



RESEARCH AND
ENGINEERING

~~SECRET~~

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

23 DEC 1981 12 16 7

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

December 1981

#6

*To CWW -
for decision. There
seems to be no security
reasons for withholding
this. Policy
judgments will
come out in any
event, so suggest
we declassify it.*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Report of the Committee on MX Basing - July 1981
(Townes Panel) - DECISION MEMORANDUM

Per the discussion at this morning's staff meeting, reference Congressional interest toward a declassified version of the Townes Panel report, you suggested a "brief summary plus recommended options document" be examined.

The Executive Summary of the Panel report (TAB) does come close to your suggestion; and, if such a release is considered necessary, I would recommend declassifying these 4 1/2 pages, and no more.

I am still of the view that releasing unclassified the full report, which may be, in the main, doable through an individual paragraph-by-paragraph scrub, would be of immense value to the Soviet Union. The Panel report is the result of an all-source review, and is a summary assessment of a selected group of very senior, experienced, defense experts.

As to the question of further shortening the Executive Summary, one would face the risk of short-changing portions in the Executive Summary in current favor of one group or another. Thus, I believe the judgment call is either to release unclassified the Executive Summary as a whole, or maintain our current profile, which is to argue that appropriate input to the Congress has been made through the classified report. I recommend the latter.

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL
Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WRS
Date: MAY 20 2019

Jim Wade
James P. Wade, Jr.
Principal Deputy

- Take necessary steps to release Executive Summary
- Maintain posture that the classified version is appropriate posture
- Other

Attachment

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UPON REMOVAL OF ATTACHMENTS THIS
DOCUMENT BECOMES UNCLASSIFIED

18-M-1855

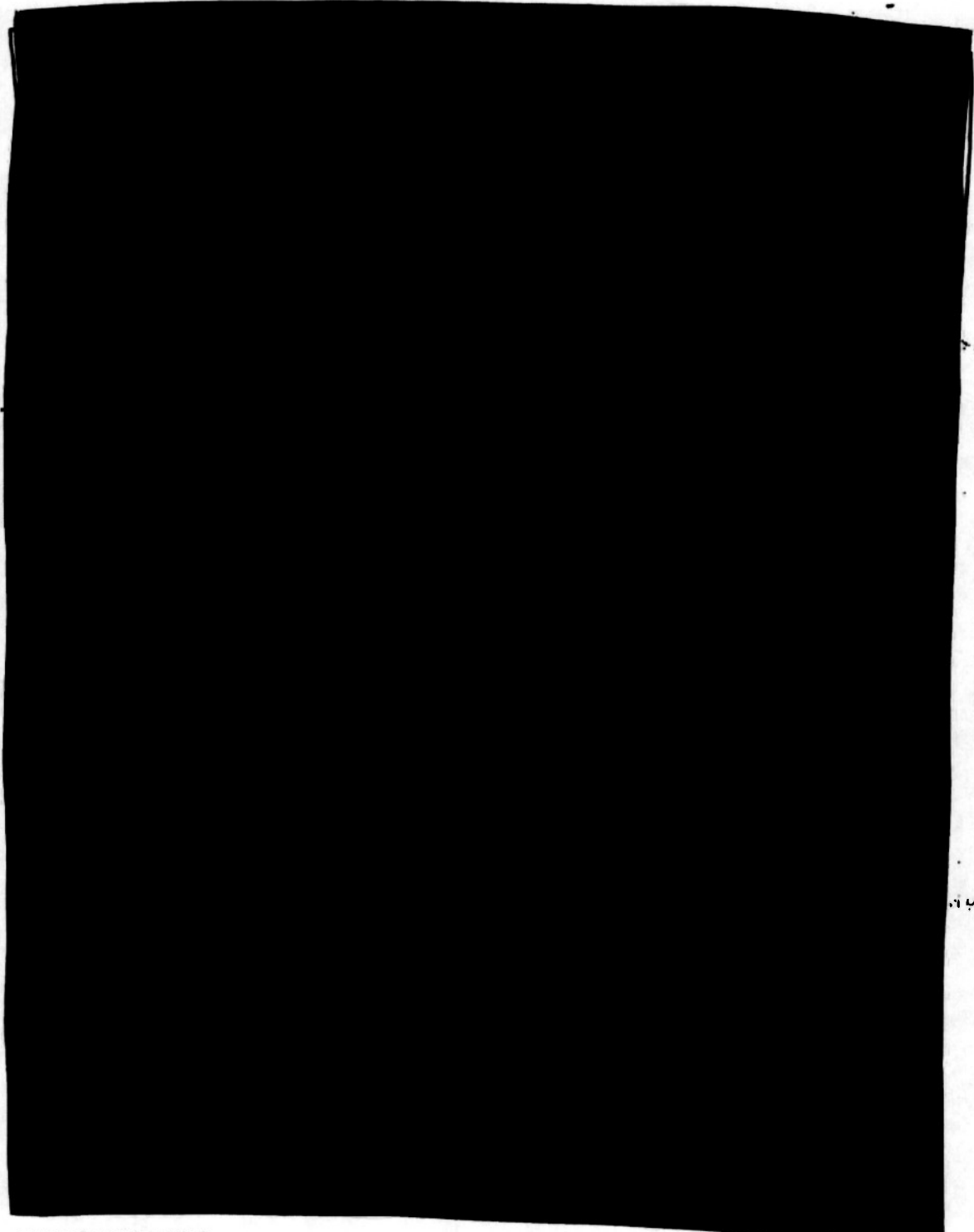
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JS 3.3(b)(5)

~~SECRET FOR DISSEMINATION~~
~~EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE~~
~~CLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY~~

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Office of the Secretary of Defense 5U.S.C. § 552
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
Date: 20 May 2019 Authority: EO 13526
Declassify: _____ Deny in Full: _____
Declassify in Part: X
Reason: 3.3(b)(5)
MDR: 18 -M- 1855

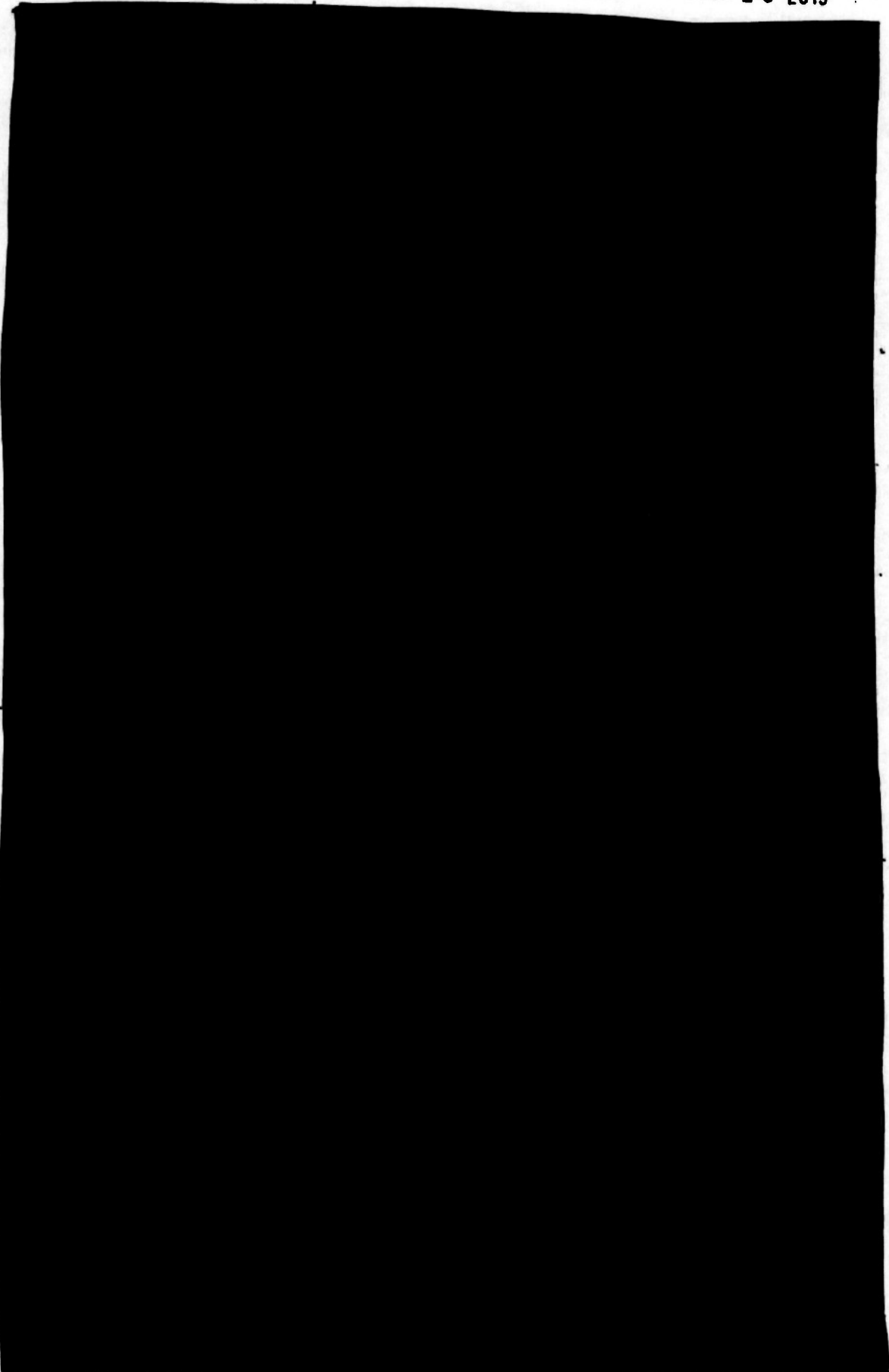
Classified by: _____
Declassify on: _____

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Authority: EO 13526
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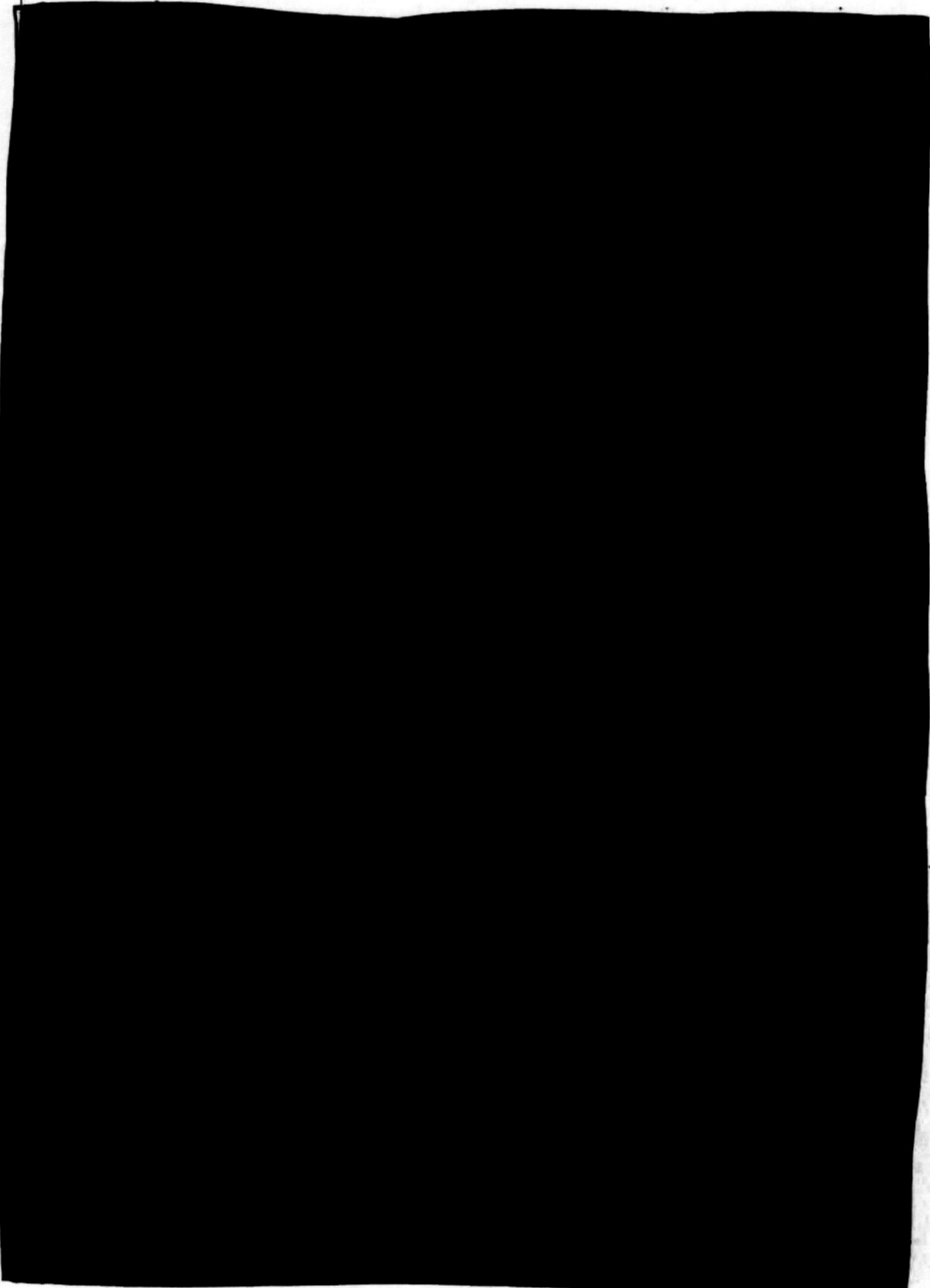
JS 3.3(b)(5)



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JS 3.3 (b)(5)

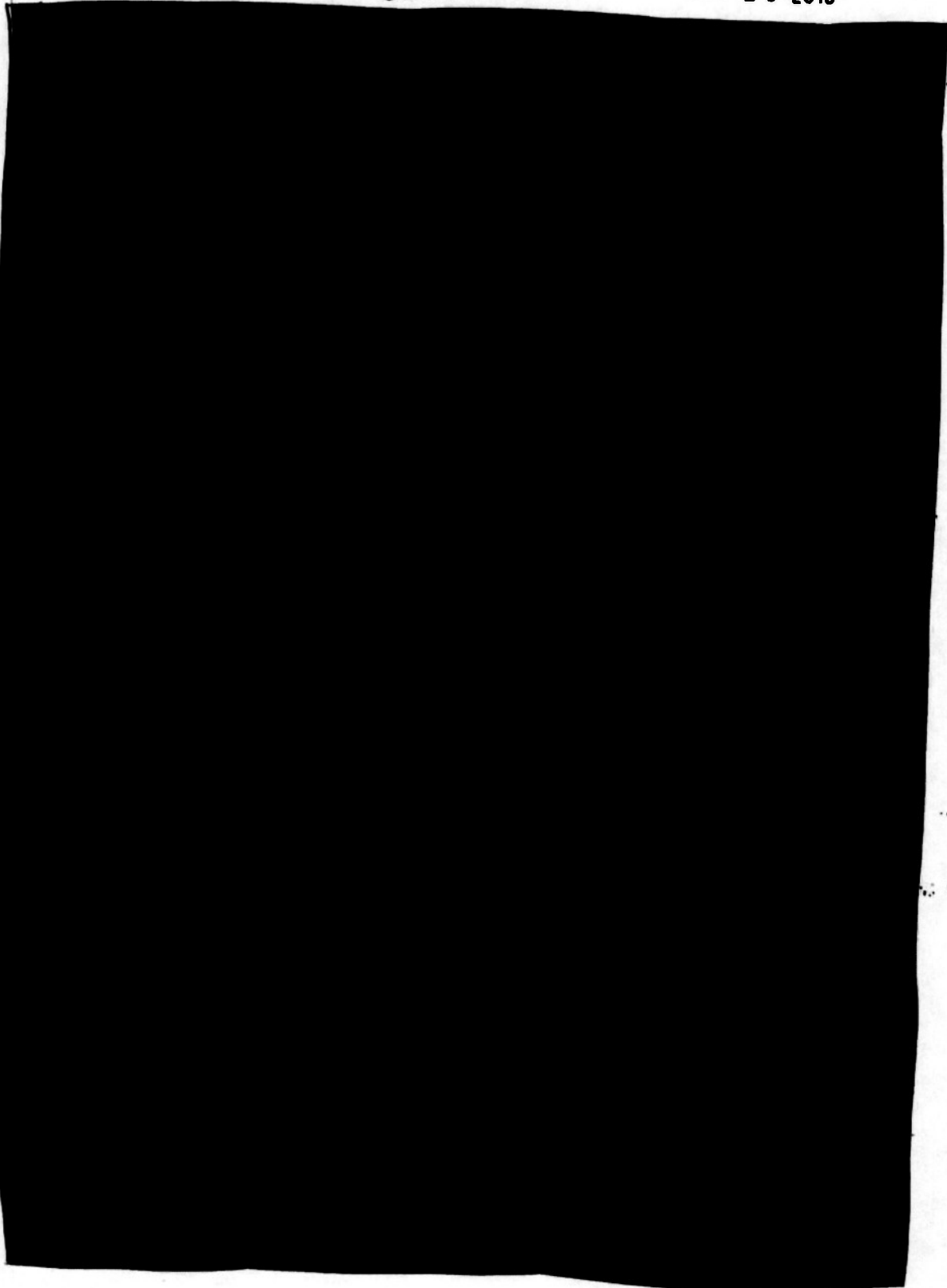


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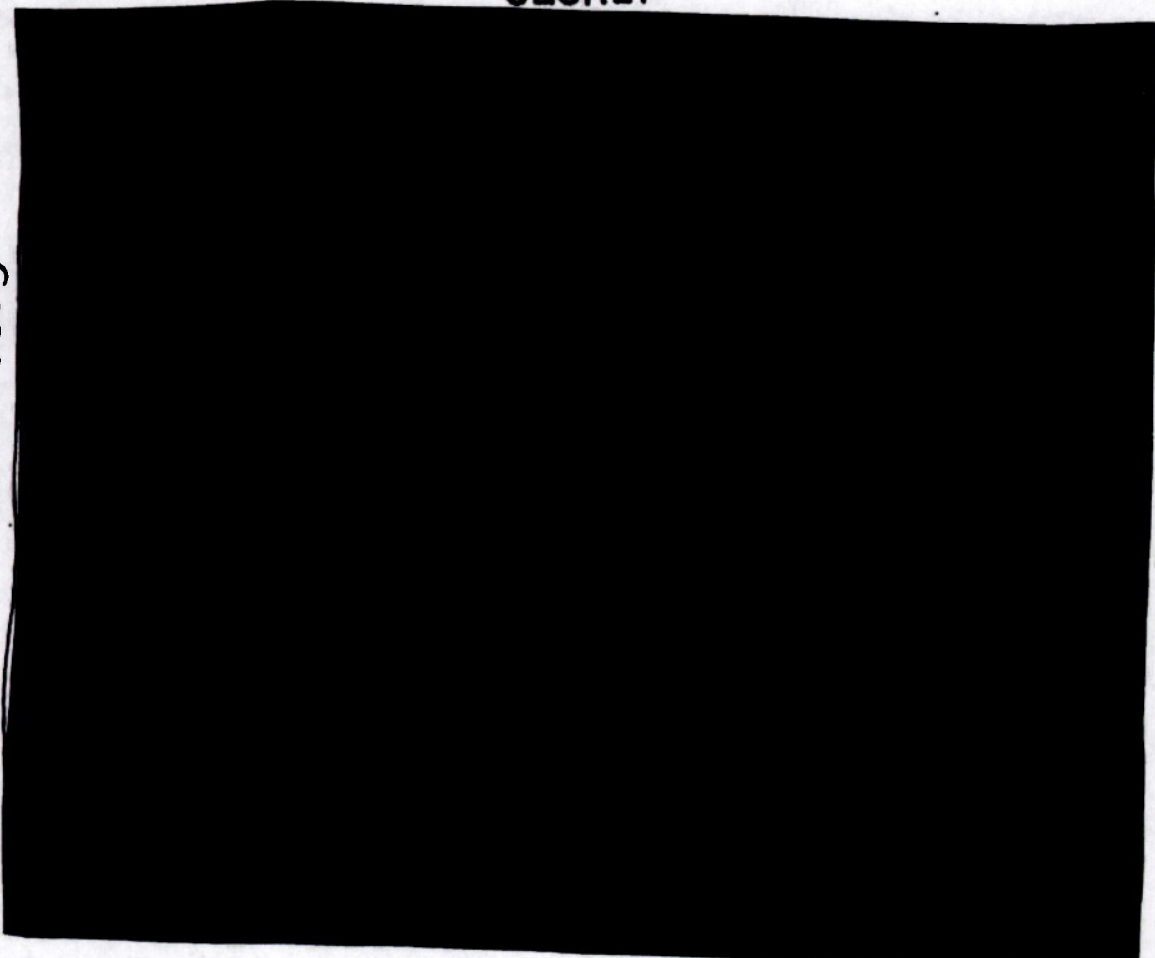
JS 3.3(b)(5)



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JS 3.3(b)(s)



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