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Case # NLJ 10-4 ISCAP appeal
Document # 39a

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SUMMARY OF THE STUDY (U)

The Post-Nuclear Attack Study (PONAST) was prepared by an interagency study group in response to a request by the Joint Chiefs of Staff for an estimate of the levels at which military and nonmilitary operations could be conducted following a massive nuclear exchange. Although there have been many studies which have examined situations following strategic nuclear exchanges, this is the first attempt to conduct a broad-based study at the national level which examines a full range of military and nonmilitary operations during general nuclear wars for extended periods following the initial strategic exchanges. This study examines the integrated effects of each of two exchanges on the population, government, economy and the military capabilities of both adversaries.

The initial phase, the attack phase lasting 50 hours, involved six hypothetical wars taking place in 1966. The gaming of the attack phase of these wars was based on SIOP-4/RISOP-66 (Single Integrated Operational Plan/Red Integrated Strategic Offensive Plan) strategic nuclear exchanges and was extended to include the use of 50X5

50X5 The Red countries, consisting of the Warsaw Pact nations and Asian communist nations, opposed the Blue countries, consisting of the NATO nations and US Asian allies.

50X5

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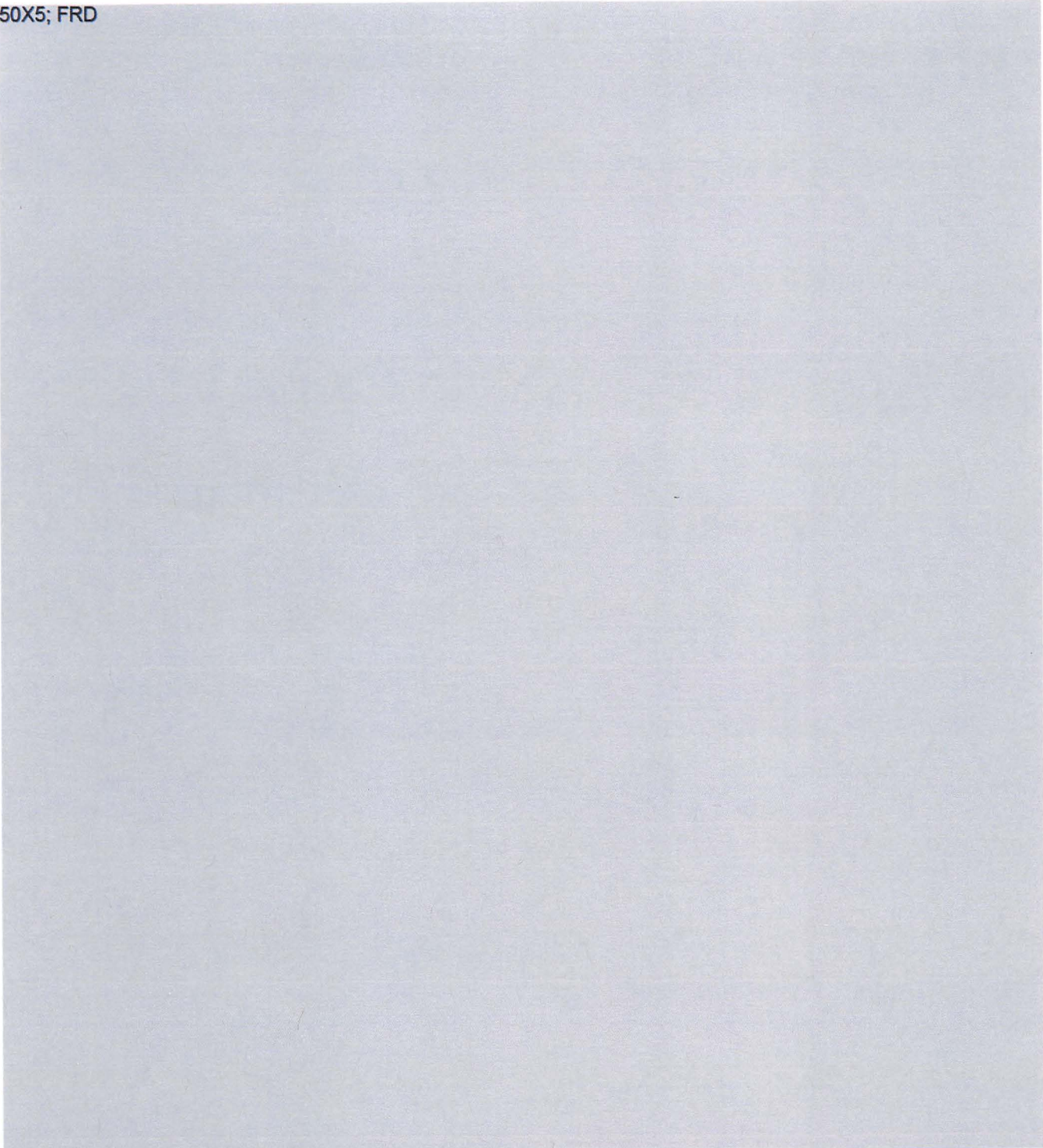
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Declassified Under Authority of the
Interagency Security Classification
Appeals Panel, E.O. 13526, sec. 5.3(b)(3)
ISCAP Appeal No. 2012-162, Doc. 1
Declassification Date: April 12, 2024

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Authority DOE. NLS 10-4 appeal

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50X5; FRD



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50X5 [REDACTED] Because of their linking assumptions, the scenarios do not necessarily portray how an actual war would evolve or what its outcome would be.

Since US strategy emphasizes the defense of Western Europe, an attempt was made in both PONAAT cases to defend Western Europe in order to test the capability to meet this objective in a post-nuclear exchange environment.

At the outset, it was recognized that the problems following a strategic nuclear exchange would be national in character and not simply military ones. The Office of Emergency Planning (OEP), the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), the Department of State and the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), were active participants in the PONAAT and numerous other Federal agencies were called upon for various contributions, through the auspices of the OEP.

Specific results of the two cases are narrated below. The differences are highlighted in the fold-out (pages viii and ix) of this summary.

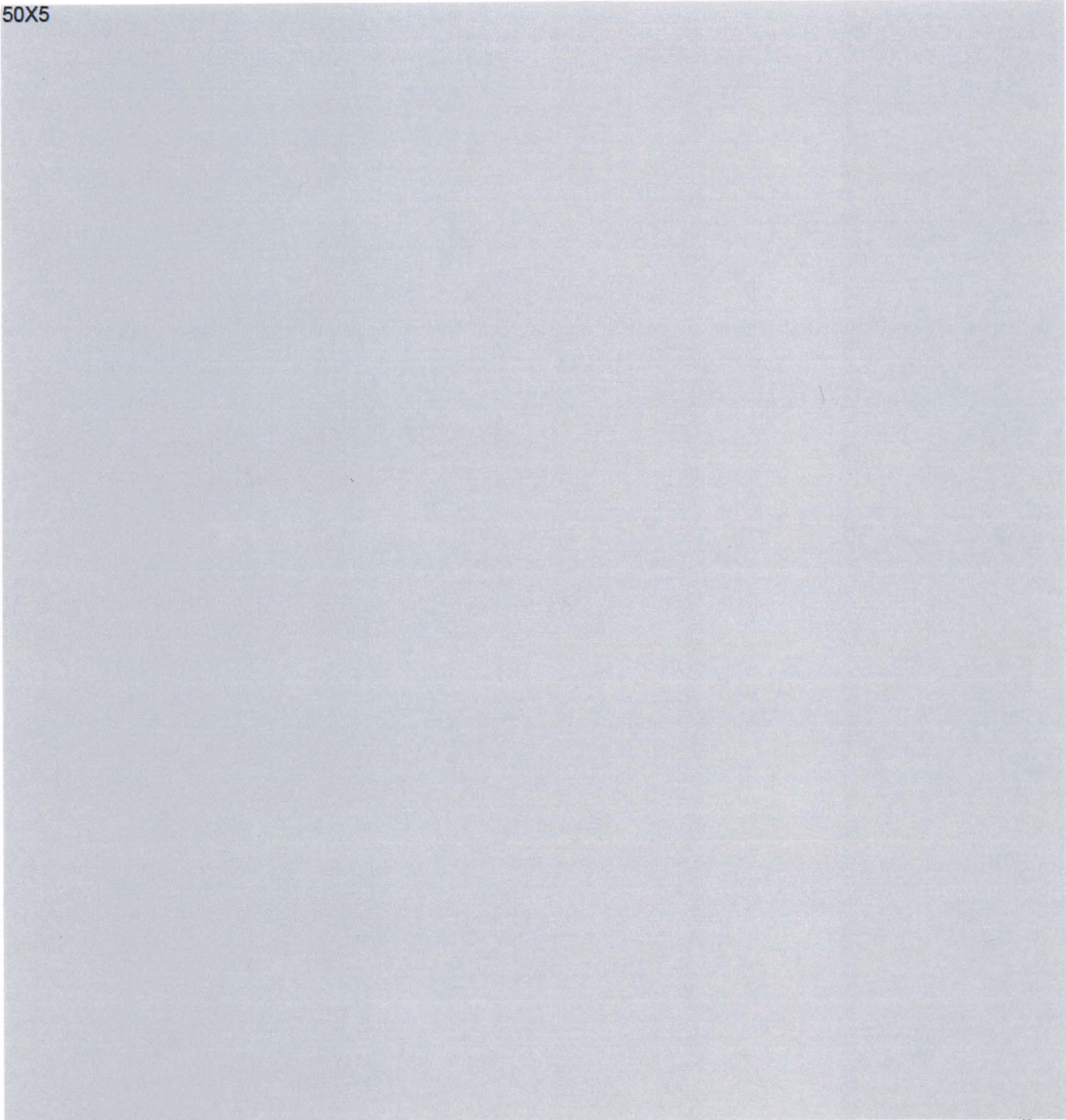
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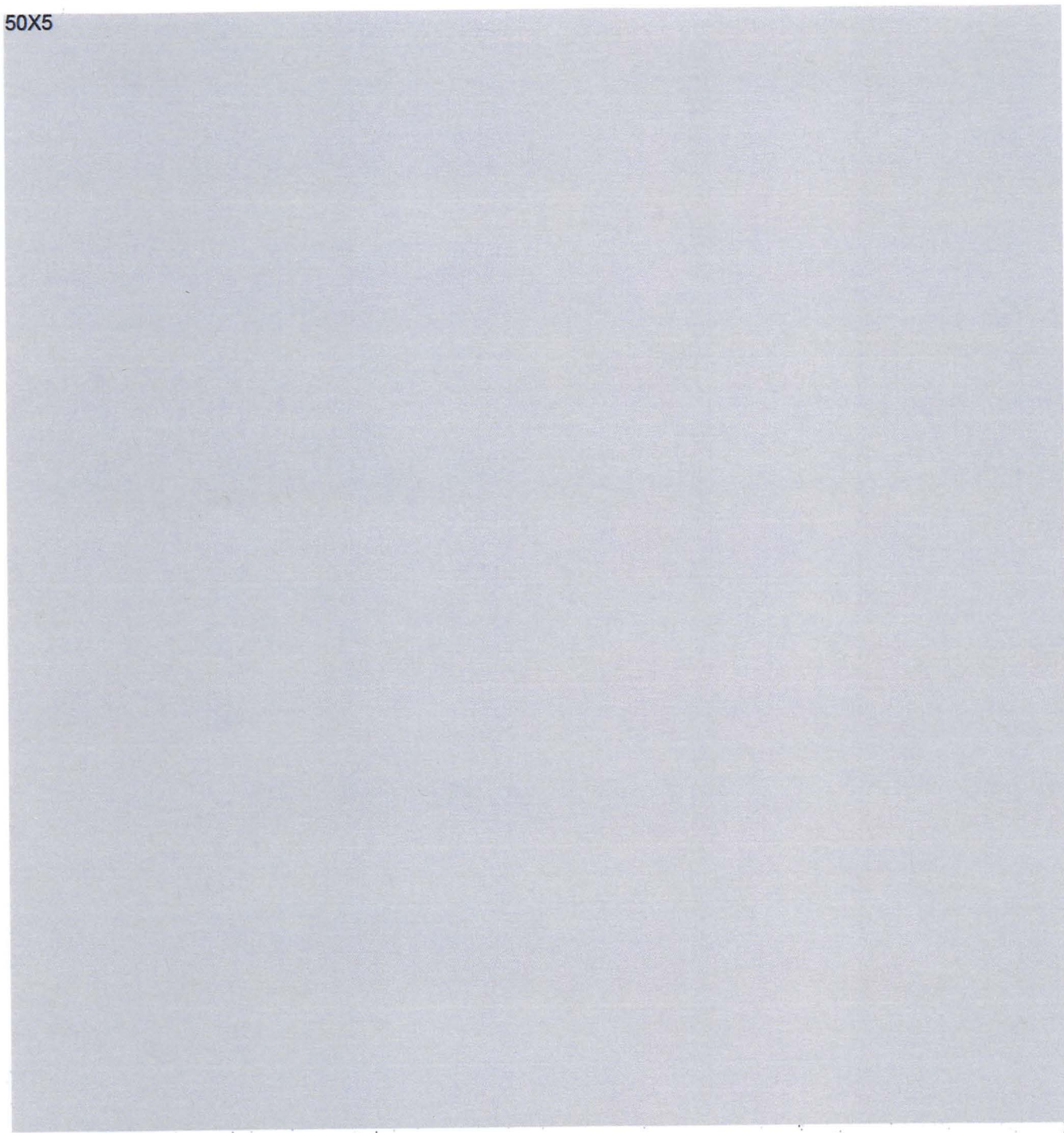
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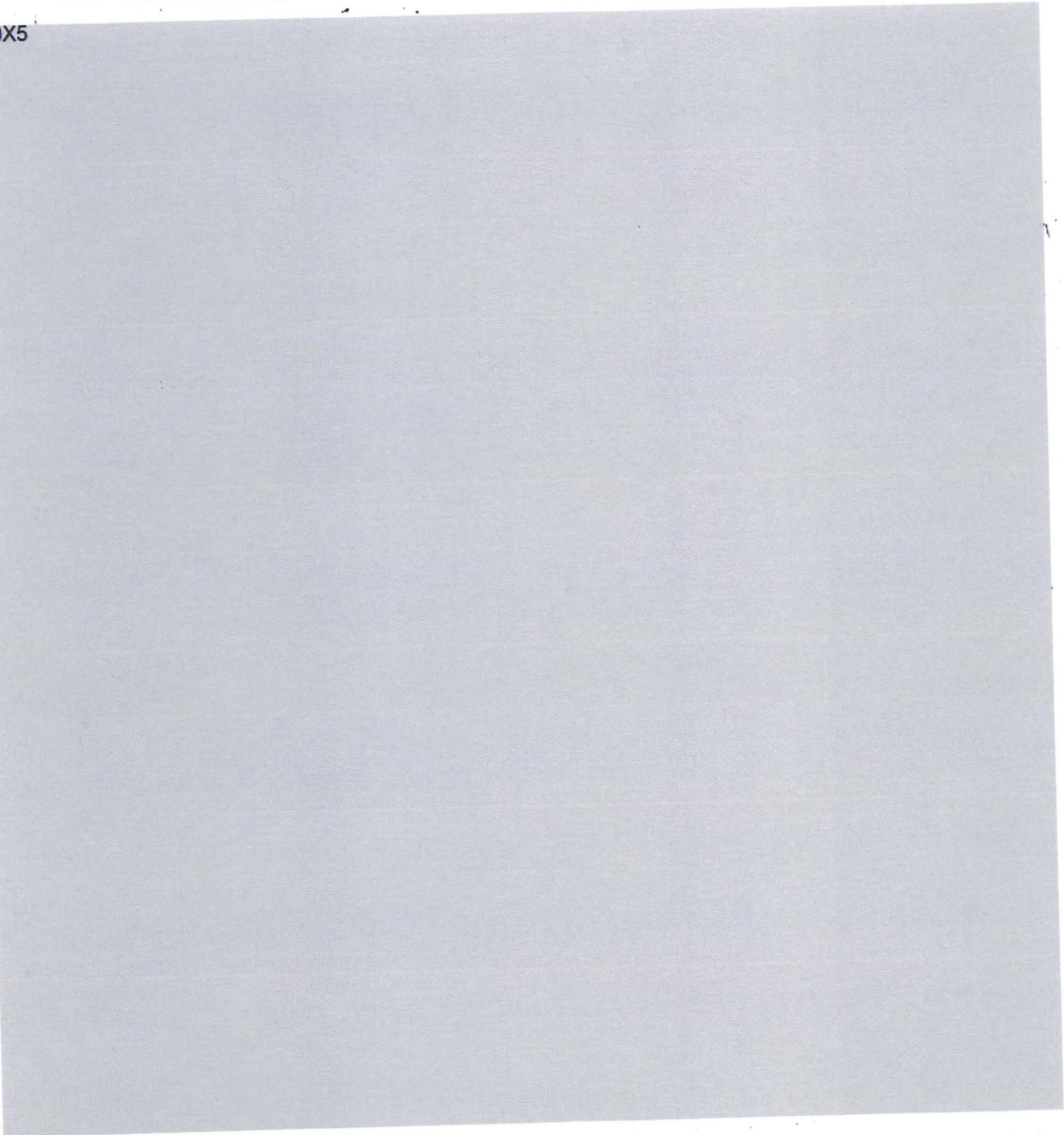
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