeal OIF 3.346(6)
OSD Appeal 3.346(6)



B. Scenarios



Scenarios are useful in helping to create a framework for considering flexible response options, but it is a mistake to search for "credible scenarios" that rigorously define U.S. actions in a crisis. Most of history's real conflict scenarios were quite incredible a priori -- e.g., Pearl Harbor and the Cuban missile crisis. Scenarios cannot be used to prove a requirement for flexible response options or that a given option would succeed in achieving U.S. goals. They can only be used to illustrate new dimensions of strategic concern.

*as
dispute*



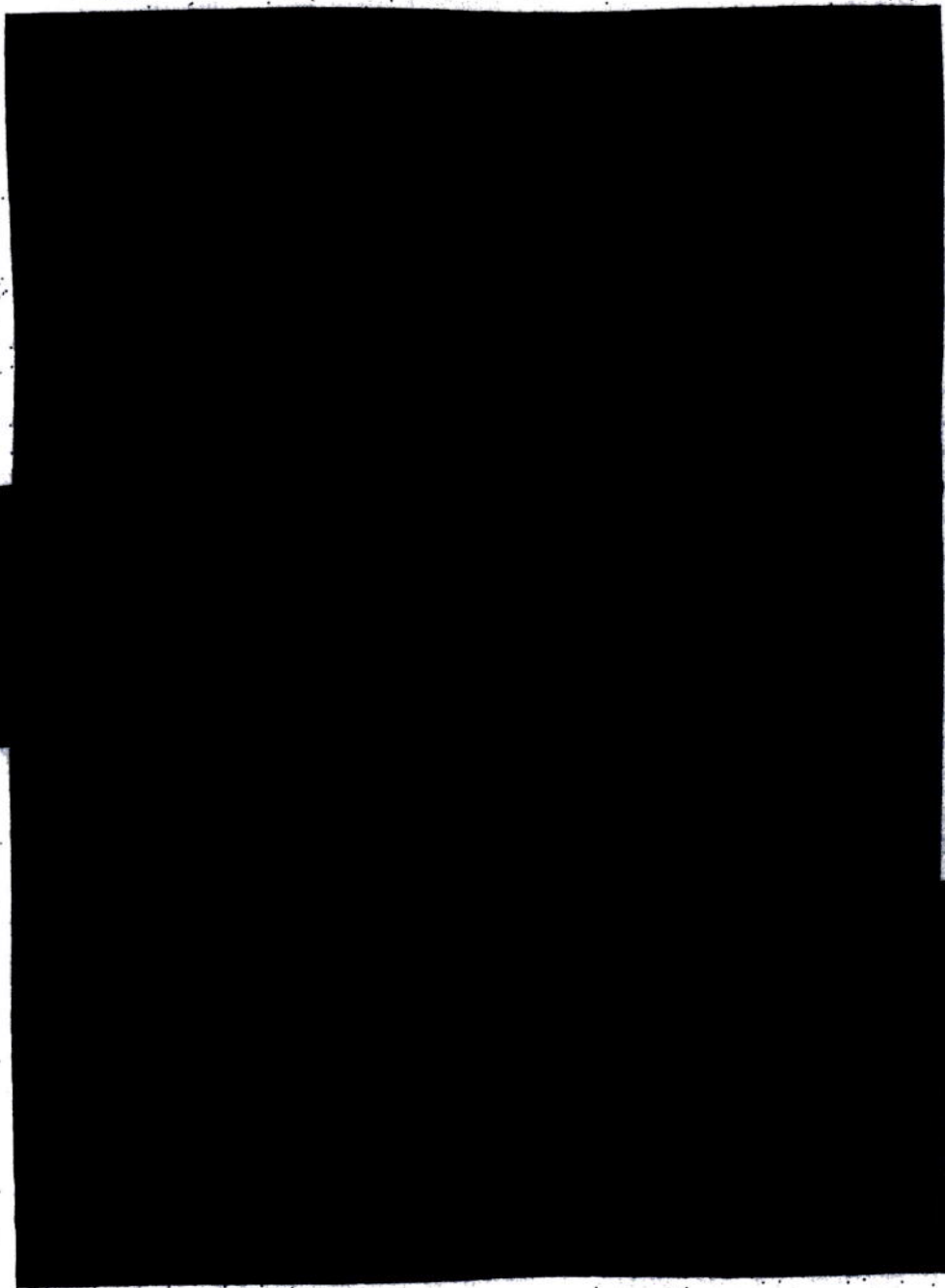
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JS Appeal DIF 3.3(b)(6)
OSD Appeal 3.3(b)(5)(G)



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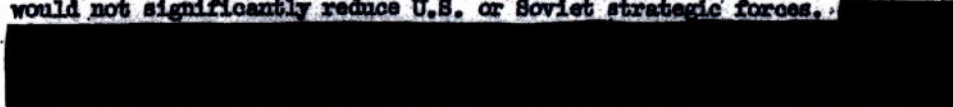
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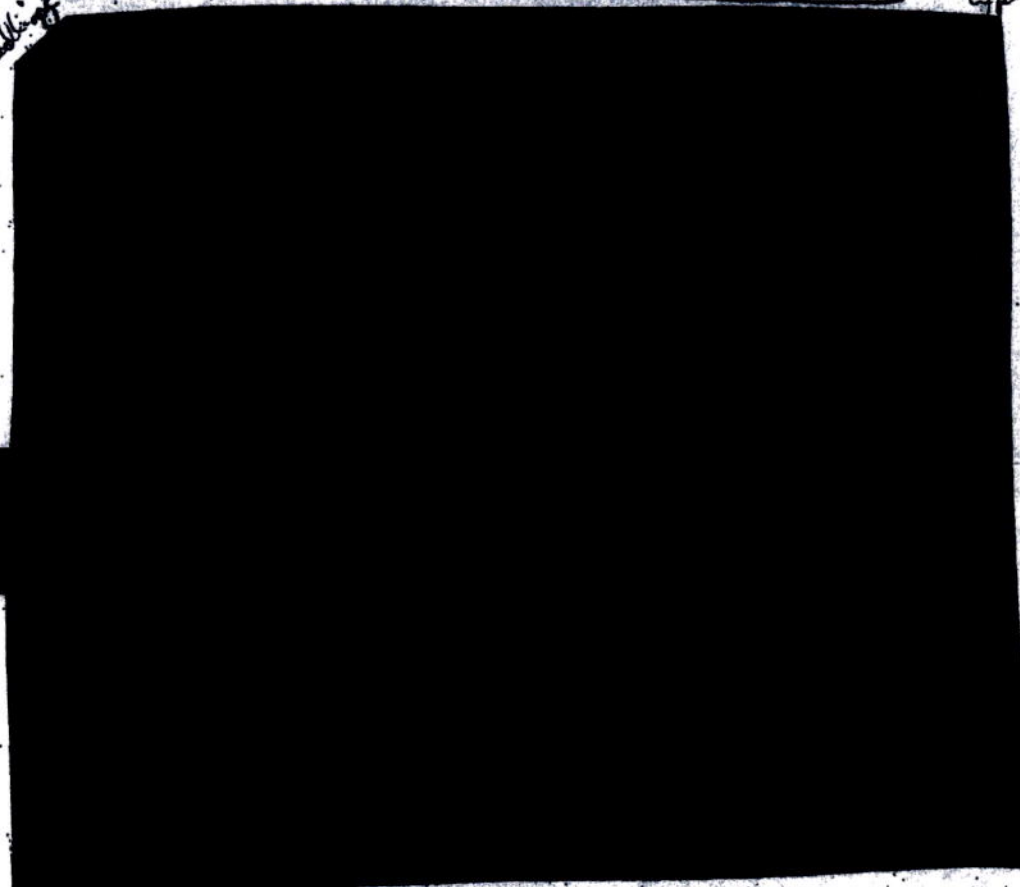
C. The Size of Flexible Response Options

*for a
issue*
If it is decided to increase U.S. flexibility for employment of strategic nuclear weapons, a further decision will eventually be needed as to the upper limit on the size of such attack options.

The studies of strategic flexible responses conducted to date by various agencies have primarily focused on small attack options which would not significantly reduce U.S. or Soviet strategic forces.



Provision of greater flexibility could involve only a minor change in current planning and targeting concepts and be confined to very small attack options. Certainly, if greater flexibility is to be provided, it would be necessary to start modestly for political and economic reasons.



*Not a
domestic handling
of longer
option 1.*

*~?
Cyber*

JS Appeal DIF 3.30.61
OSD Appeal 3.30.61(6)

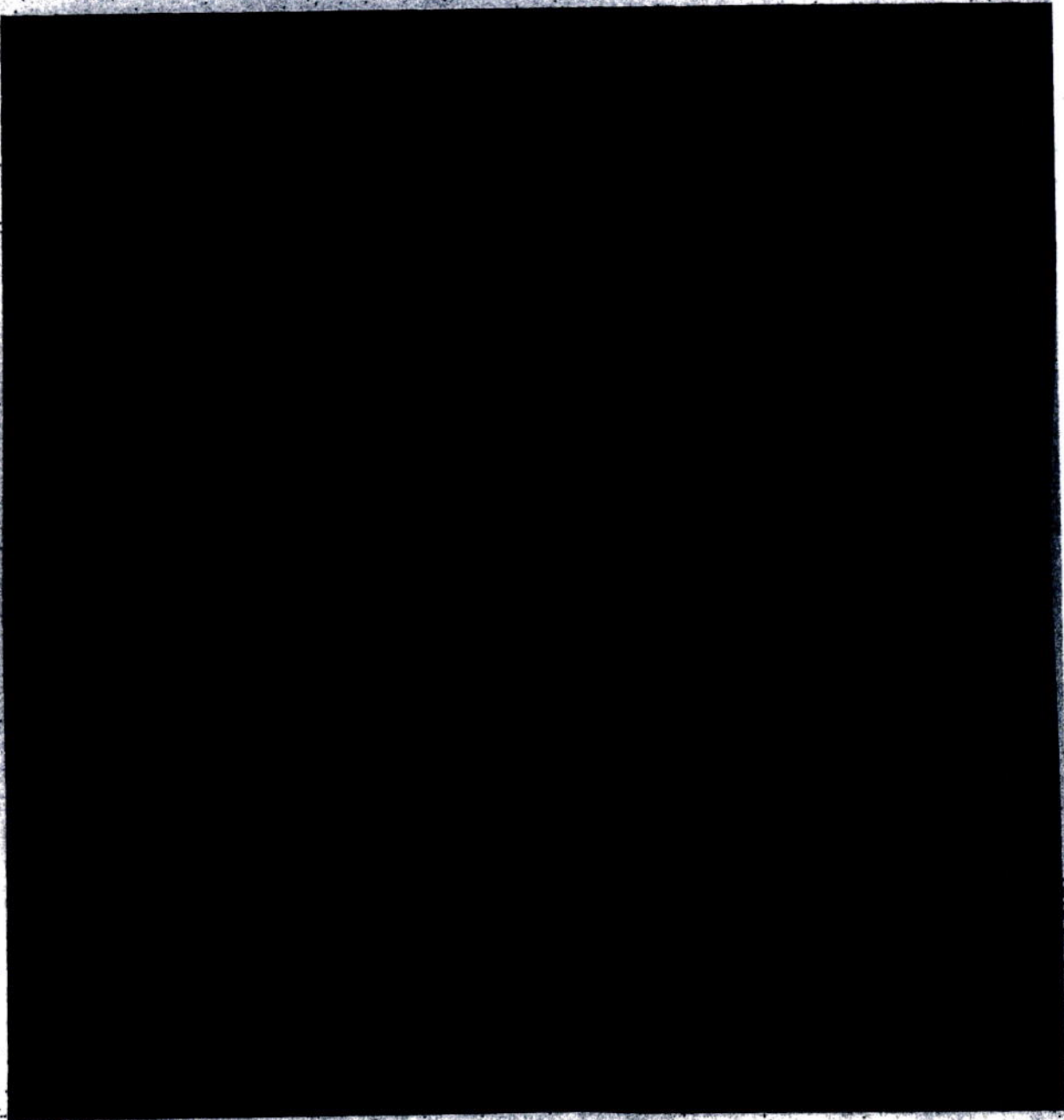
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D. Role of Tactical Nuclear and Conventional Forces.



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OSD Appeal 3.3(b)(5)(6), JS Appeal DIF 3.3(b)(5)(6) - Section 6.2(a)

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JS Appeal OIF 3.3(b)(6)
OSO Appeal 3.3(b)(5)(i)(g)

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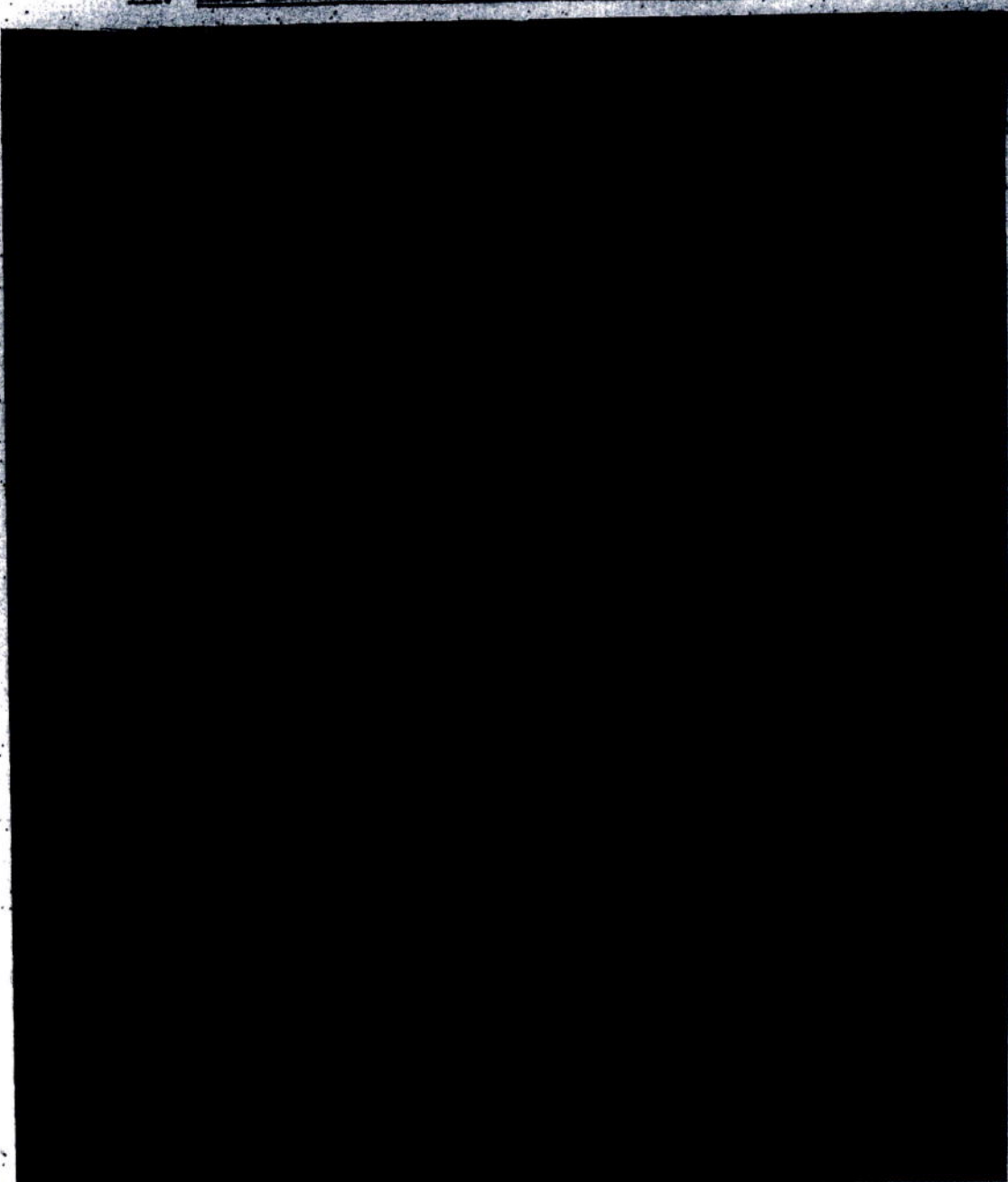
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III. Risks Associated With Flexible Response Options

OSD Appeal 3.3(b)(5)(6); JS Appeal DIF 3.3(b)(6); CIA Appeal 3.3(b)(1)

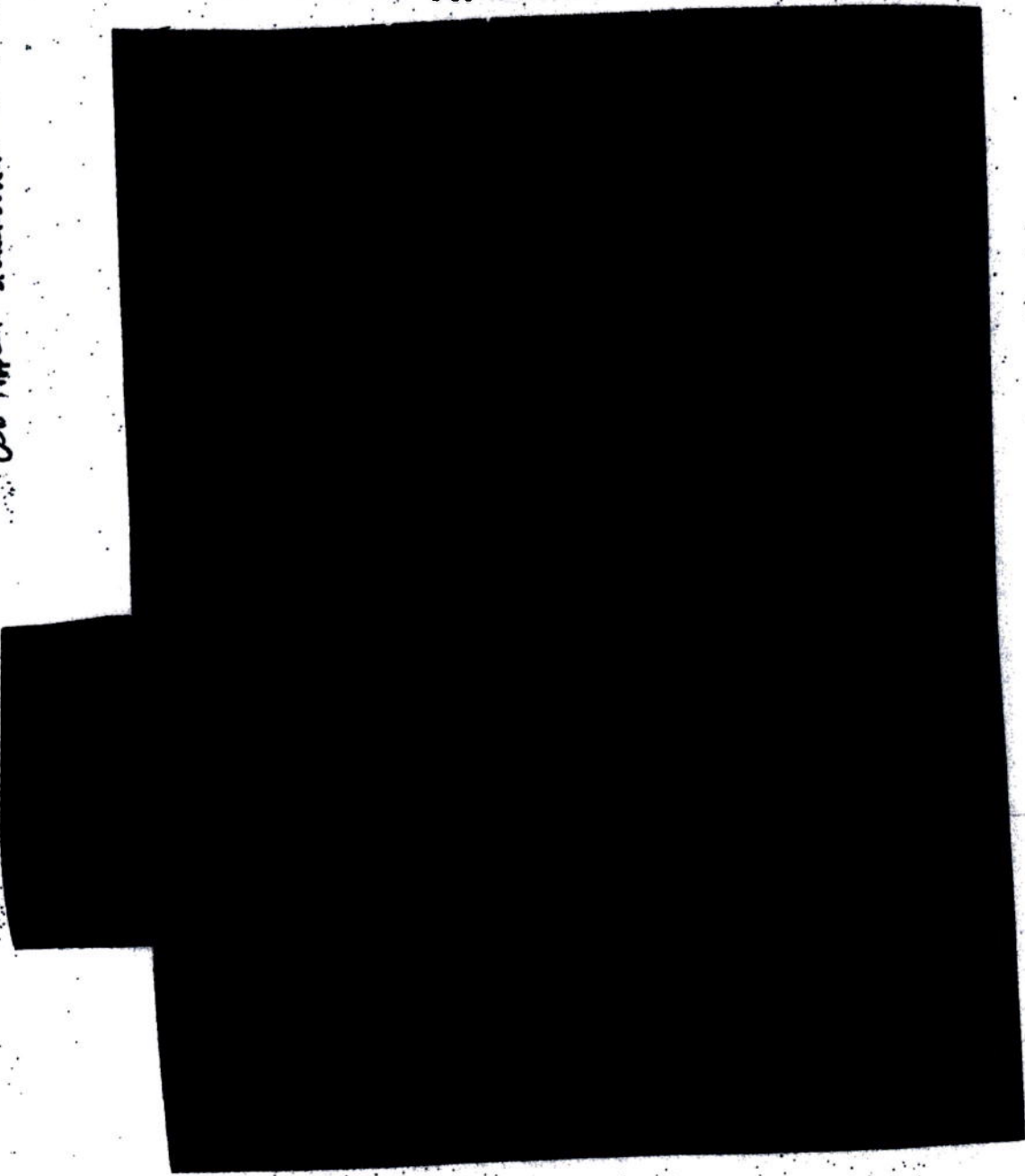


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OSD Appeal 3.3(b)(5)(6)(8)



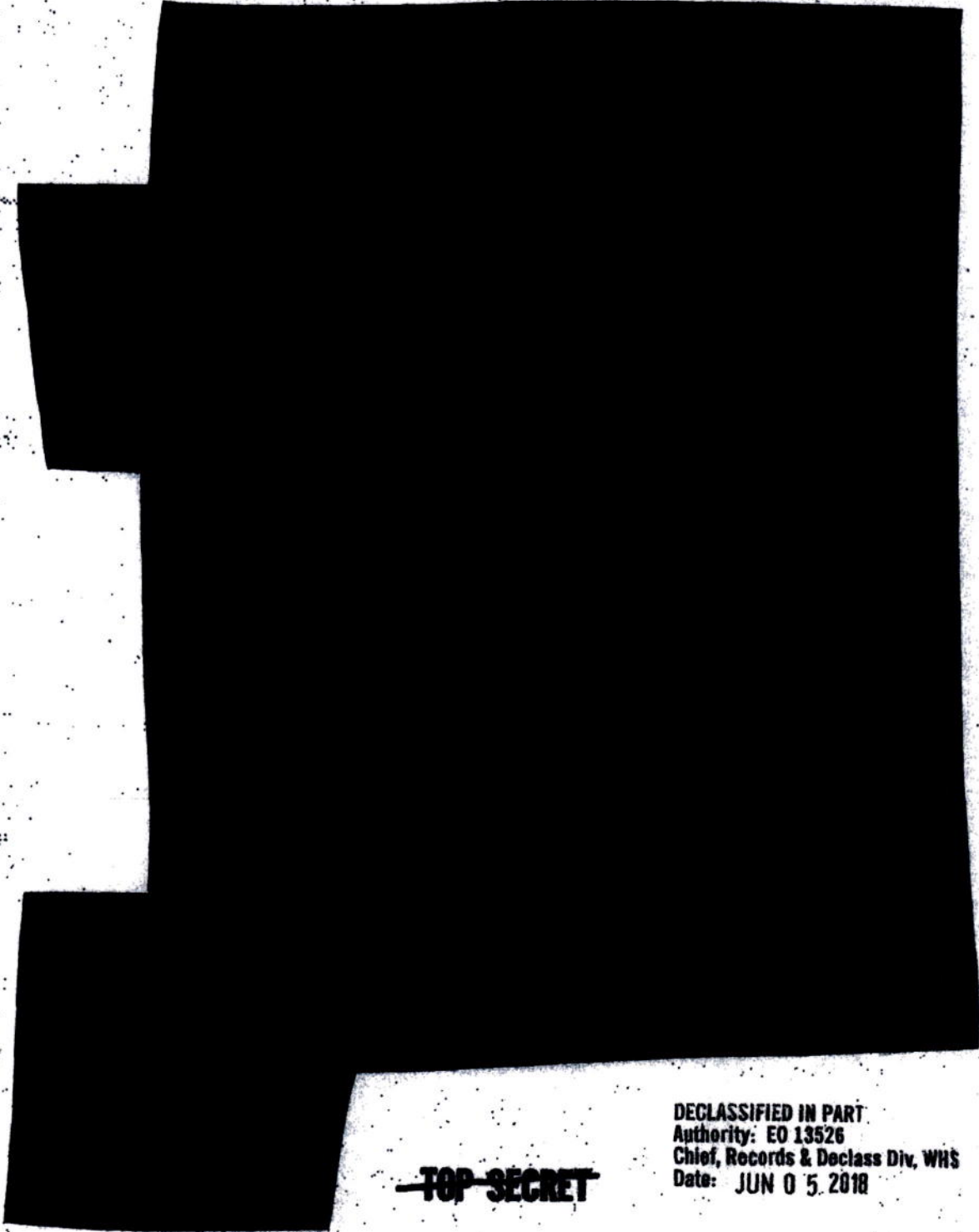
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JS Appeal OIF 3.3(b)(6)
OSD Appeal 3.3(b)(5)(a)(8)



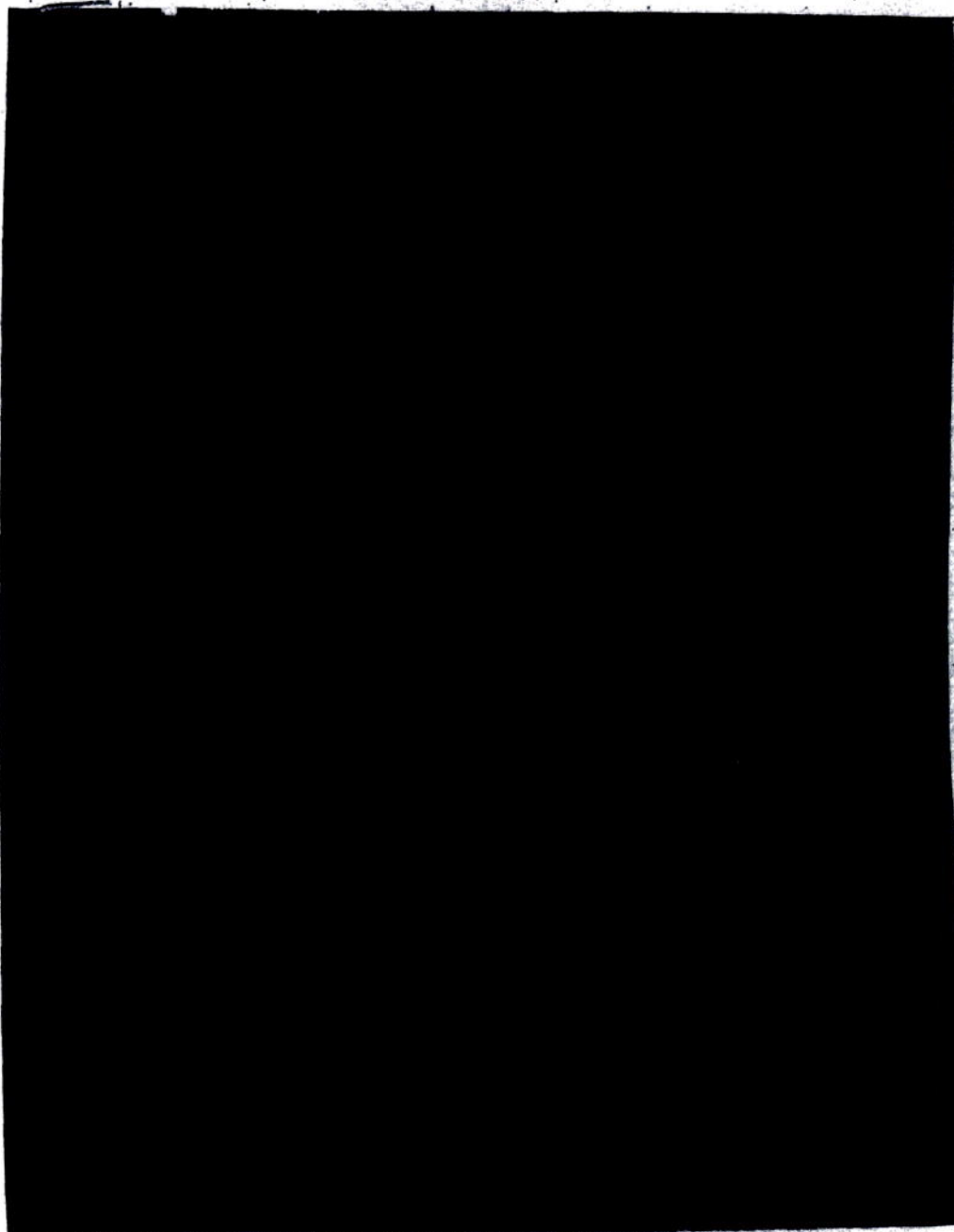
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JS Appeal OIF 3.3(b)(6)
OSD Appeal 3.3(b)(6)(g)



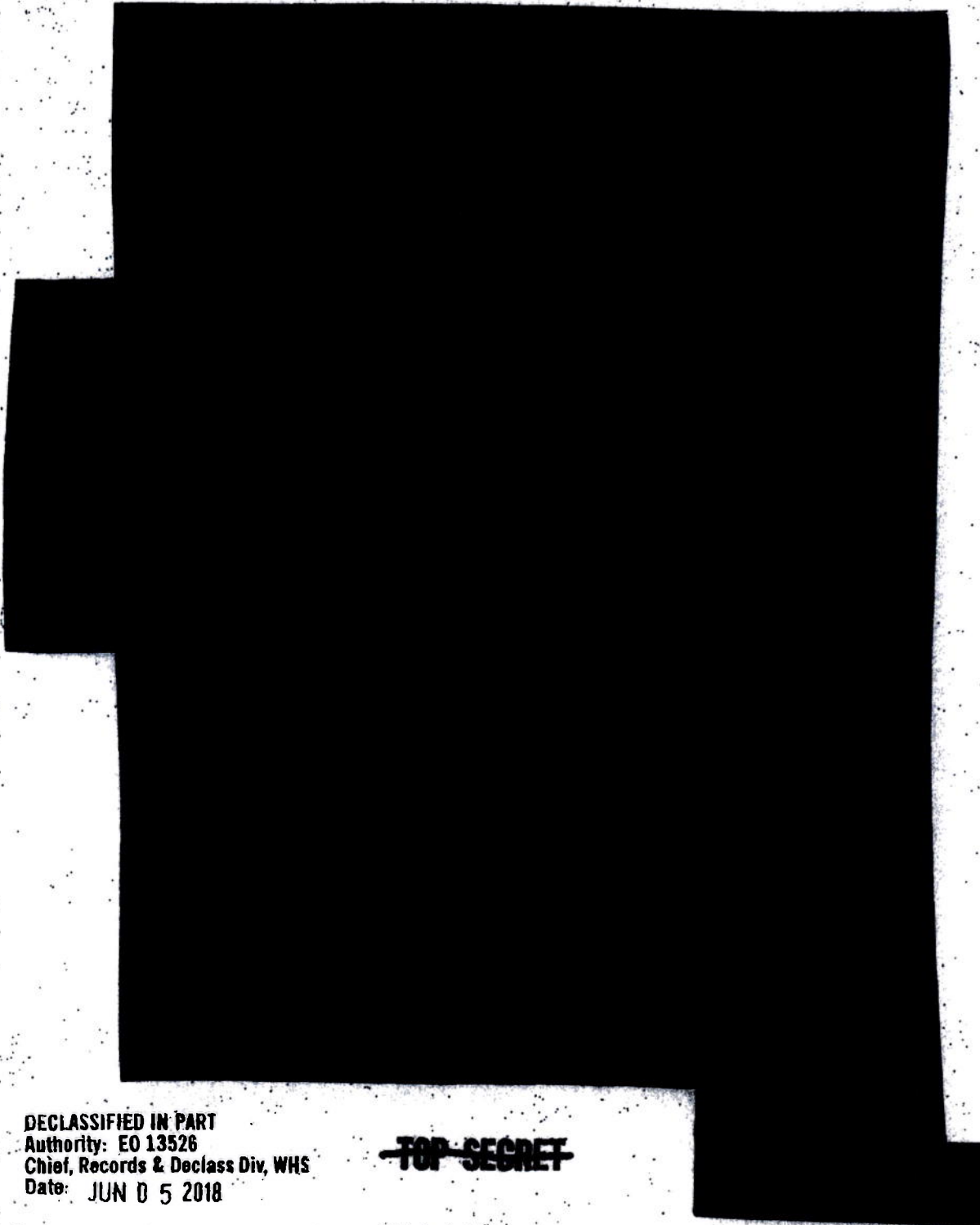
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JS Appeal OIF 3.3(b)(6)
OSD Appeal 3.3(b)(5)(8)



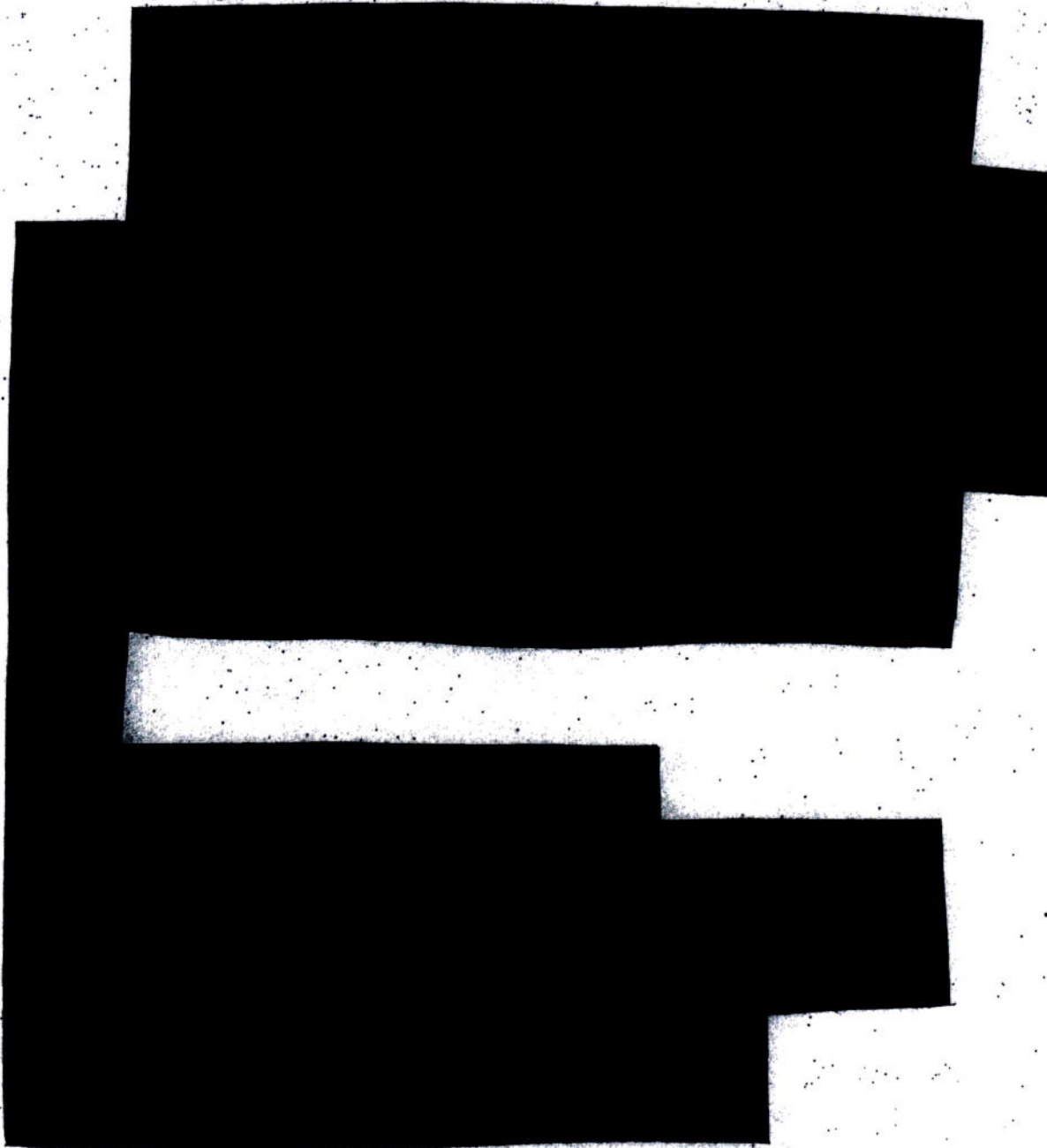
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JS Appeal OIF 330(6)
OSD Appeal 330(6)(8)



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TS Appeal DIF 3.3(b)(6)
OSD Appeal 3.3(b)(5)(b)(6)



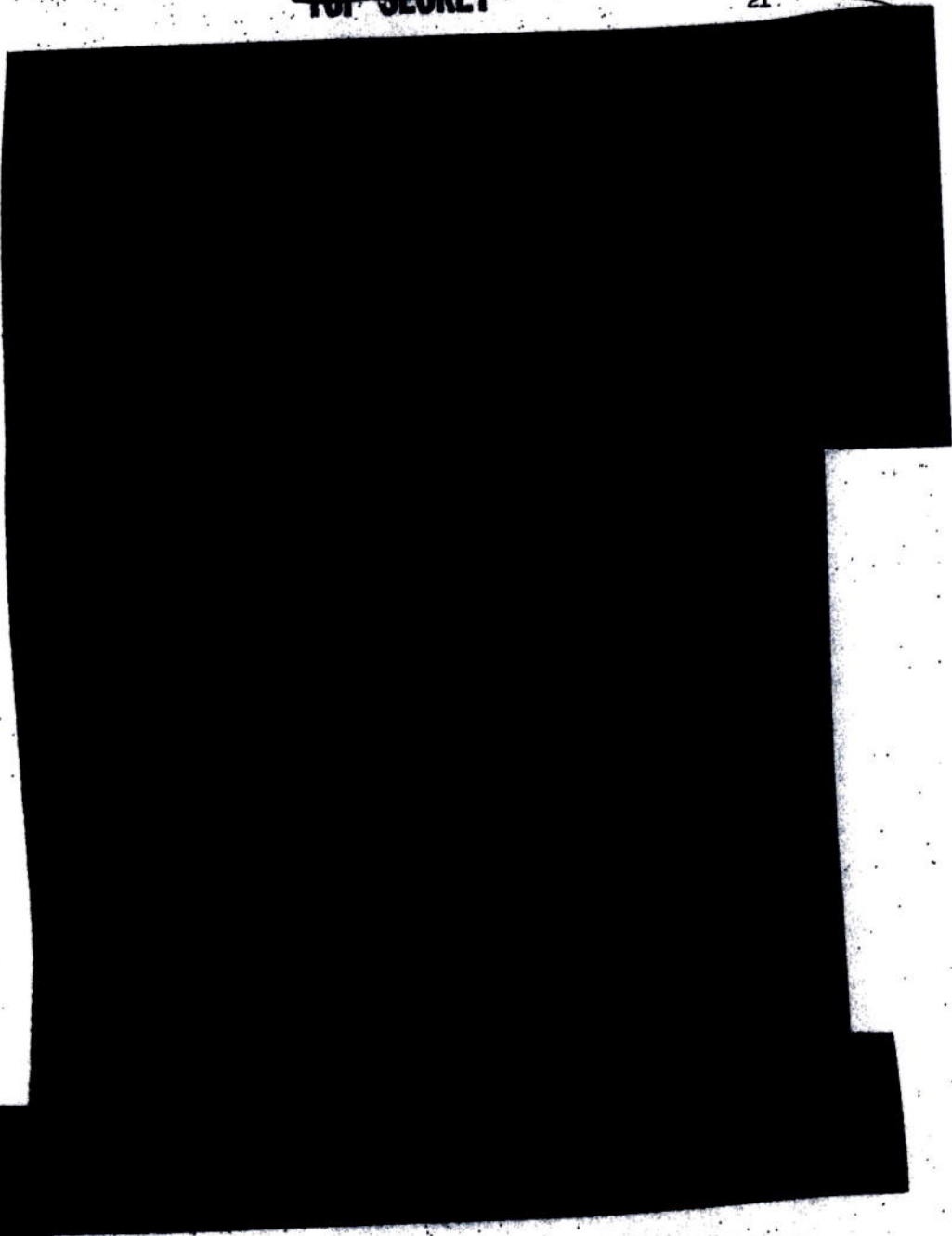
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OSD Appeal 3.3(b)(6)(8)



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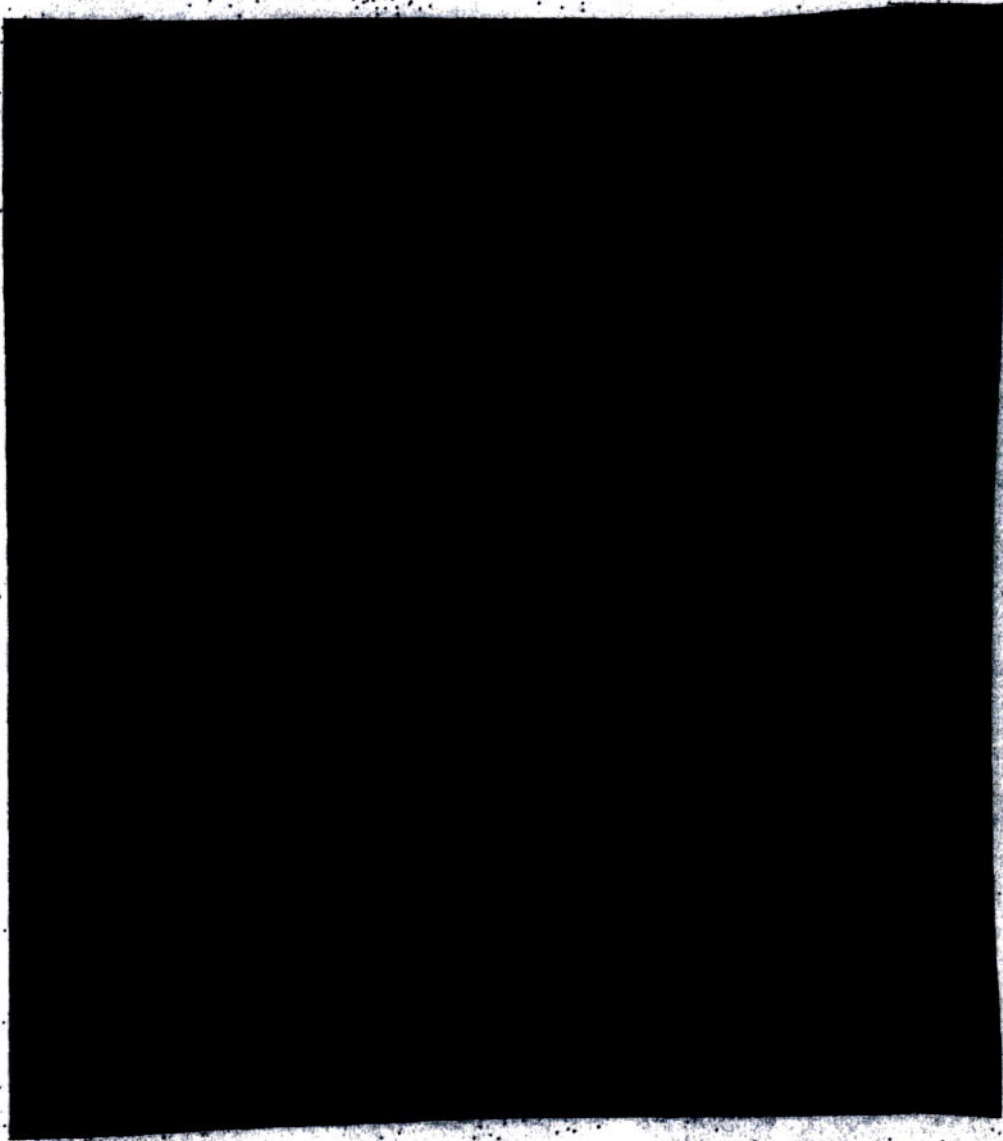
JS Appeal OIF 3.3(1)(7)(8) + Section 6.2(a)
OSO Appeal 3.3(1)(5)(7)(8) + Section 6.2(a)

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-- Systems to assess the results of U.S. strikes and provide this information to the President. Post-strike damage assessment is discussed in Section IV.B and in Annex B (limited distribution).

-- Communications between the President and the Soviet government including the Washington-Moscow direct communications link (the "hot-line").



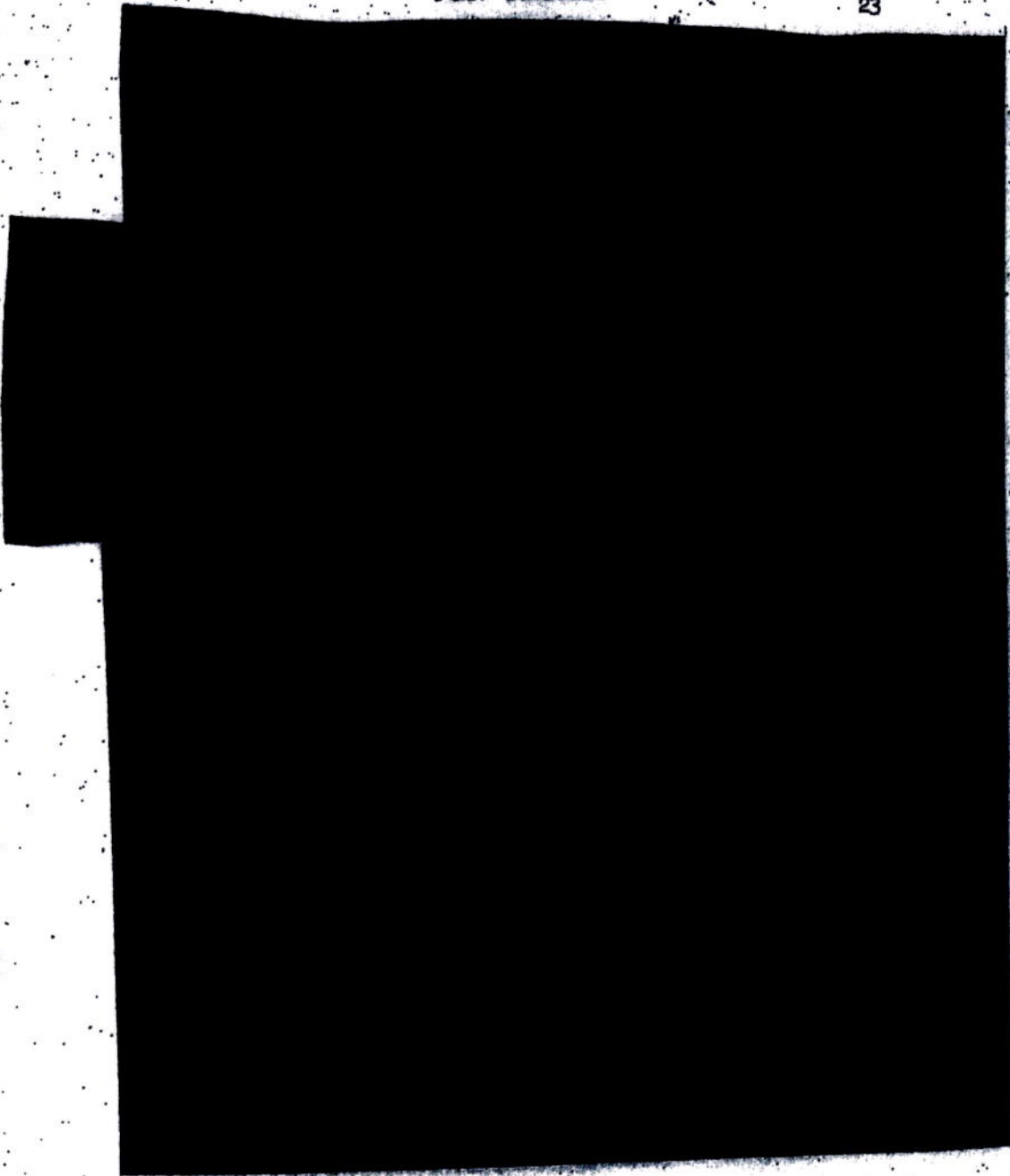
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IS Appeal OIF 3.30.67
OS Appeal 3.30.67



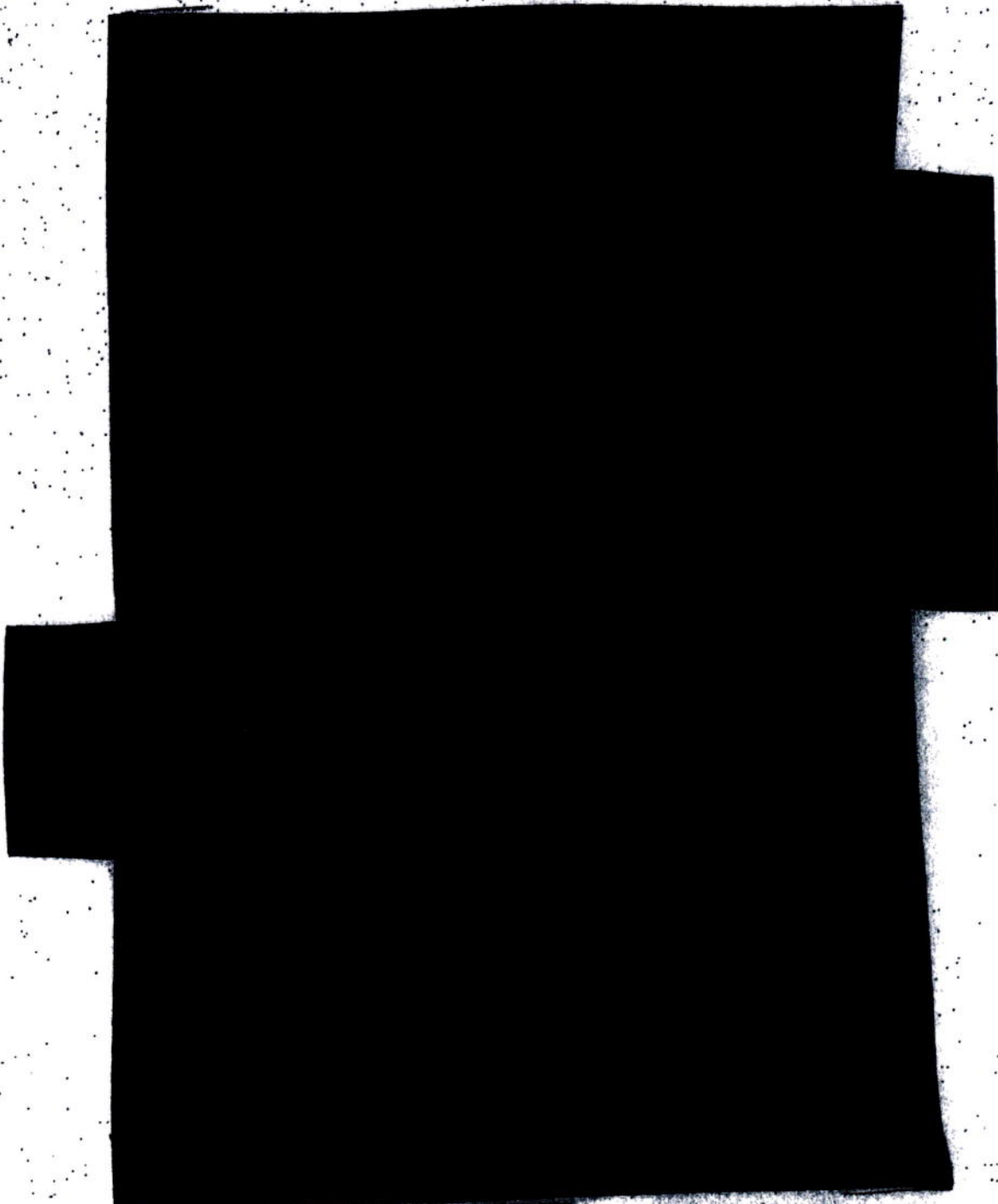
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JS Appeal OIF 3.3(b)(6)
OSD Appeal 3.3(b)(8)



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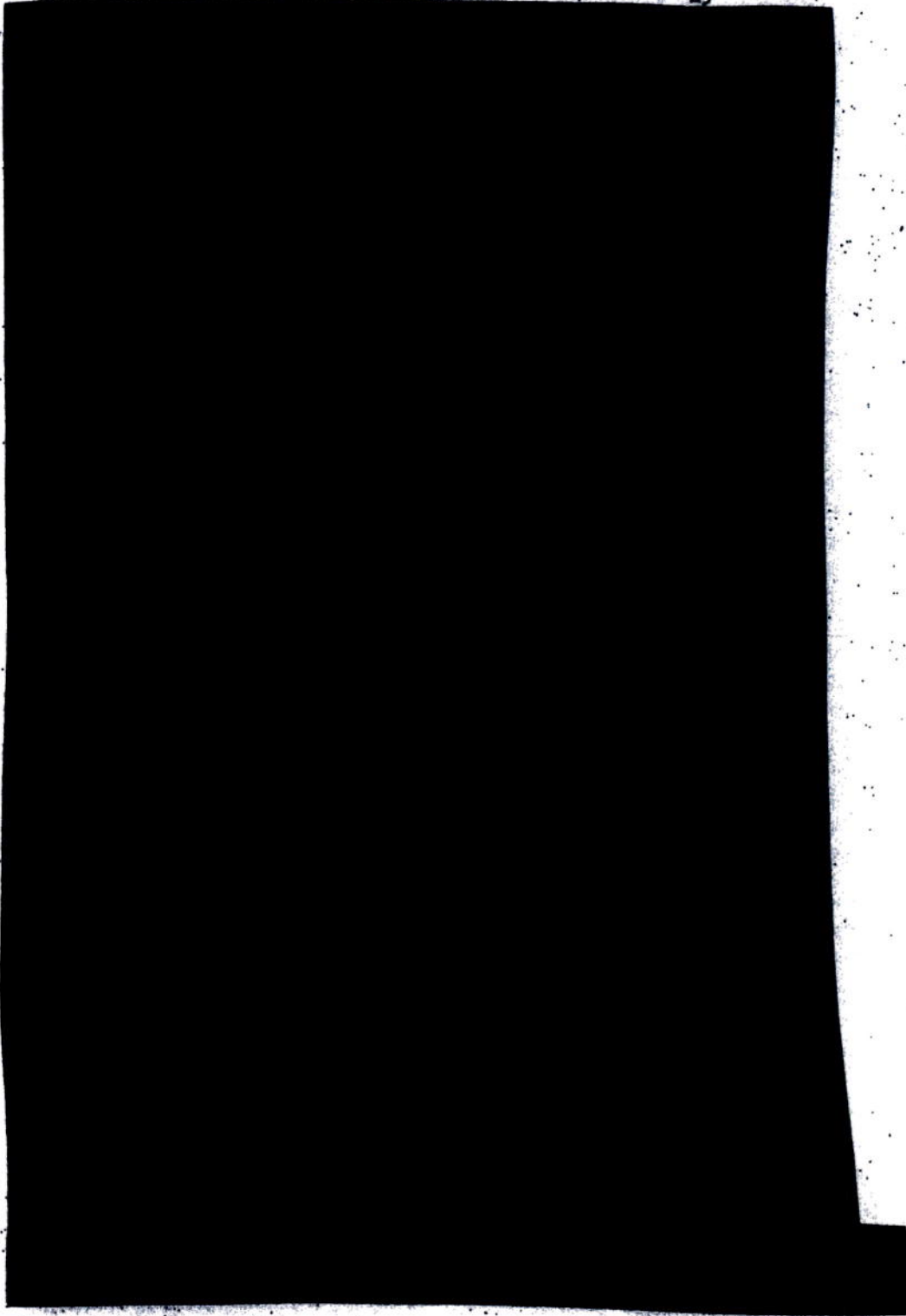
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OSD Appeal 3.3(b)(6)

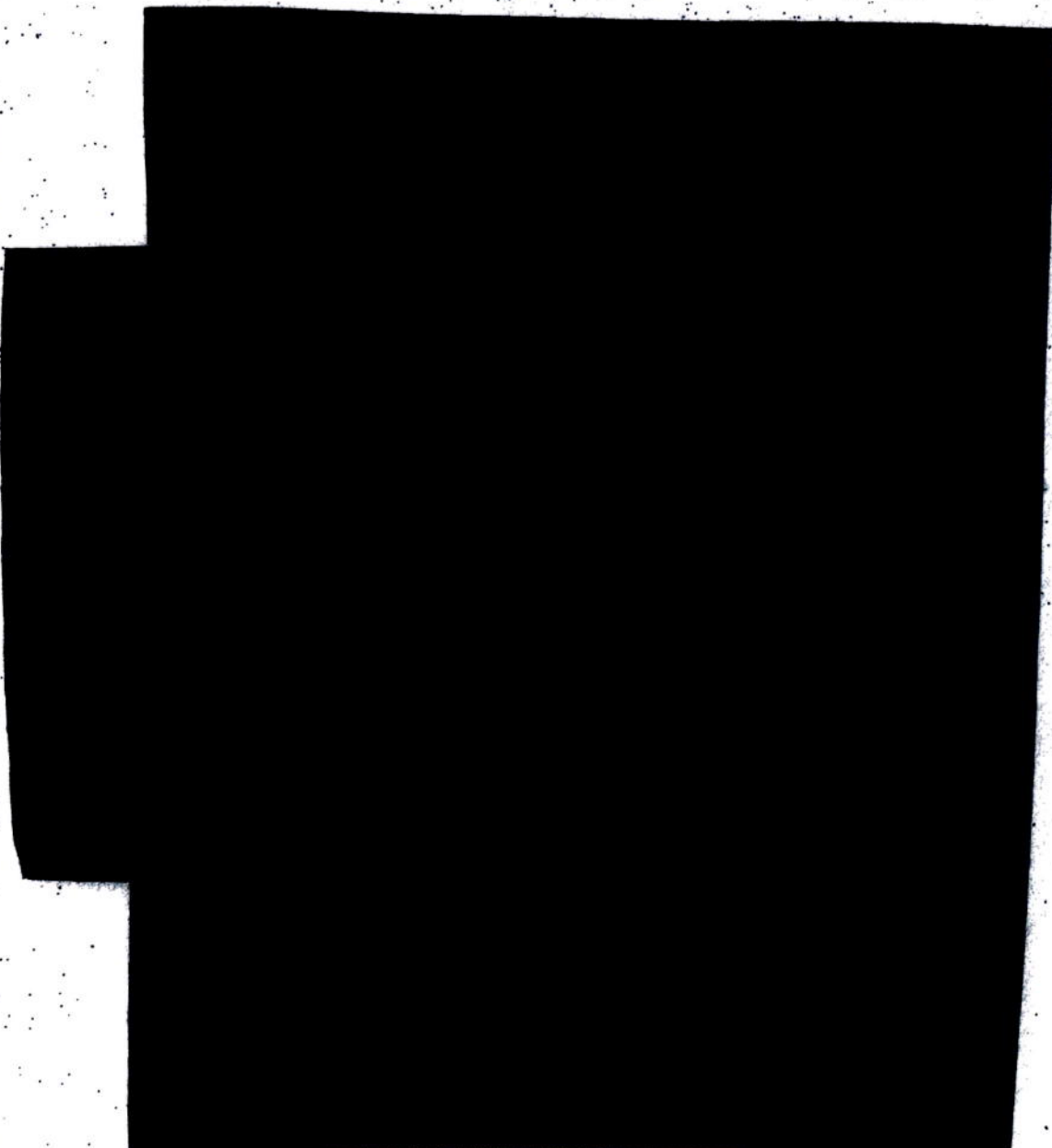
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JS Appeal DIP 3.3.16.15
OSD Appeal 3.3.16.15



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JS Appeal OIF 3.3(b)(5)
OSD Appeal 3.3(b)(4)(5)

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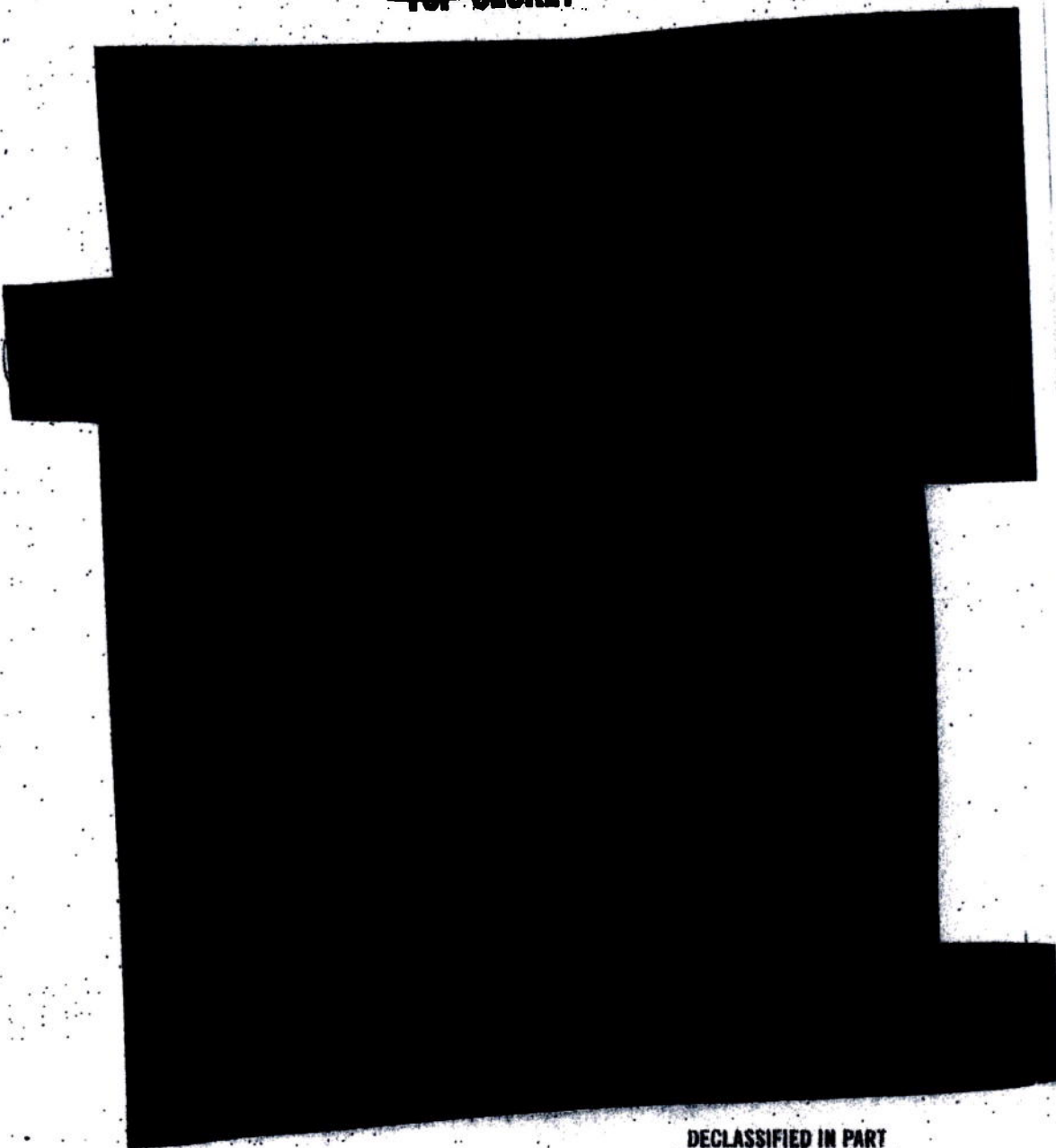
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JS Appeal DIF 3.3b(6)
OSD Appeal 3.3b(5)(g)

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JS Appeal OIF 3.3(b)(6)
050 Appeal 3.3(b)(5)(8)

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E. Dedicated Force for Strategic Flexible Responses

A dedicated subset of strategic offensive forces for flexible responses would have the following benefits:

-- Special tests and maintenance procedures which might be too costly for force-wide use could be employed to ensure high reliability of individual weapons, reducing the chance of mission failure because of equipment malfunctions.

-- Personnel manning this dedicated force could be specially trained in flexible response plans and procedures, reducing the risk of mission failure, accidental or premature launch, or employment on the wrong targets because of personnel errors.

-- Special payloads configured for flexible responses to minimize collateral deaths from blast and fallout could be fitted on a dedicated force.

-- Systems for rapid retargeting could be provided to a small dedicated force at much less cost than deploying such systems throughout all of the strategic offensive forces.

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JS Area-1 U.L.F. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15
OSD Area-1 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15

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JS Appeal OIF 3.3(b)(6)
OSD Appeal 3.3(b)(6)(f) + Section 6.2(a)

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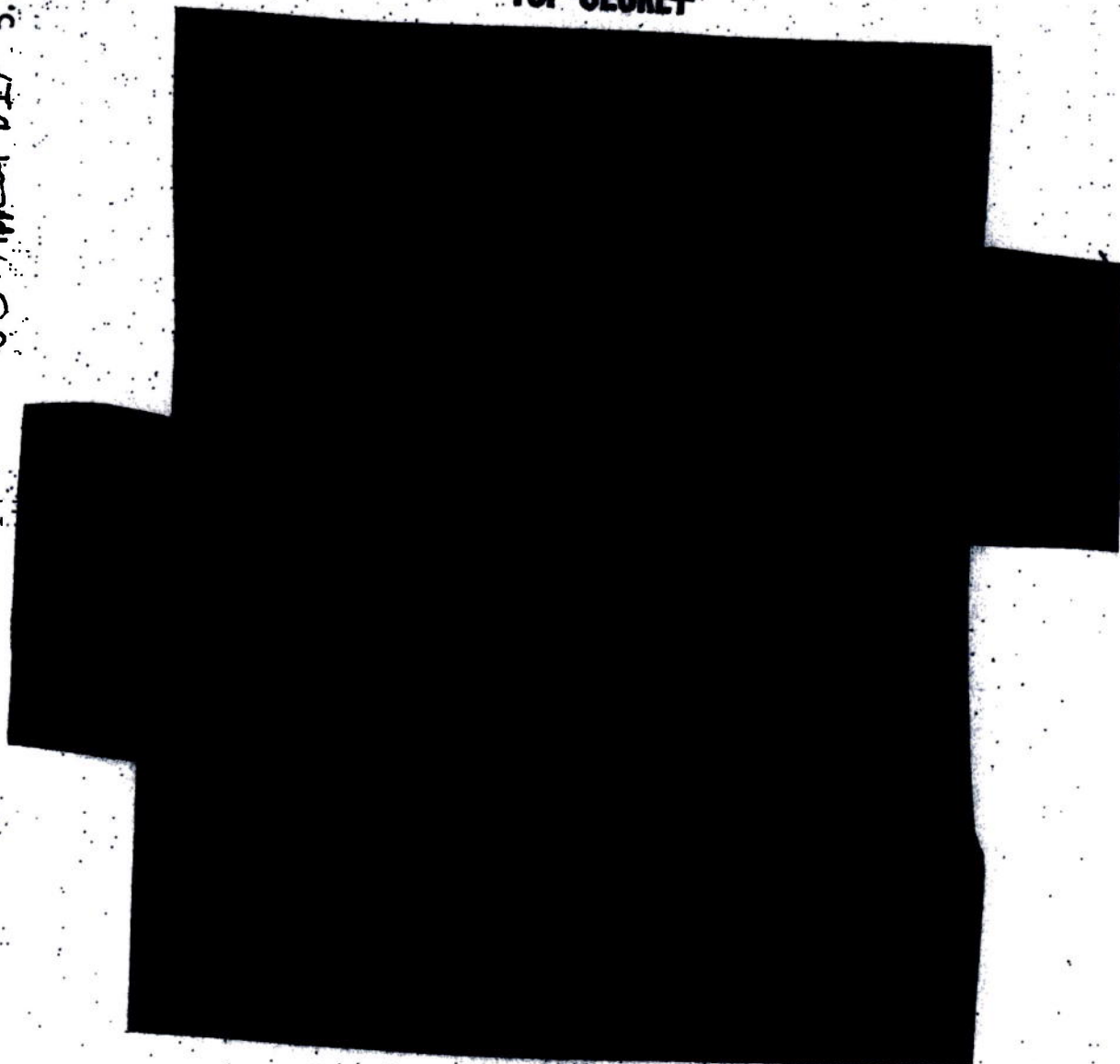
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RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

JS Appeal OIF 3.3616)

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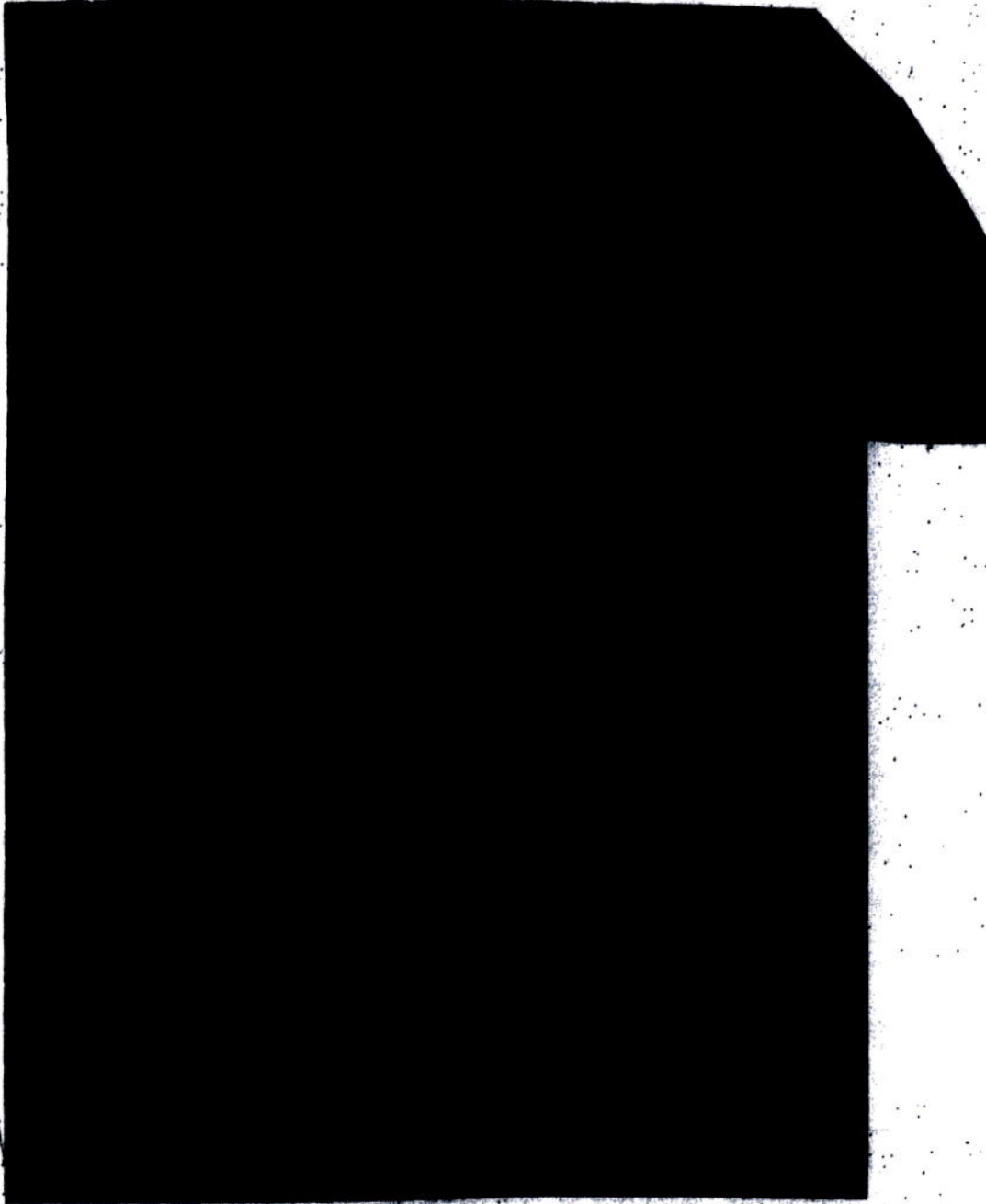
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TS Appeal OIF 3.3(b)(6)
OSD Appeal 3.3(b)(2)(H)(5)



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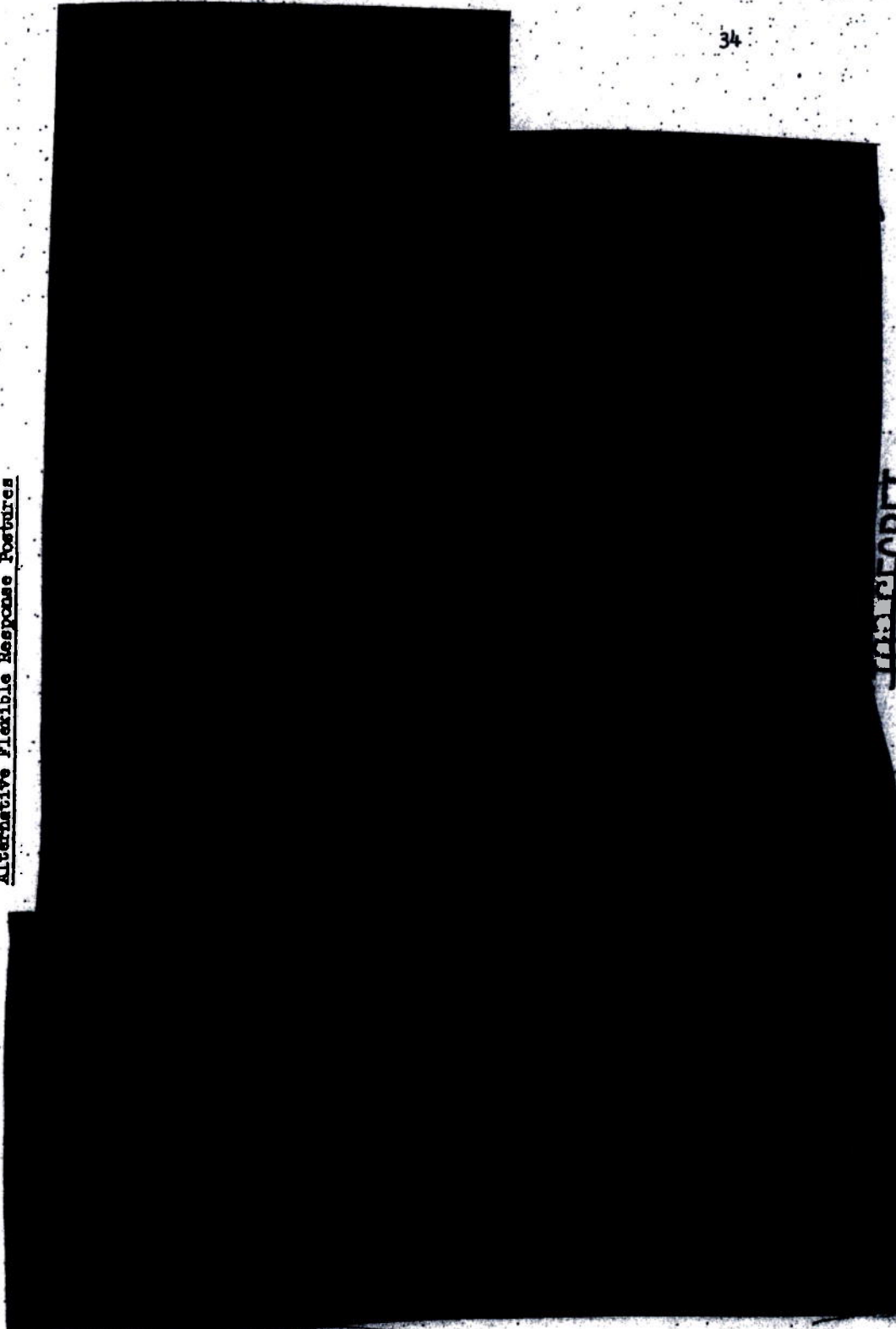
JS Appeal DIF 3,3(b)(6)
OSD Appeal 3,3(b)(2)(4)(5)

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Table 5

Alternative Flexible Response Postures



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J5 Appeal OIF 3.30.16
OSD Appeal 3.30.16



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Annex A

Soviet Views on and Capabilities for
Limited Nuclear Warfare

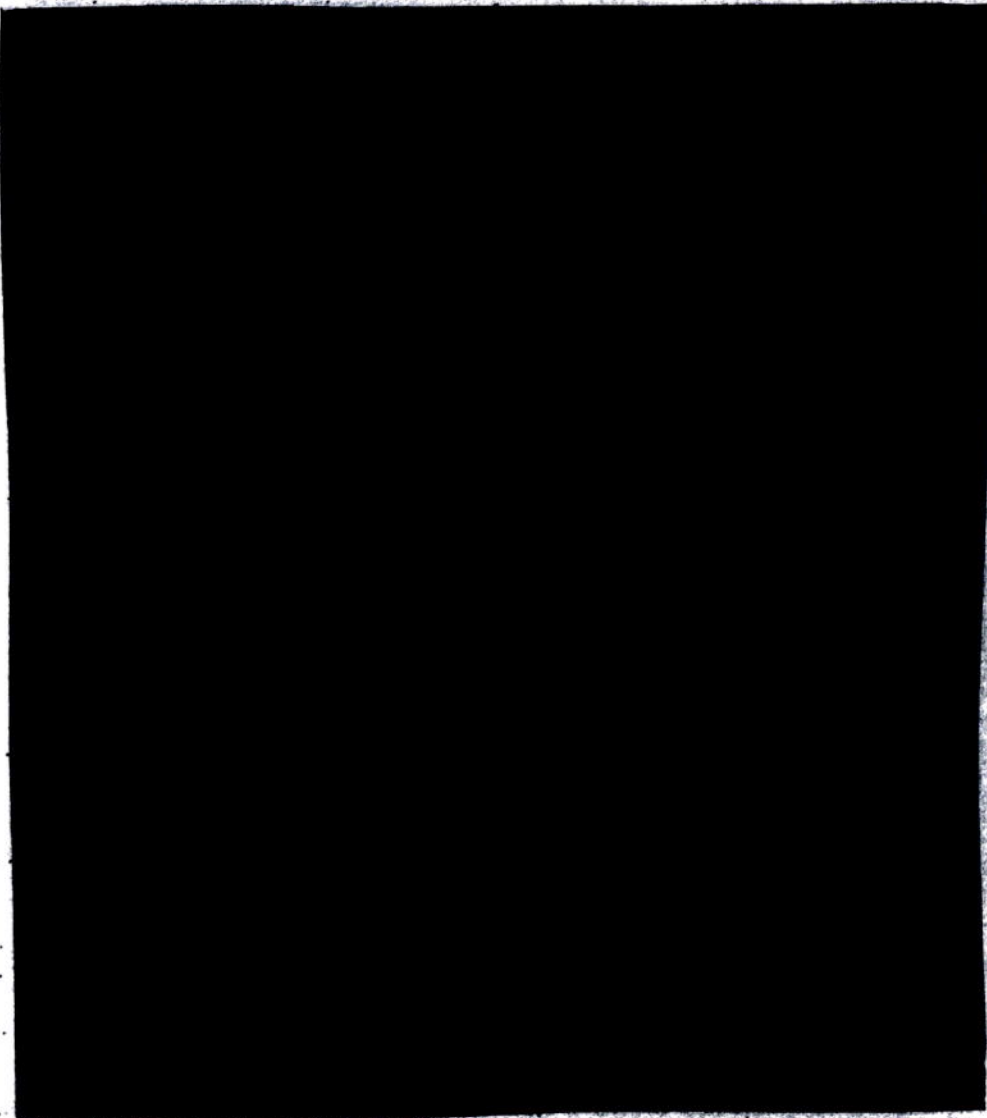
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Annex A

Soviet Views on and Capabilities for
Limited Nuclear Warfare



JS Appeal 01F 3.30X(6)
CIA Appeal 3.30X(1)

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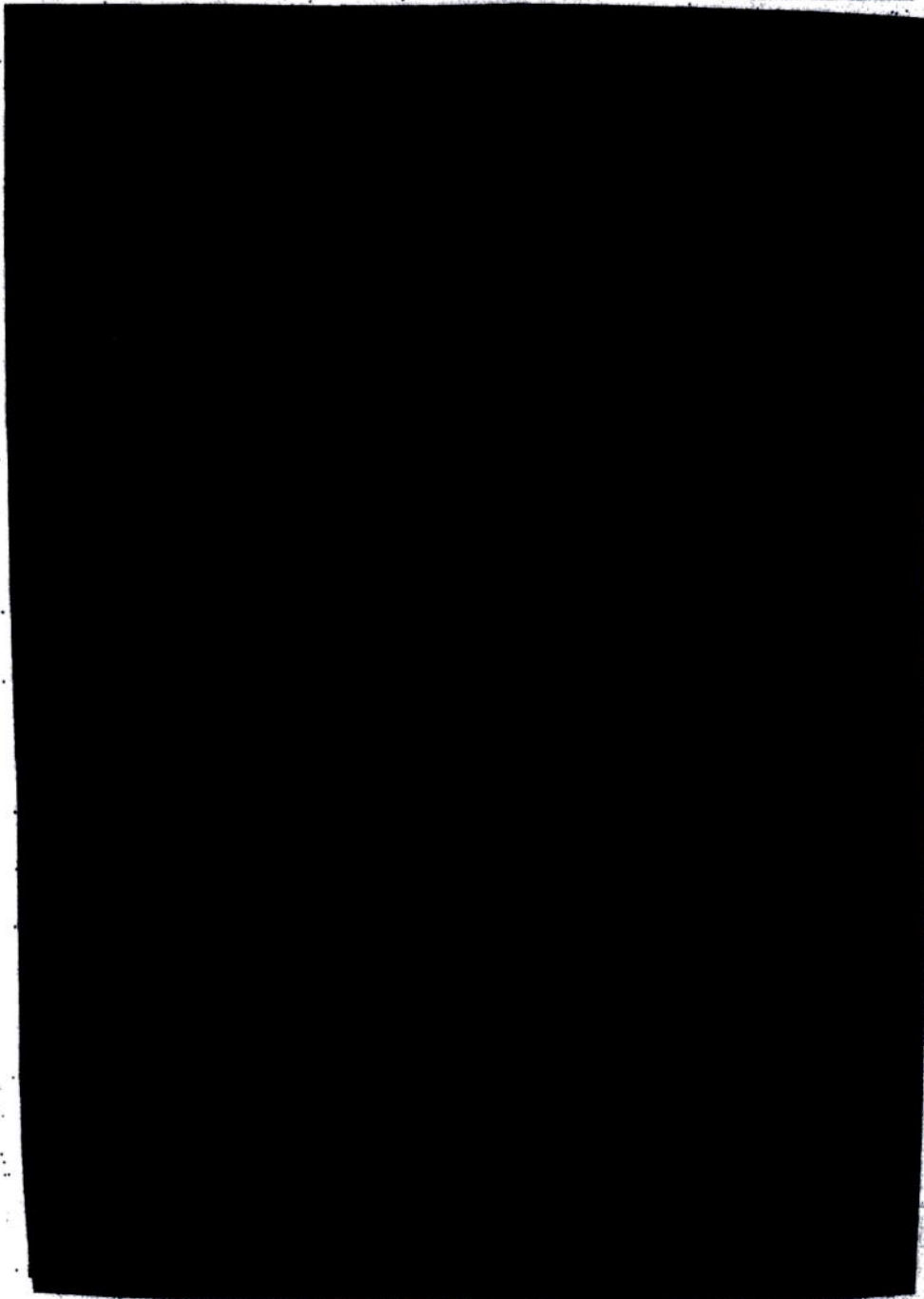
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Annex A -- pg. 2

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JS Appeal OIF 3.3(b)(6)
CIA Appeal 3.3(b)(1)



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Annex A -- pg. 3

JS Appeal DIF 3.3(b)(4)
CIA Appeal 3.3(b)(1)



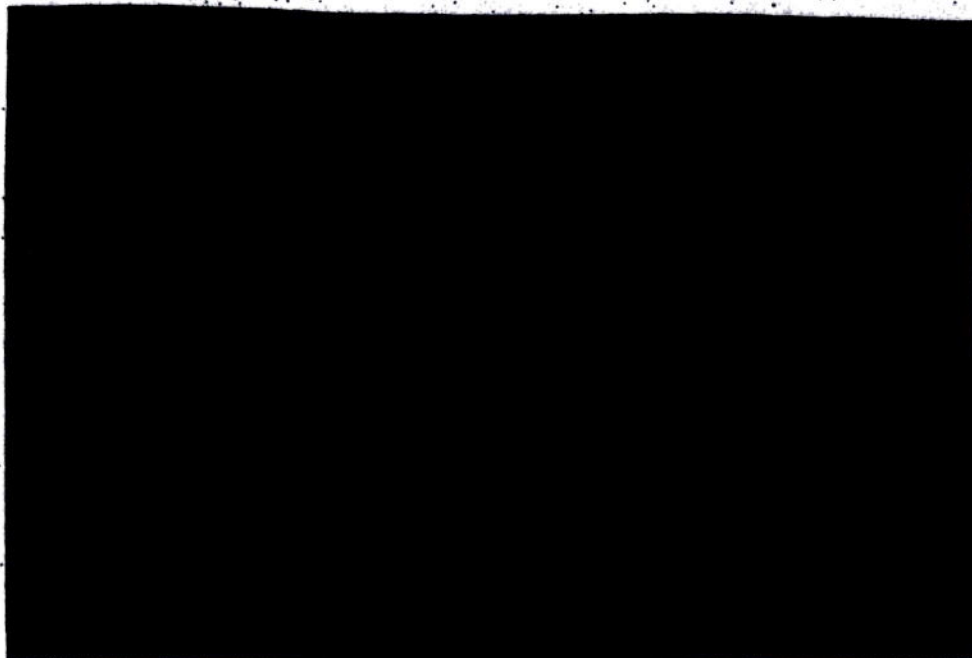
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Annex A -- pg. 4

TS Appeal OIF 3.3(b)(6)
OSD Appeal 3.3(b)(1)



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Annex B

Post-Strike Damage Assessment

~~(limited Distribution)~~

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Annex C

Preliminary Analysis of Requirements
for Missile Accuracy

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JS Appeal OIF 3.3(f)(6), Section 6.2(a)
OSO Appeal 3.3(f)(6), Section 6.2(a)

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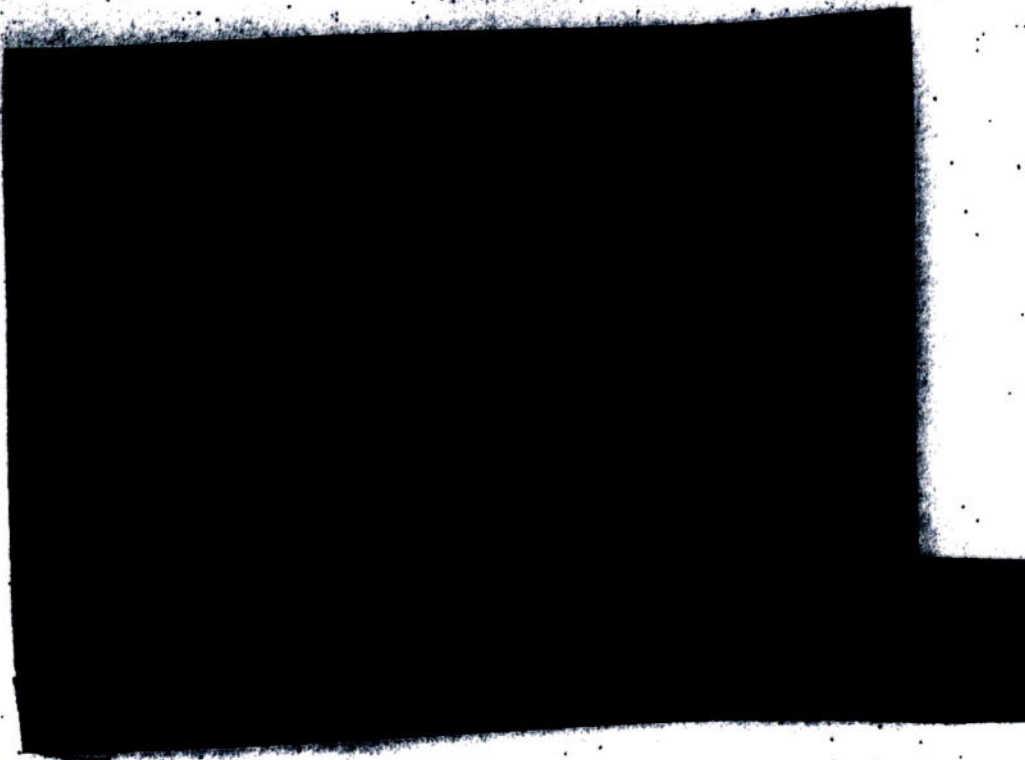
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Annex C, Page 2

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Table C-1

Soviet Collateral Deaths ²
(Millions)



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J.S. Appeal 001 23046)
OSD Appeal 23046(1515)+ Section 6.2(a)

JS Appeal DIF 3.2(a) + Section 6.2(a)
OSD Appeal 3.2(a)(1)(5)(6) + Section 6.2(a)

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7.5
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Number of RVs per Target 1



Office of the Secretary of Defense

Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS

Date: 05 Jun 2018 Authority: EO 13526 + 5 U.S.C. 552

Declassify: _____ Deny in Full: _____

Declassify in Part: X

Reason: 3.2(a)(1)(5)(6) + 6.2(a)

MDR: 14 M 2301-4

DECLASSIFIED IN PART

Authority: EO 13526

Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS

Date: JUN 05 2018

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