

NUCLEAR INFORMATION

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ENERGY RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
NEVADA OPERATIONS OFFICE

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW
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REASON: 1.5, 1.4, 1.3, 1.2, 1.1
AUTHORITY: 10 CFR 835.401
DATE: 10/17/01
BY: [Signature]

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DIRECTOR
NUCLEAR SYSTEMS DIVISION
NEVADA OPERATIONS OFFICE

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NUCLEAR EMERGENCY SEARCH TEAM

In November of 1974, Mahlon E. Gates, Manager of the Nevada Operations Office (NV) of ERDA was directed to develop a coordinated response to cope with an increasing potential for incidents involving nuclear material. The direction was contained in a Secret letter from Major General Ernest Graves, Director, Division of Military Application, HQ, dated November 18, 1974, which authorized the Manager, NV, to draw on existing emergency response capabilities at ERDA field offices, ERDA laboratories and ERDA contractors to establish the coordinated response. These existing program elements, as well as new program facets, have been developed to form the Nuclear Emergency Search Team (NEST).

The NEST capability has been established to respond to several types of nuclear emergencies, including lost, stolen or diverted nuclear weapons, or lost, stolen or diverted nuclear/radioactive material. NEST team members have expanded on accident response capability to develop radiation detection systems and techniques capable of searching for any material with a radiation signature. Systems that can be deployed vary in size from hand-held to airborne detection arrays. In addition, equipment has been developed to aid in the identification and disarming/disabling of clandestine devices involving radioactive material. This team is equipped to provide technical advice and assistance, predict potential downwind impact, evaluate the immediate hazard, and make recommendations regarding public safety.

A NEST response can begin in the early phases of a threat assessment. As the threat credibility increases, the NEST response can be escalated to include an advance team of advisors who can assist in on-site assessment of a problem and prepare for the involvement of additional support elements.

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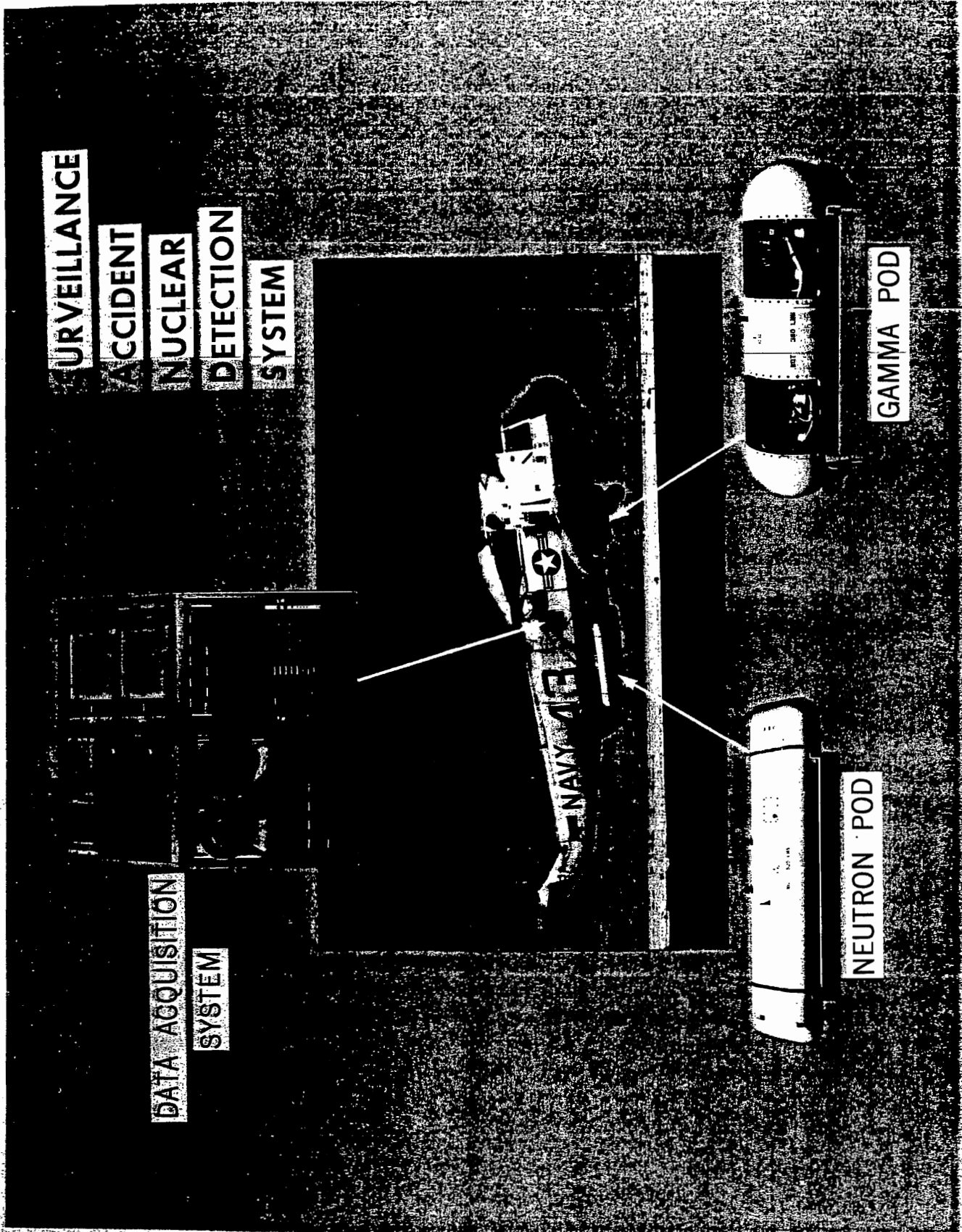
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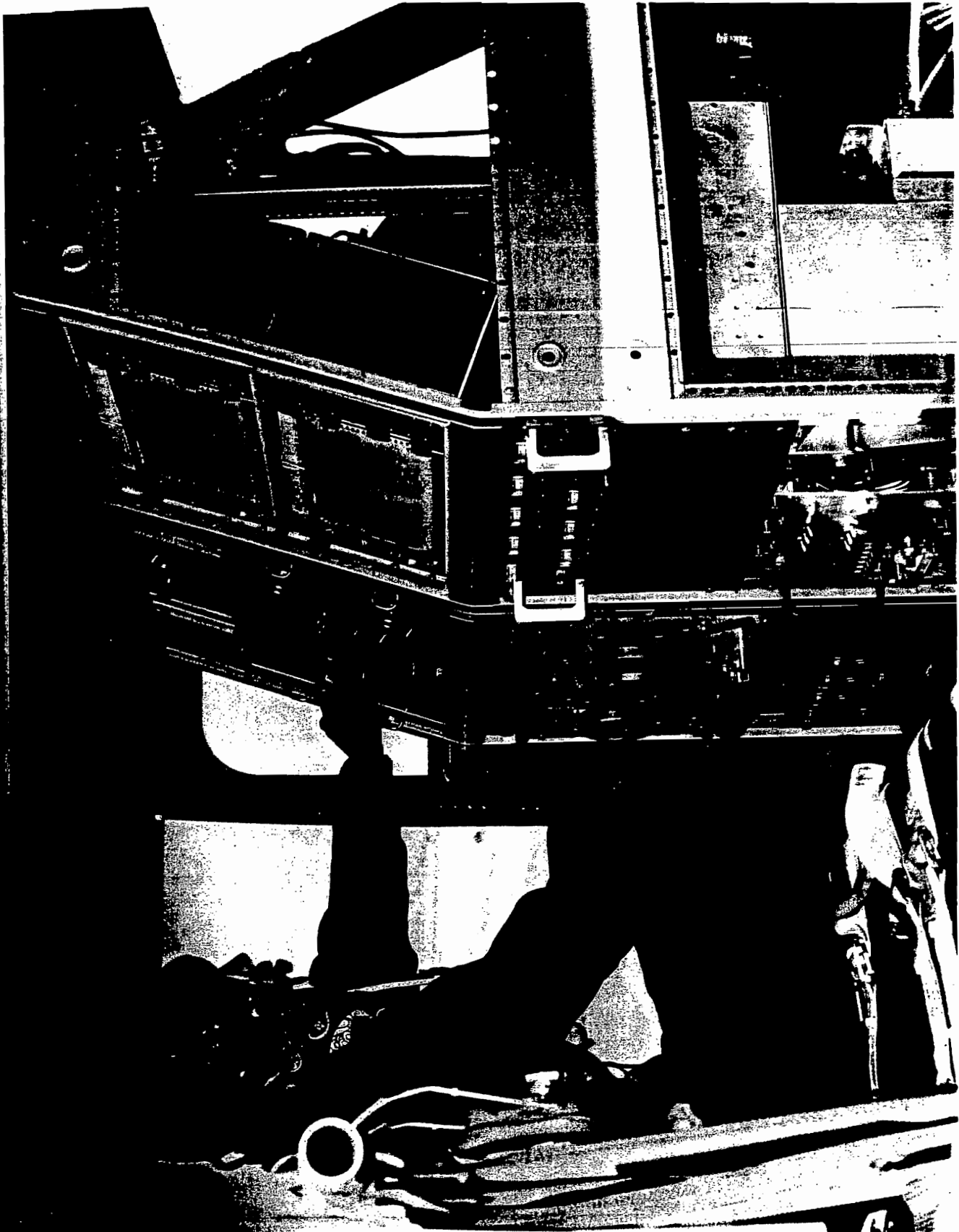
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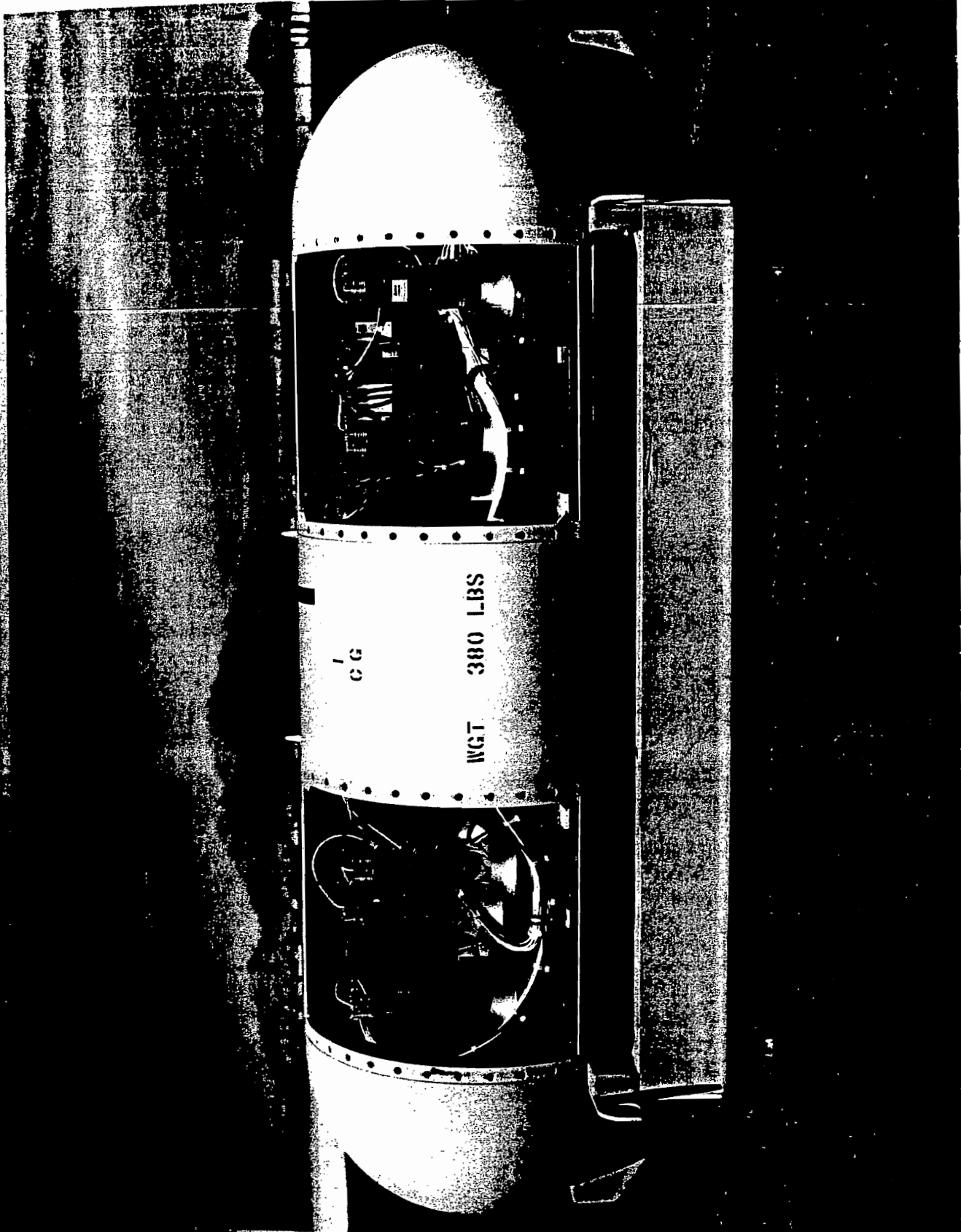
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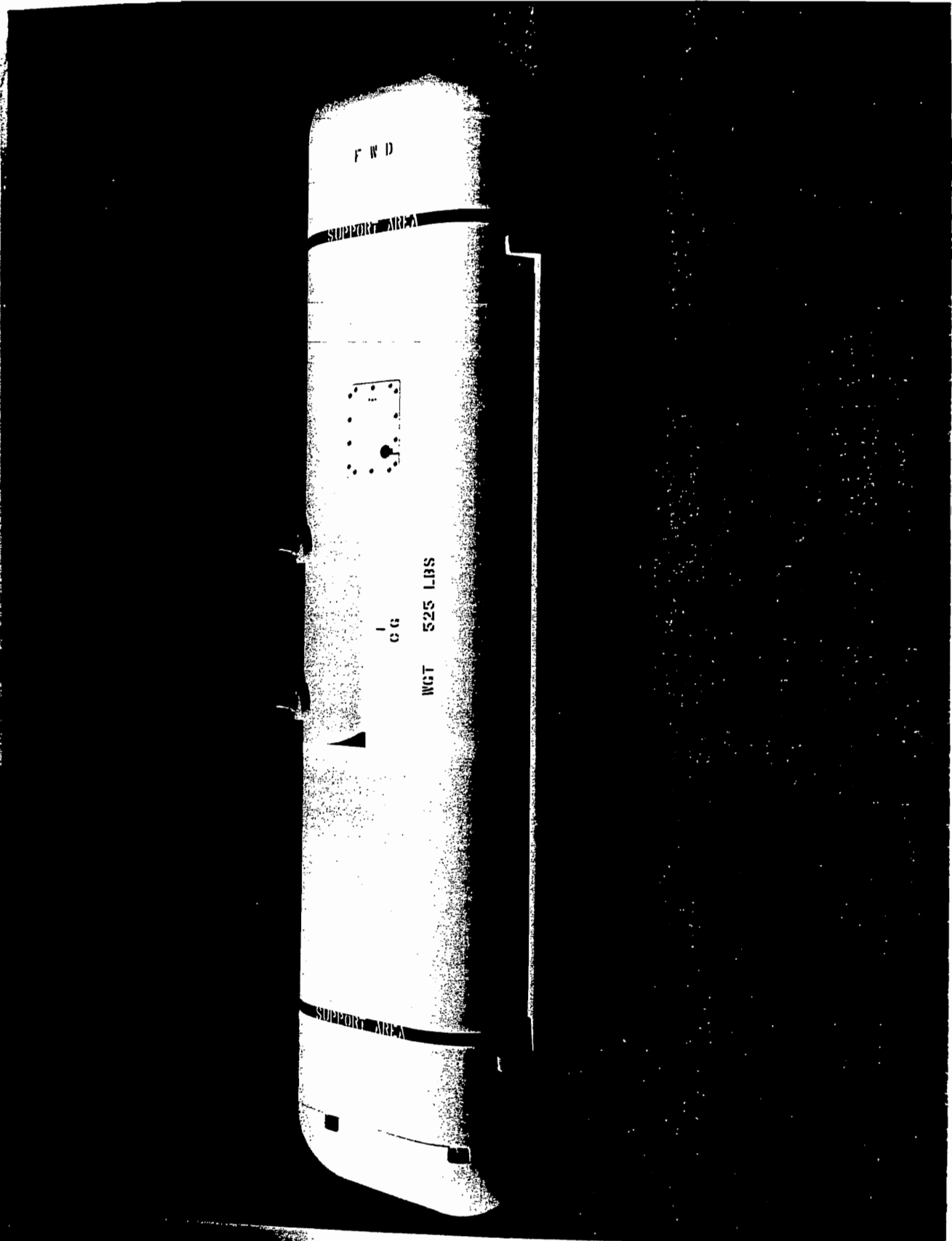
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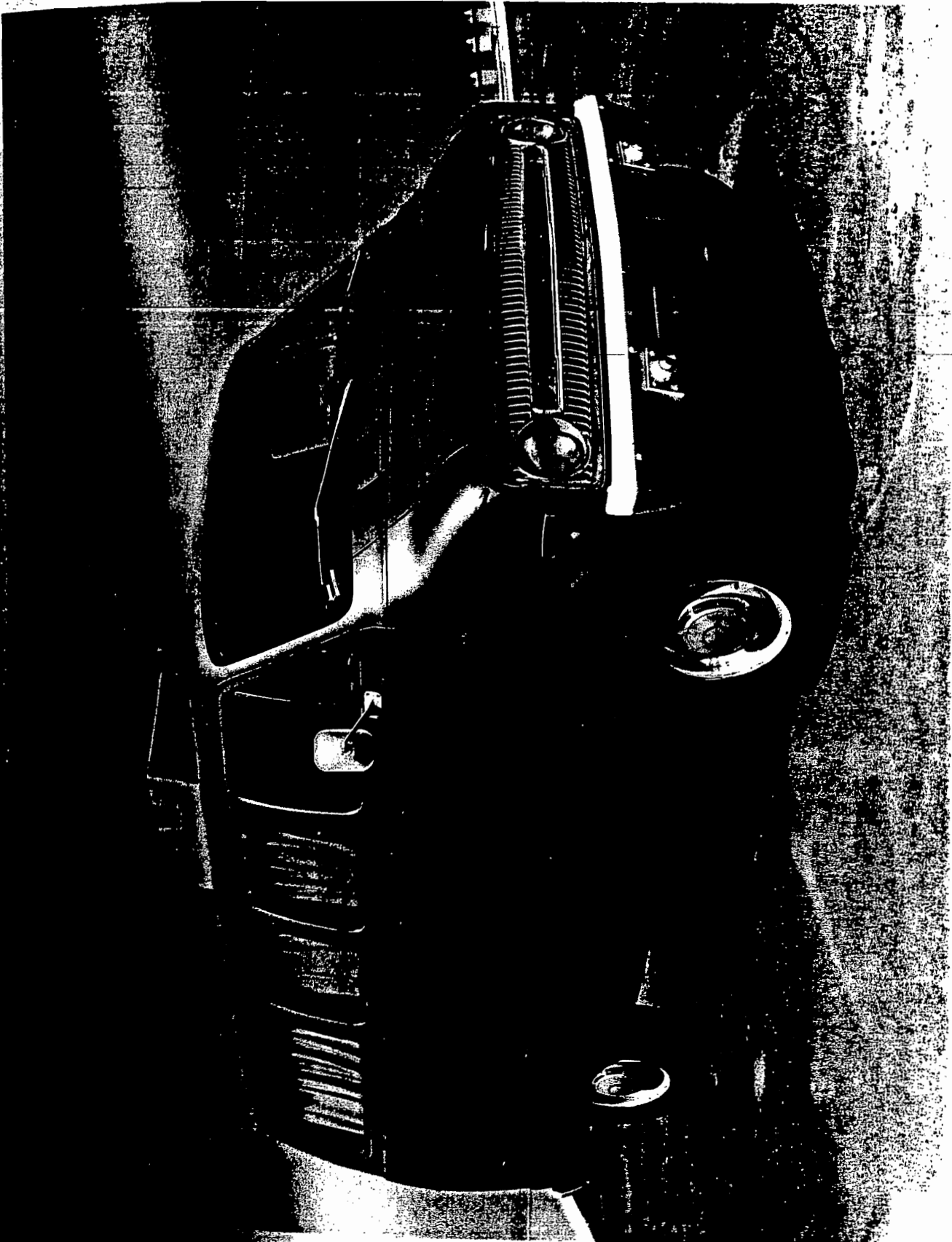
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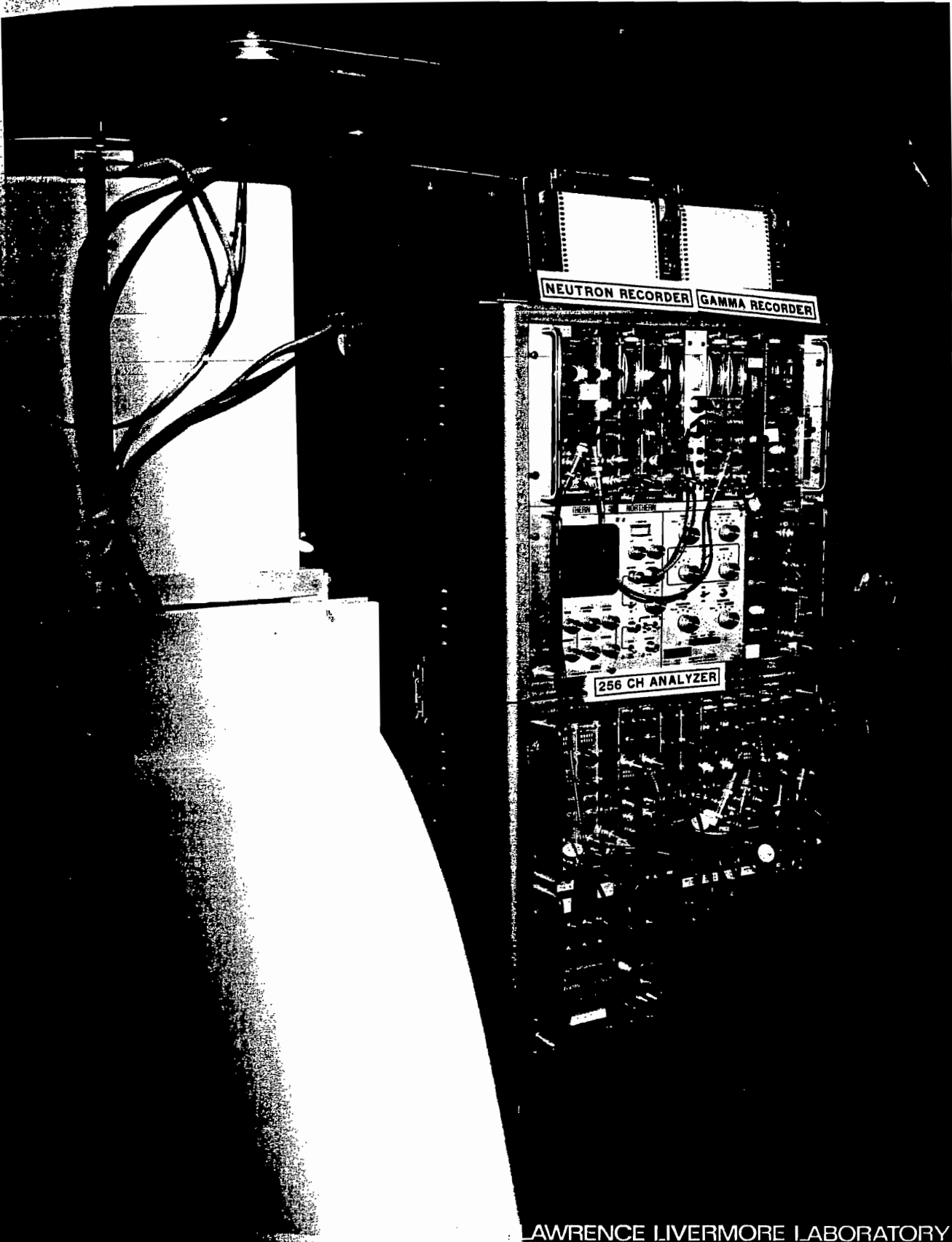
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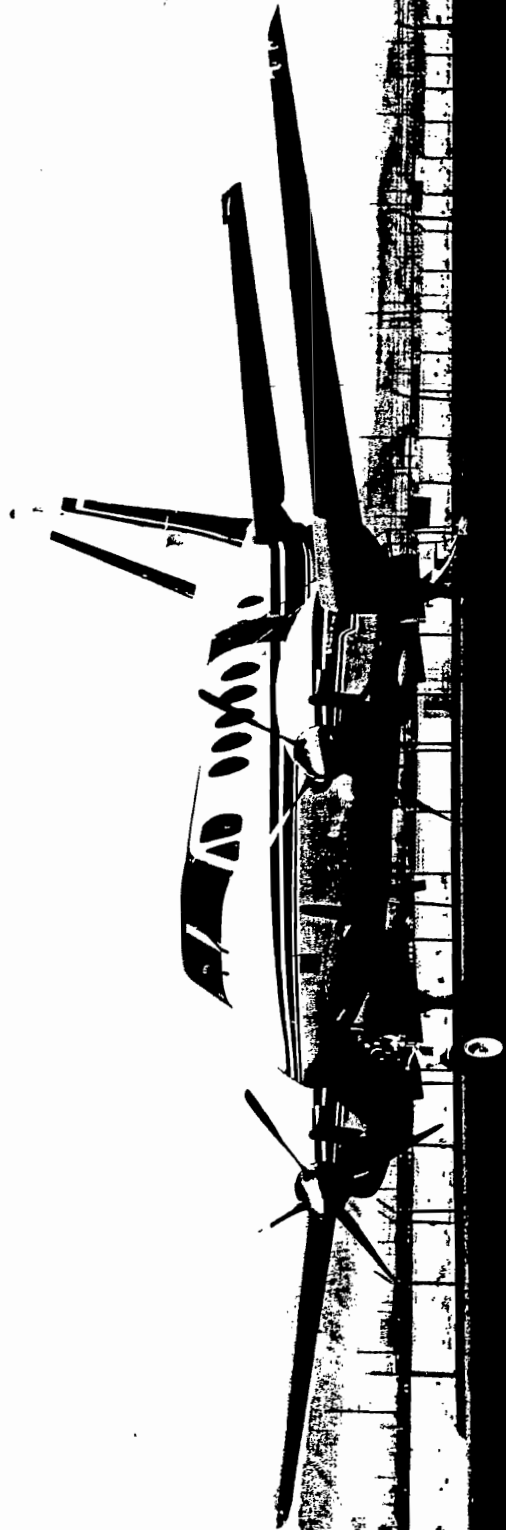
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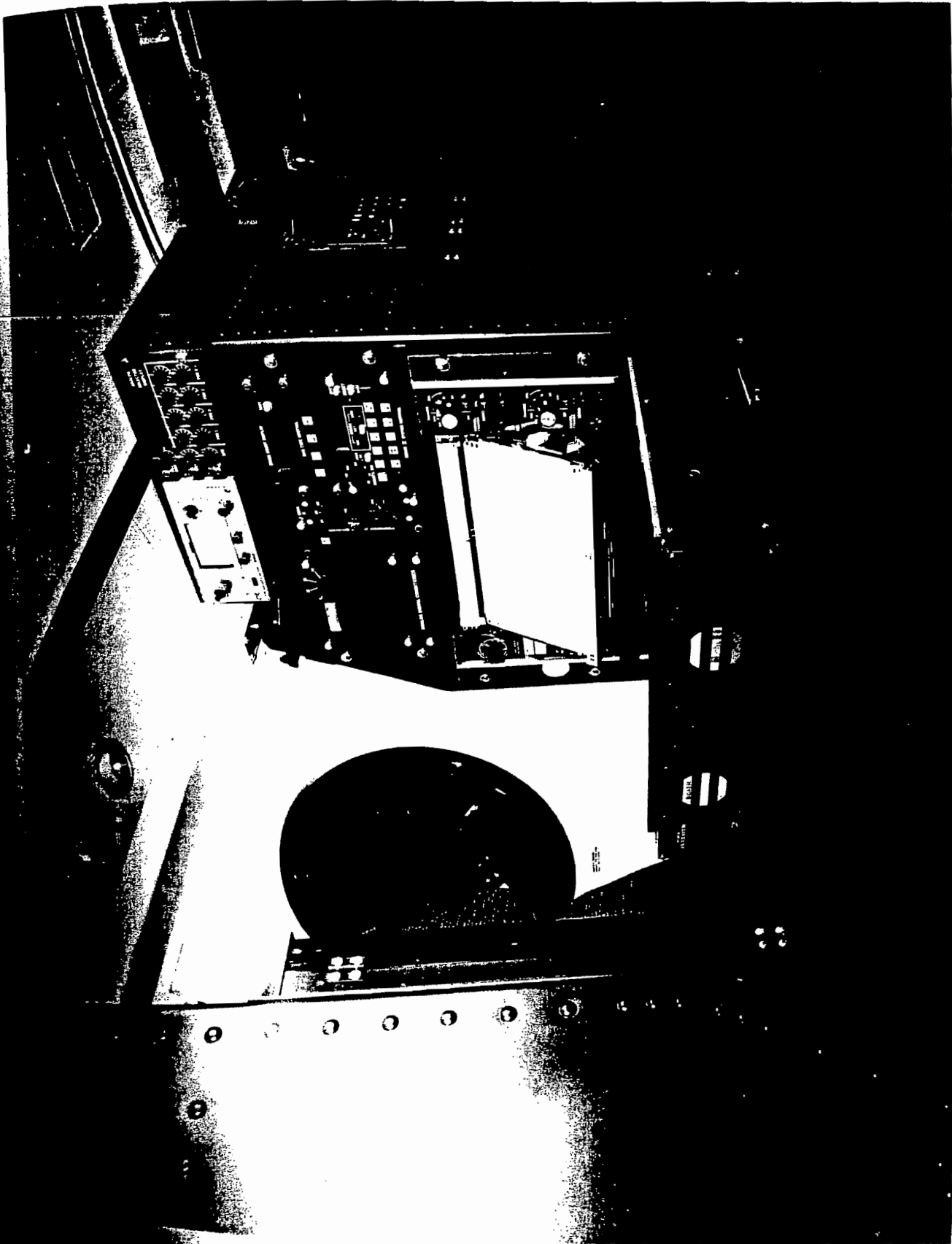
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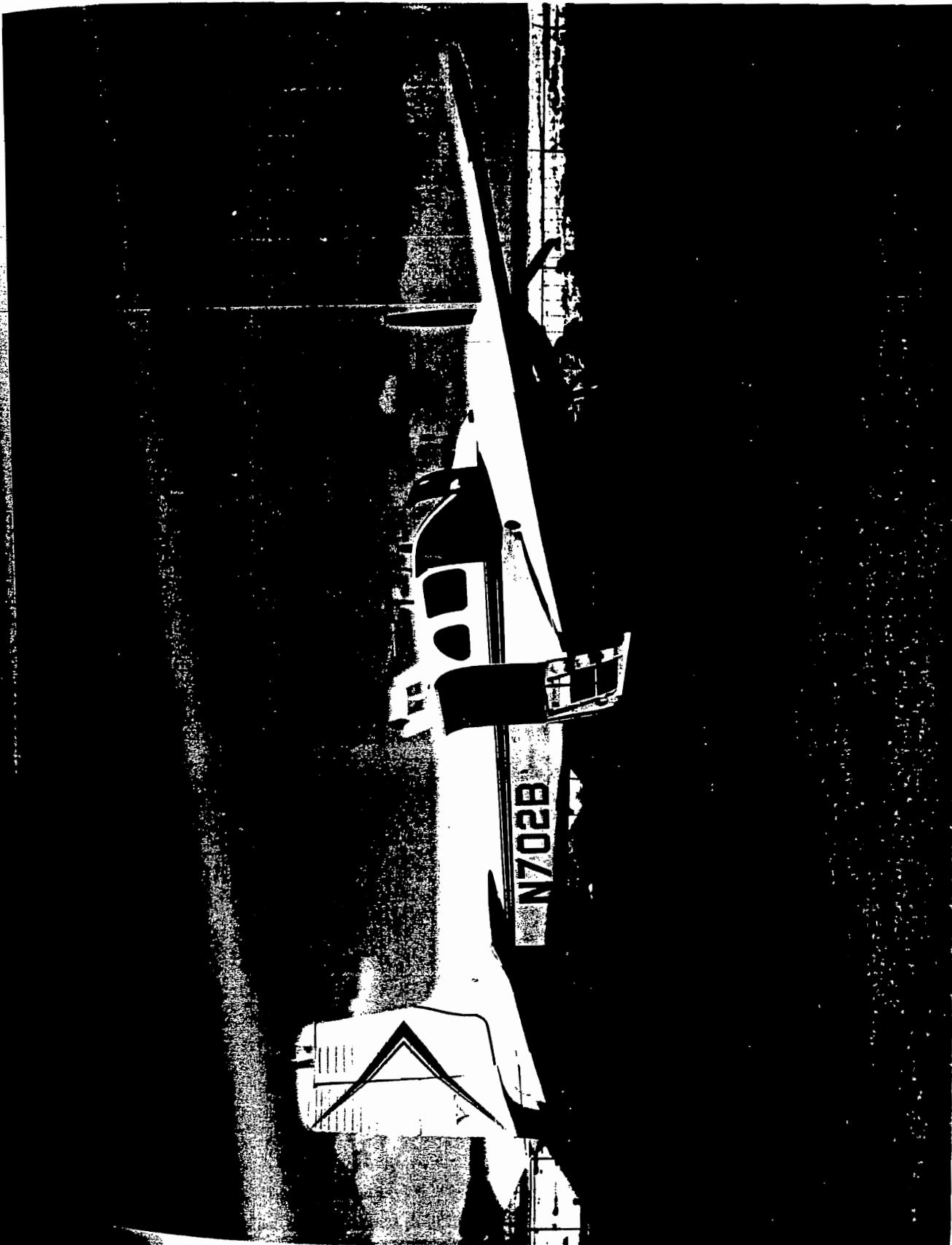
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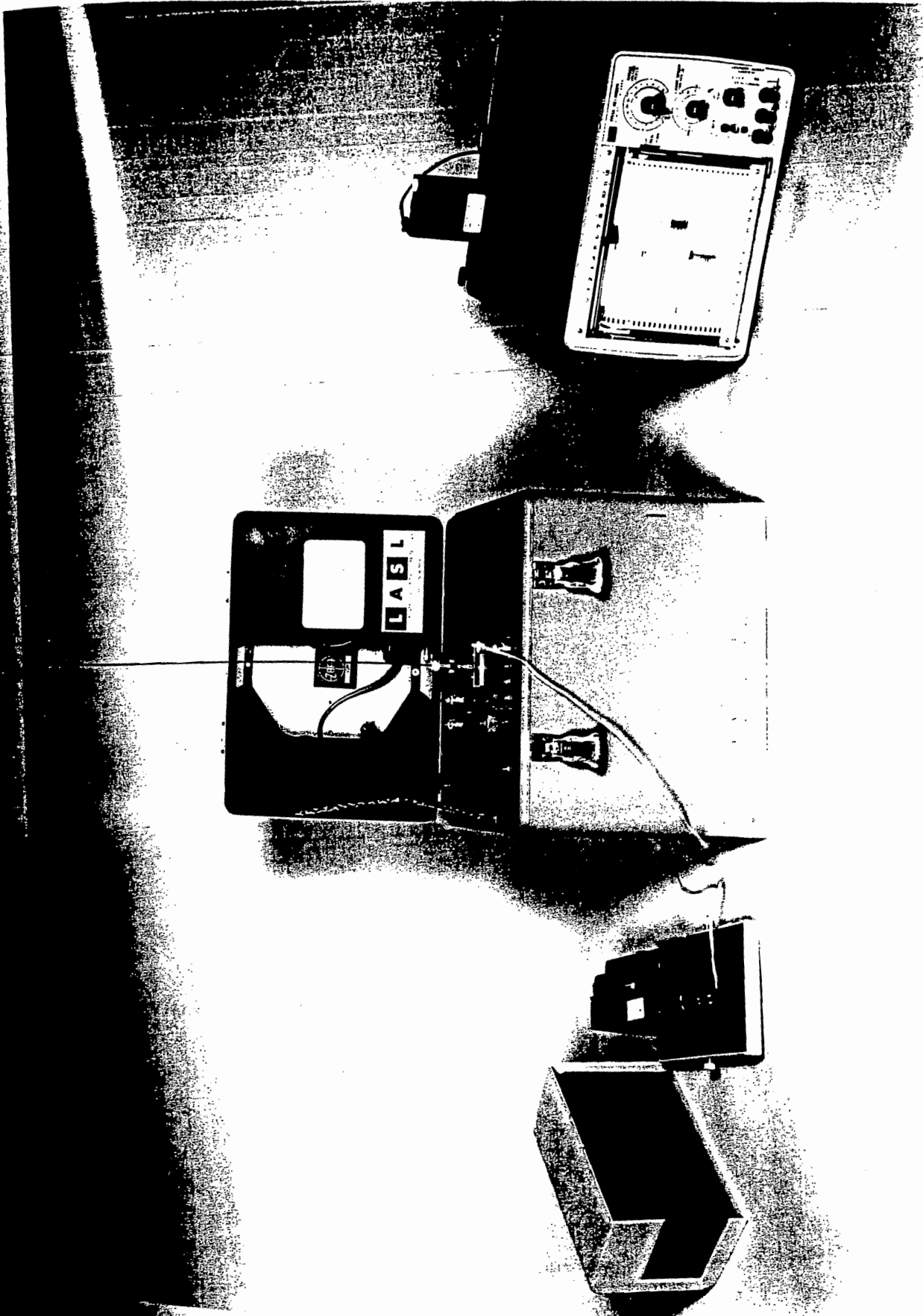
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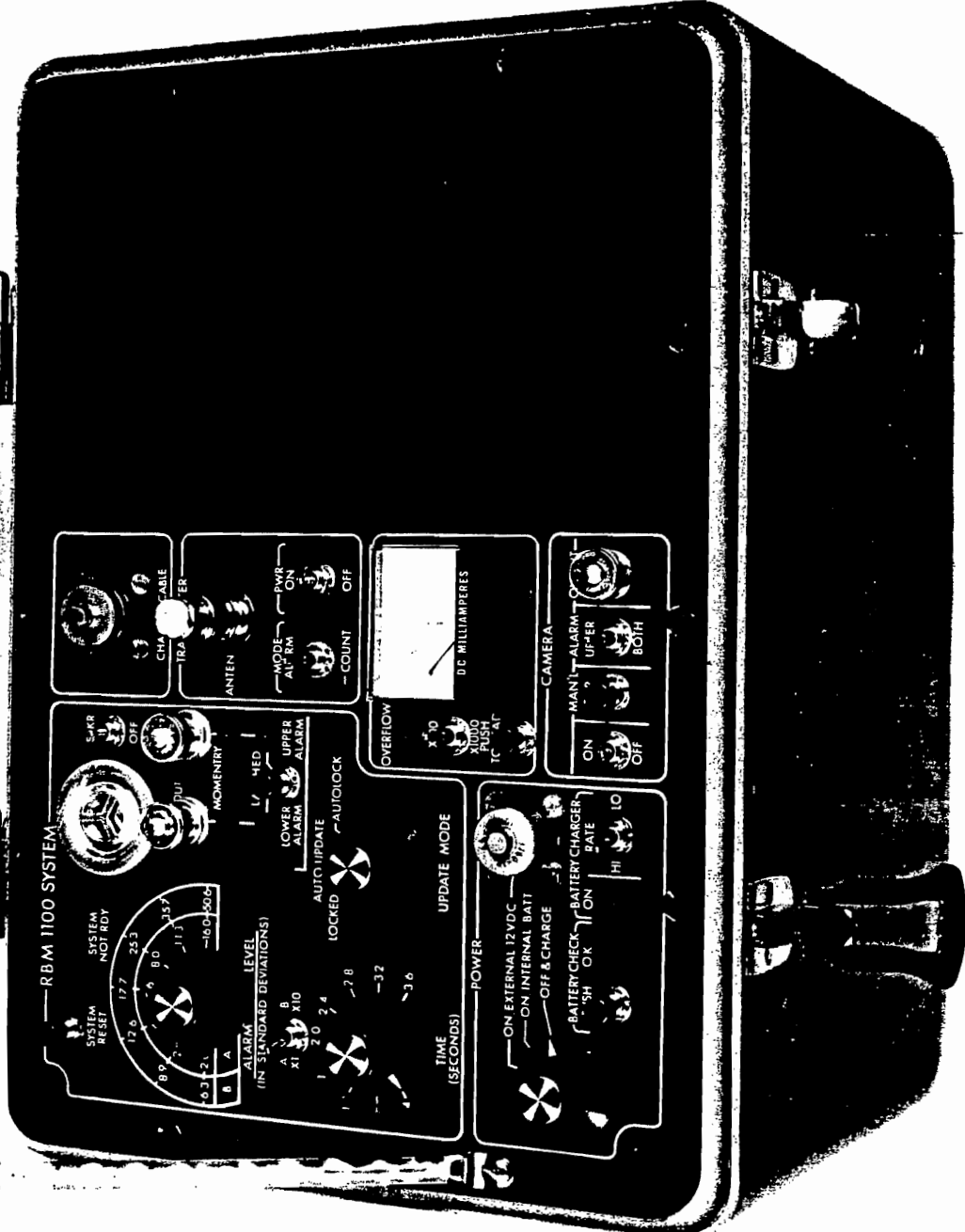
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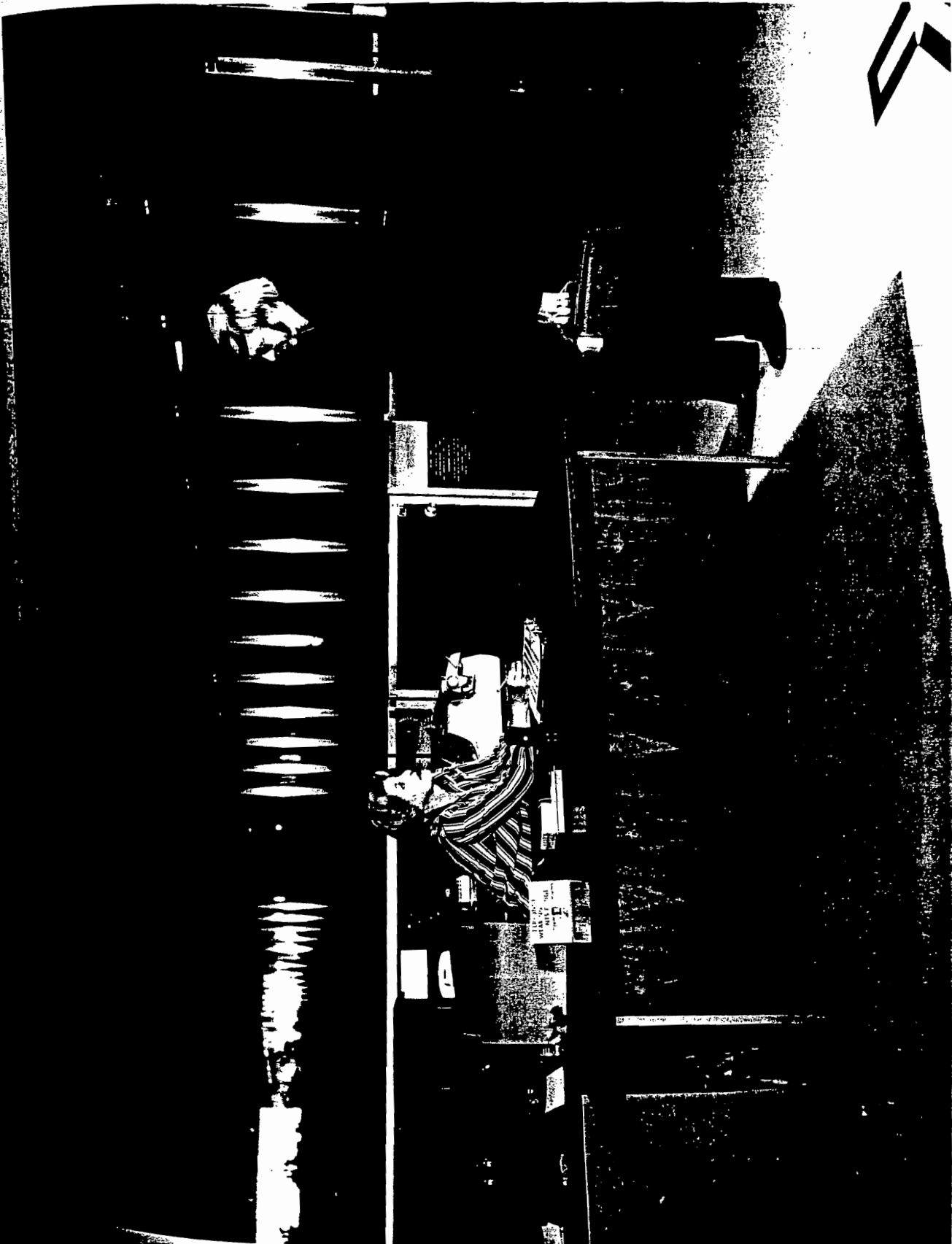
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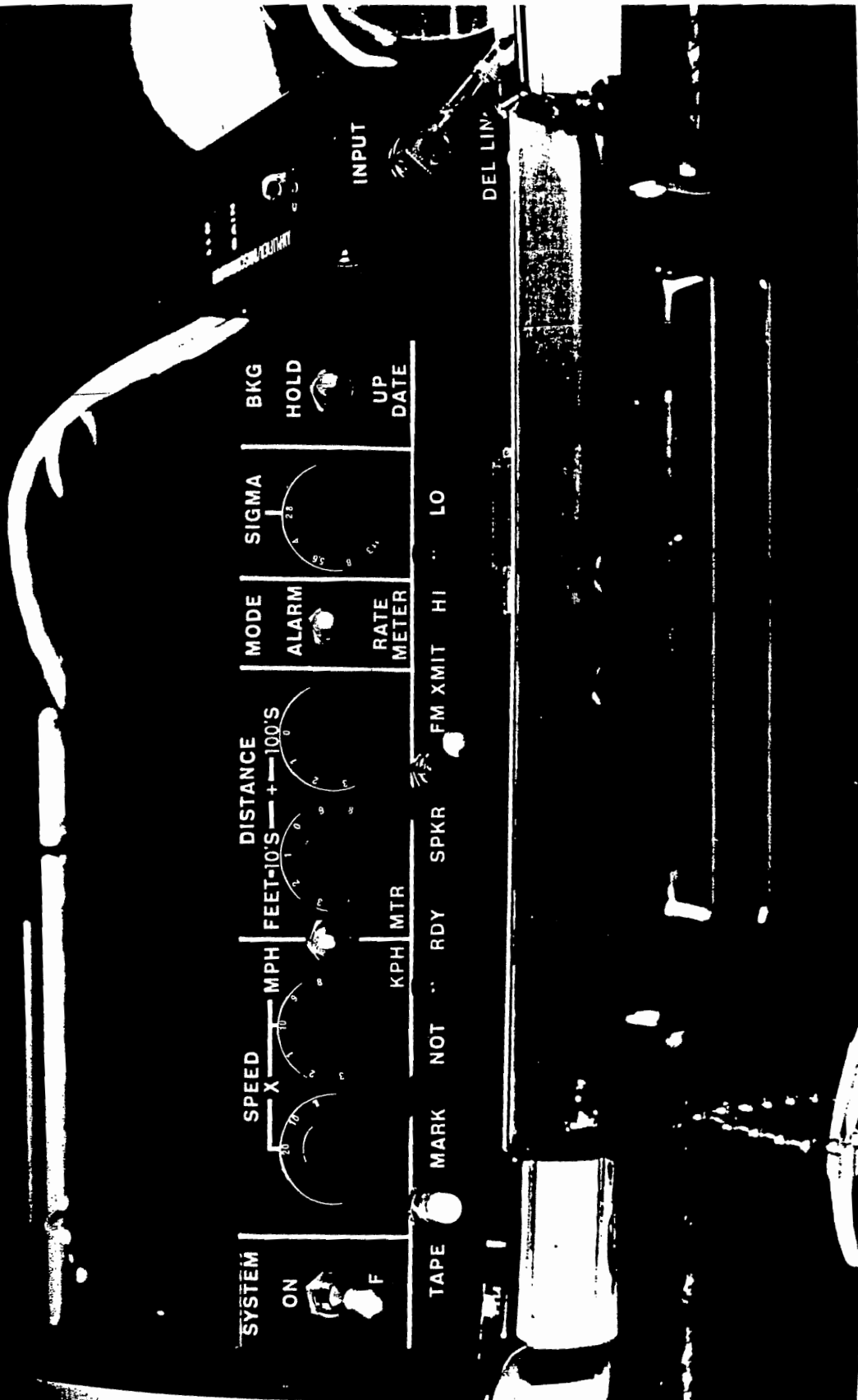
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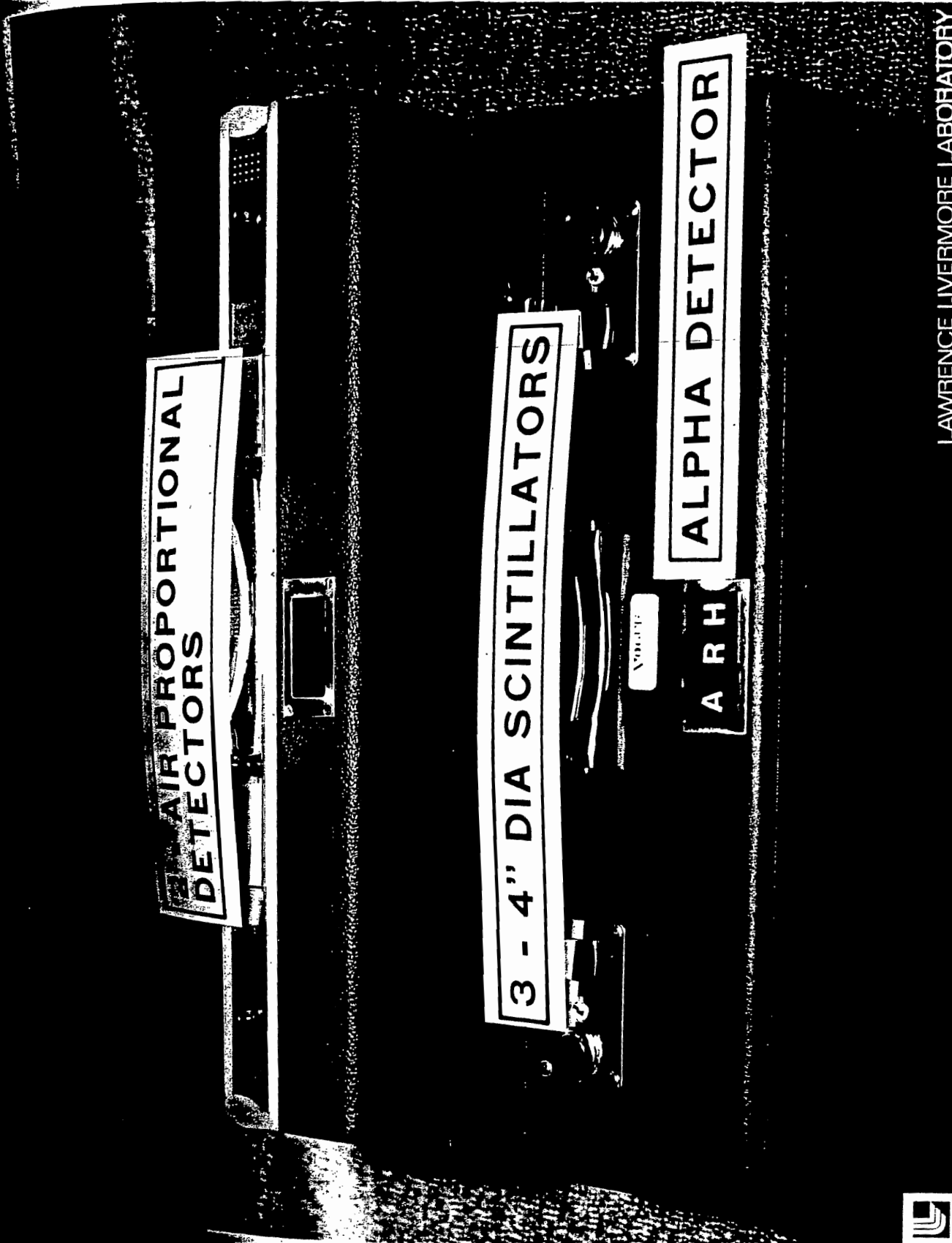
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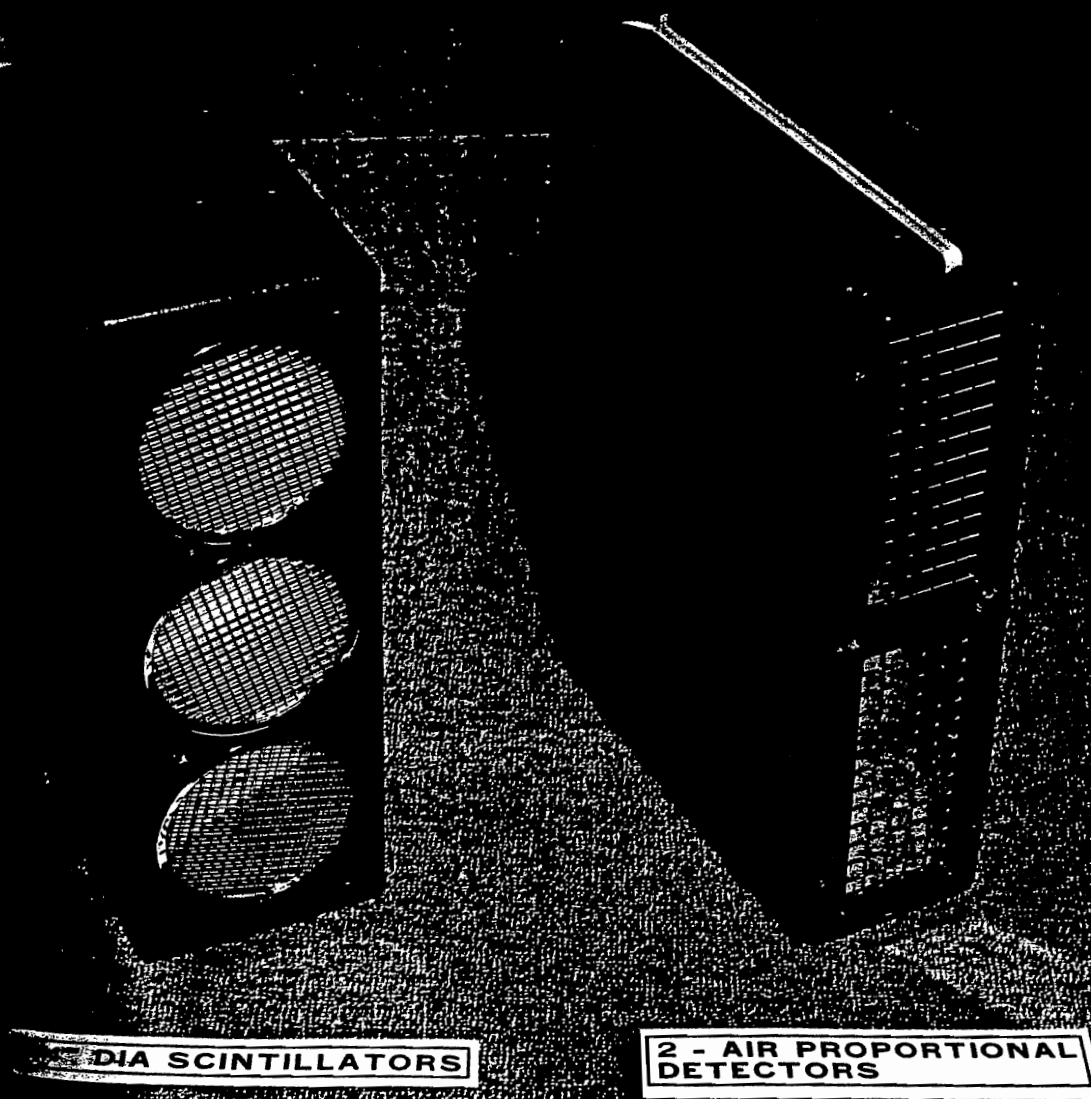


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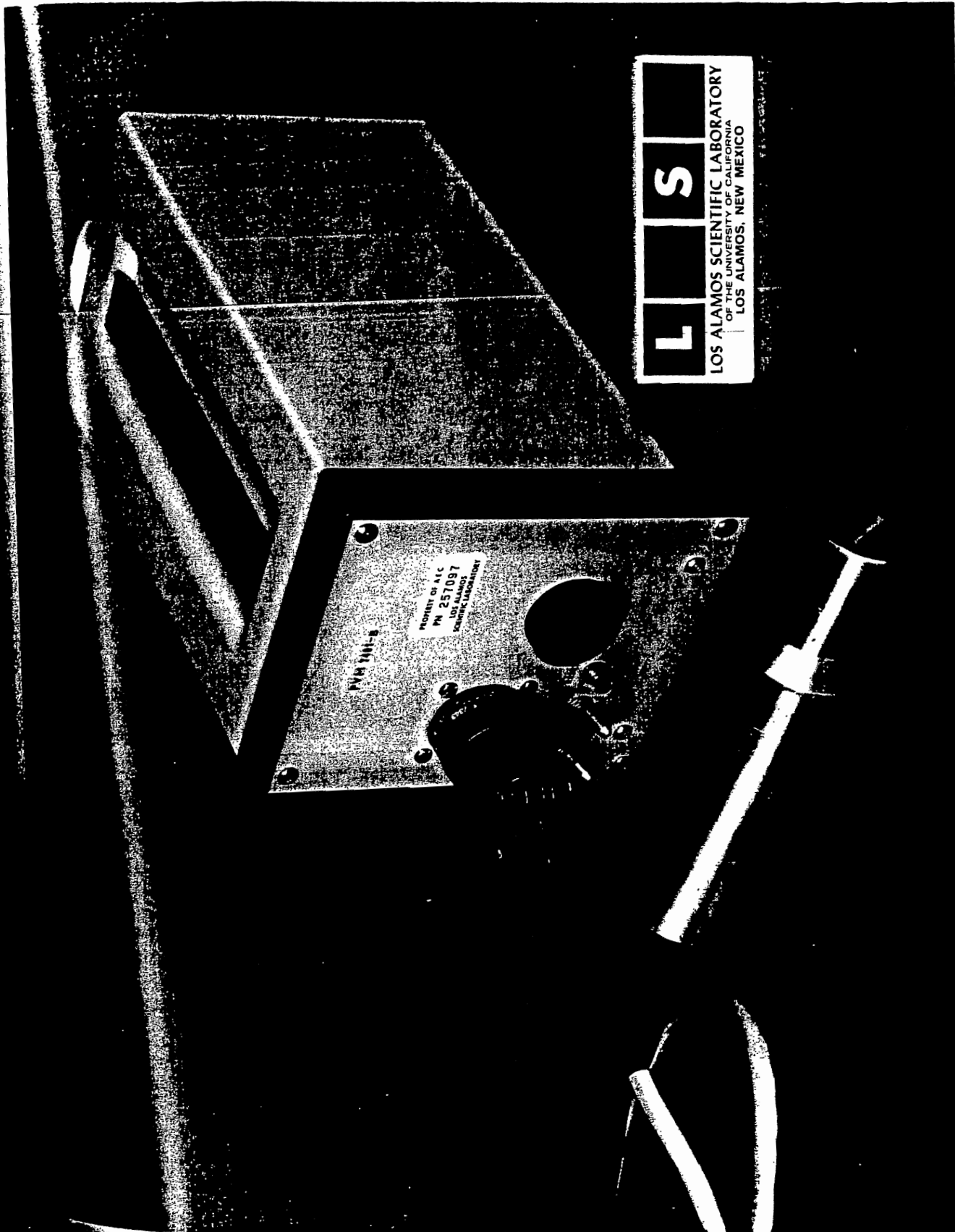
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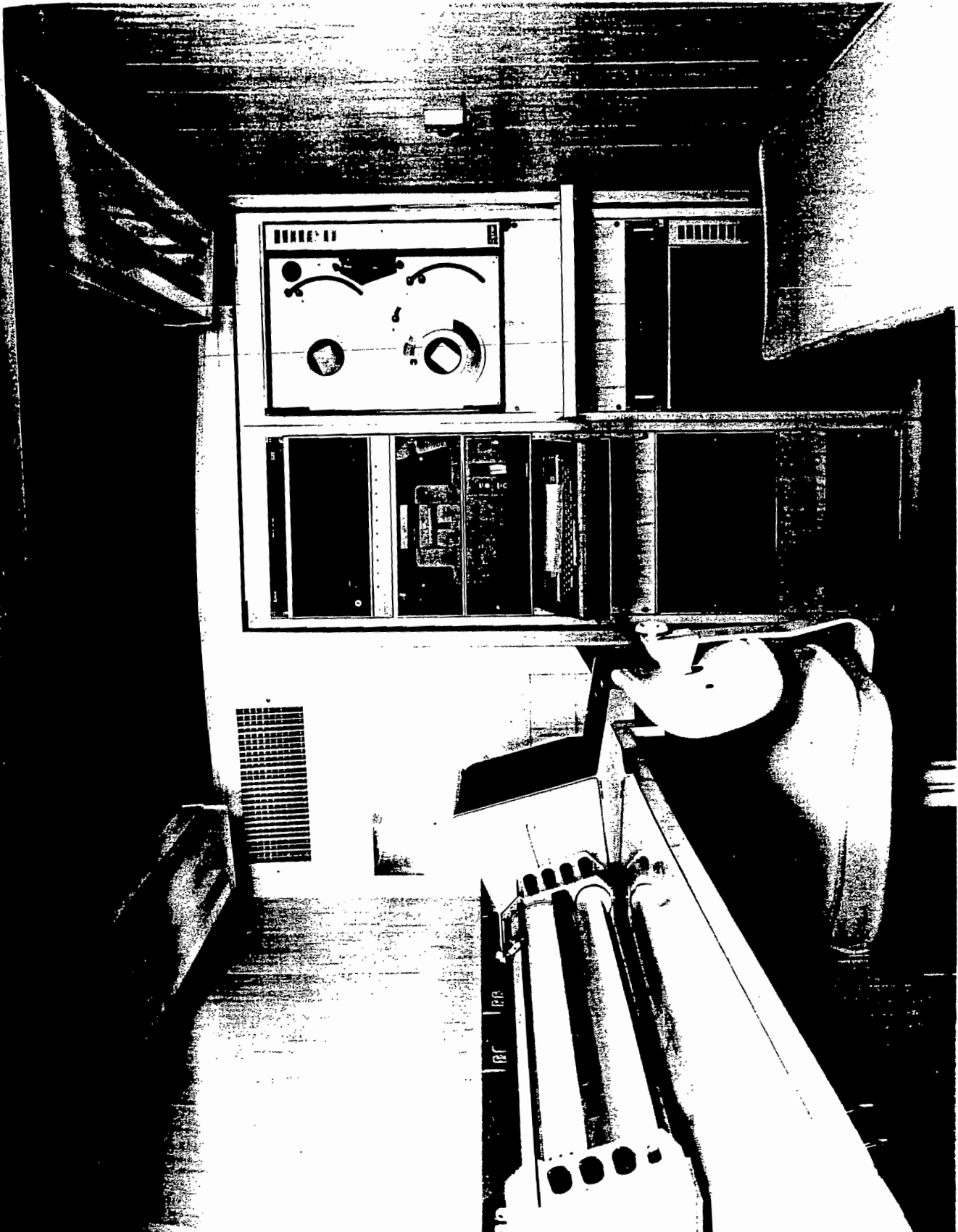


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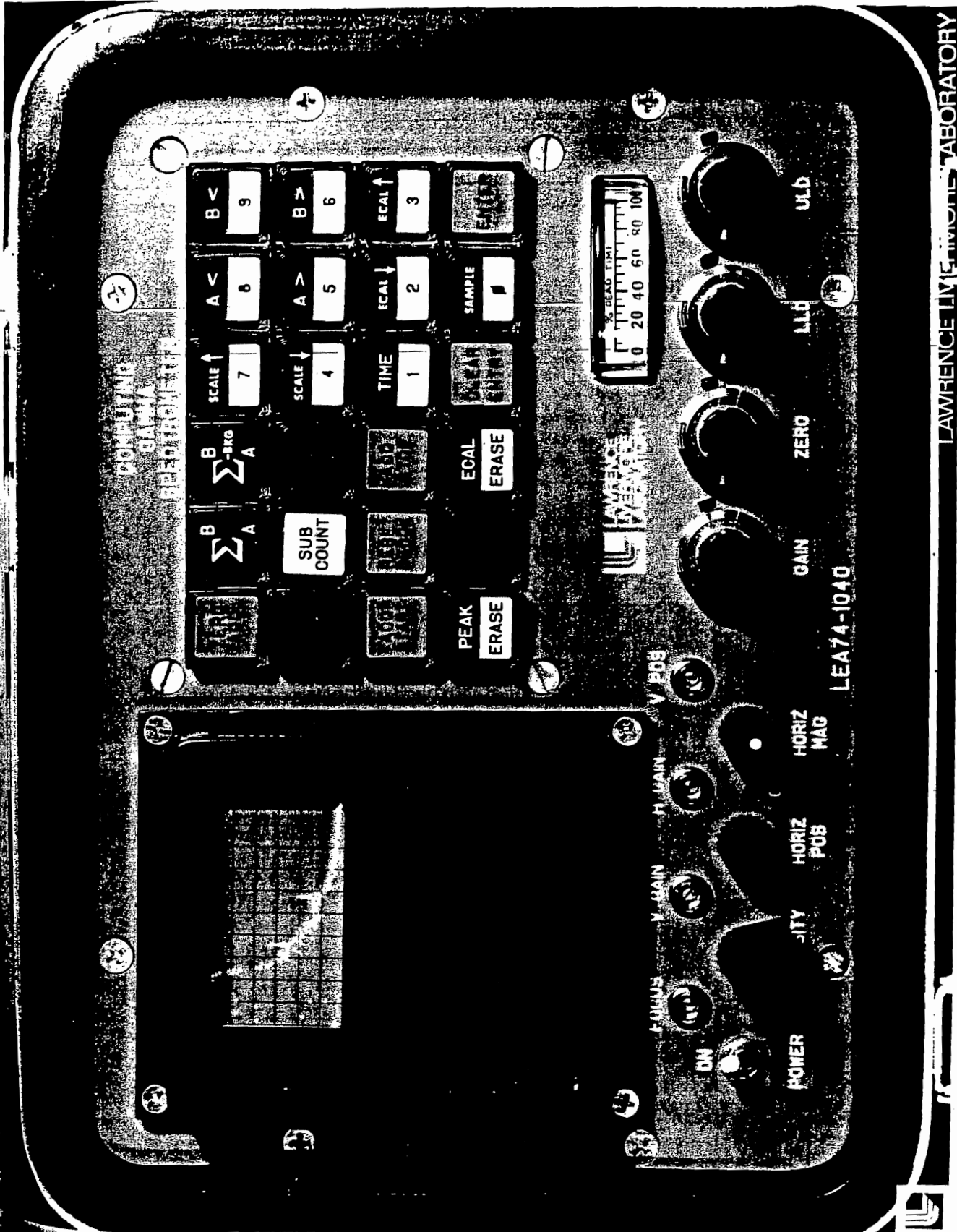
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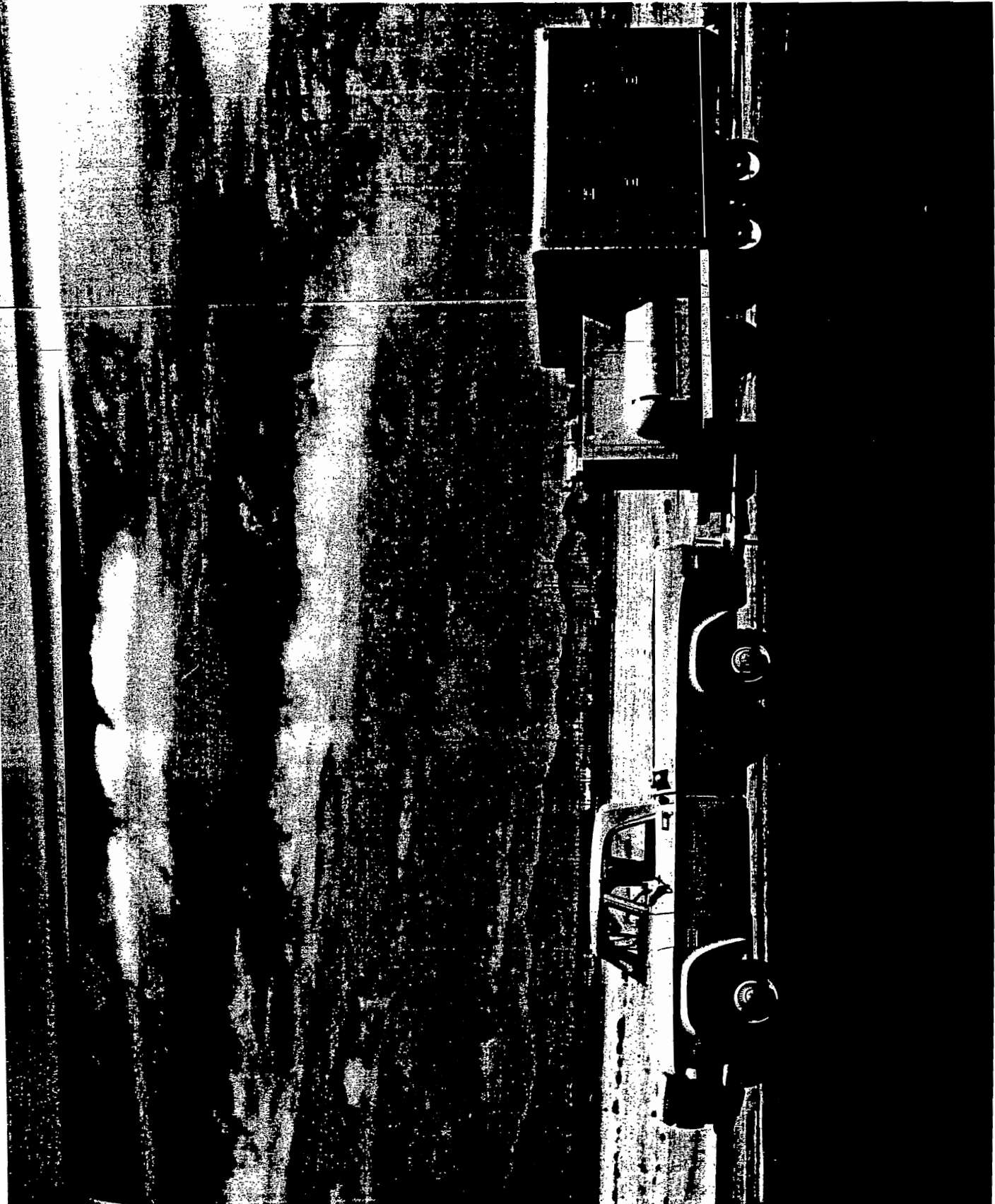
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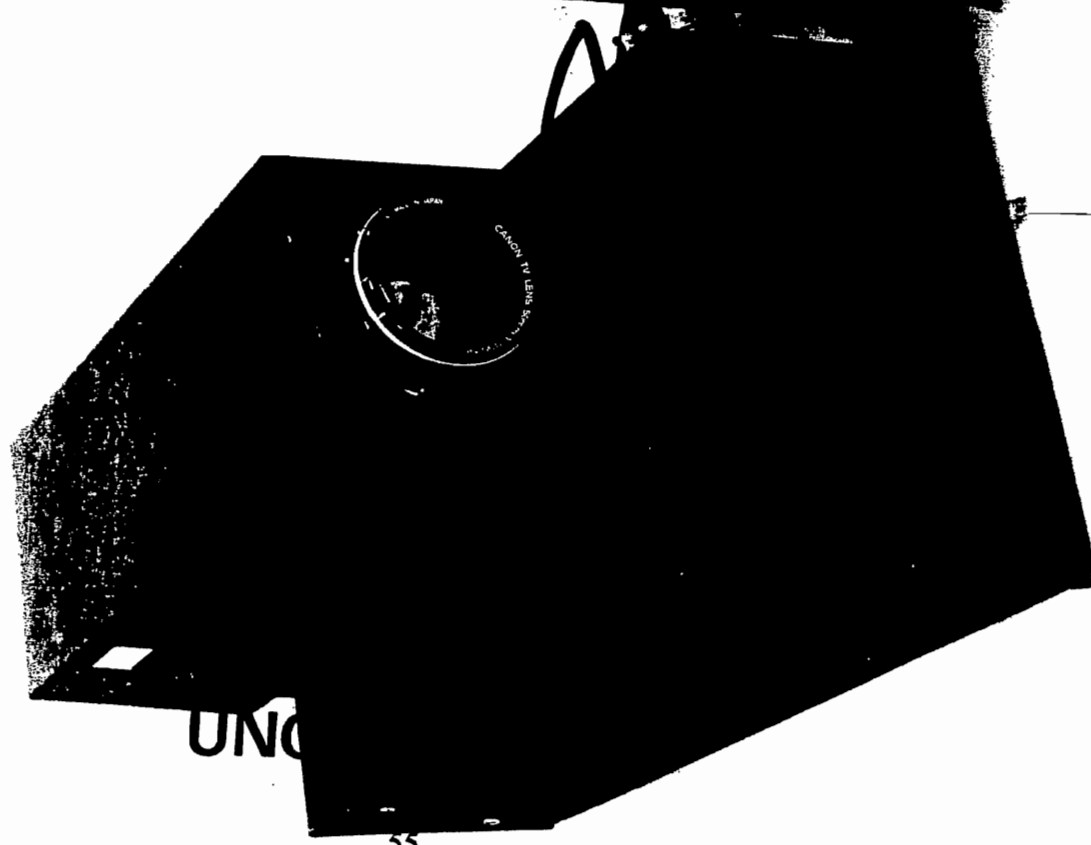
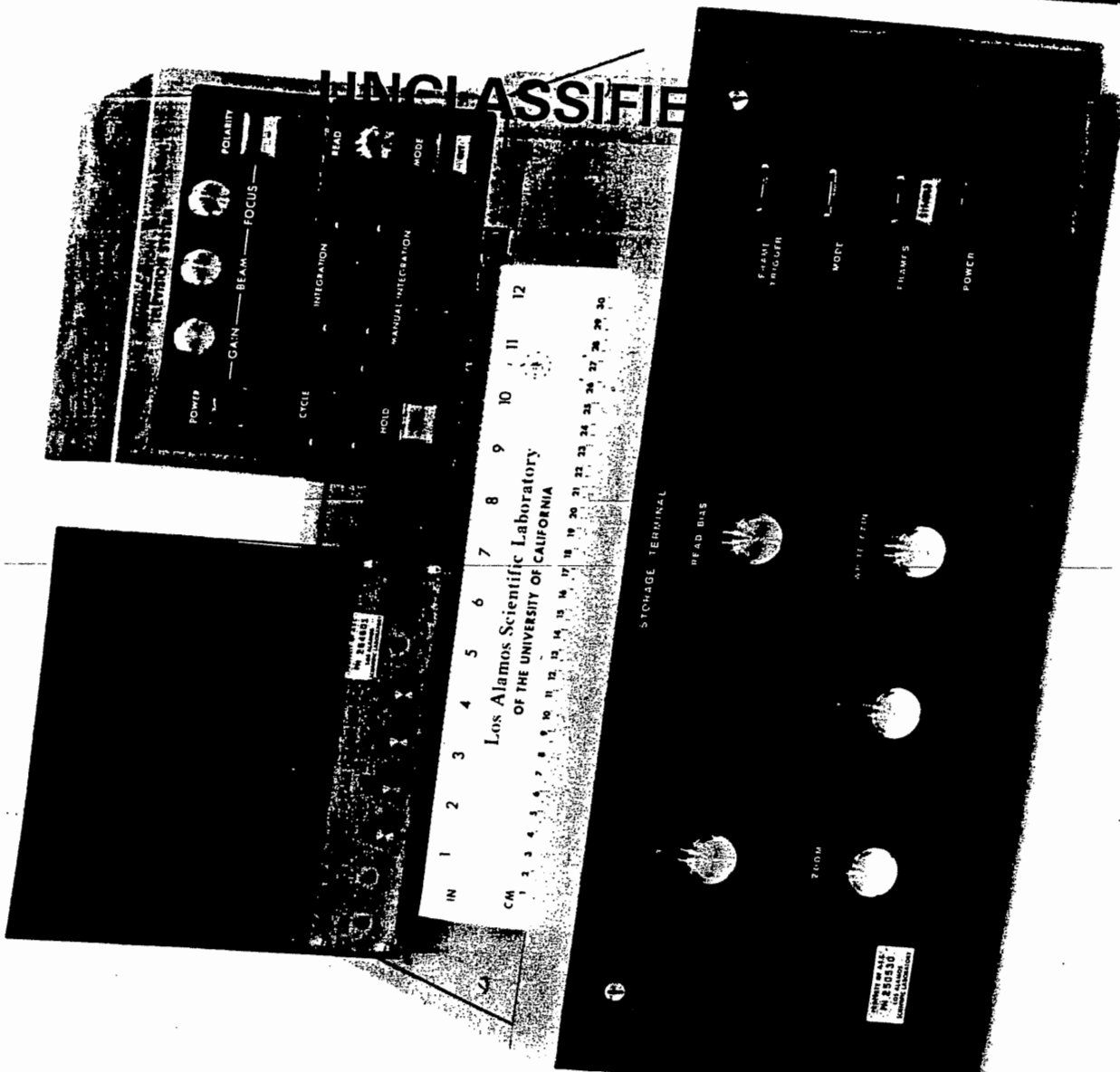
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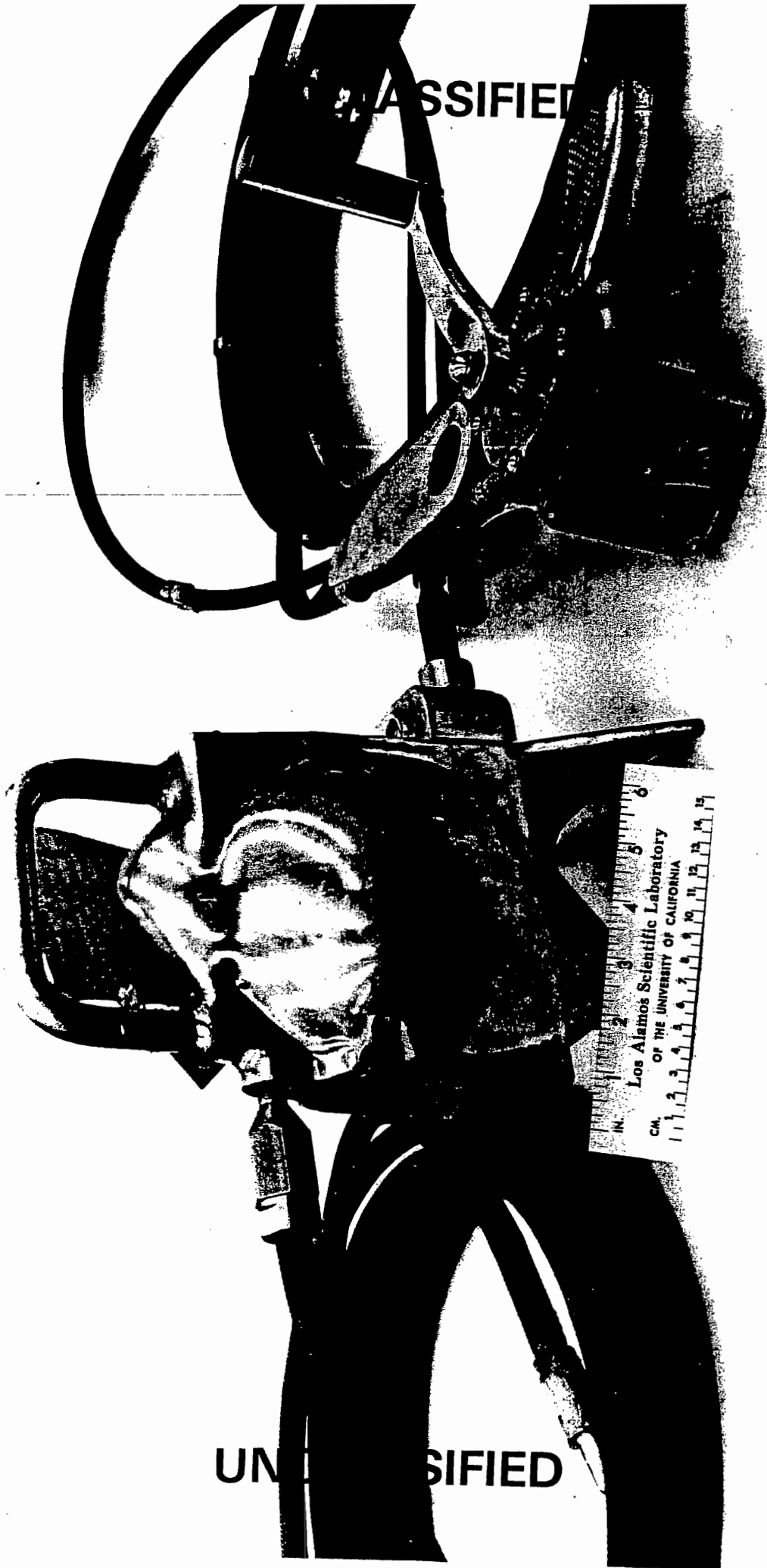
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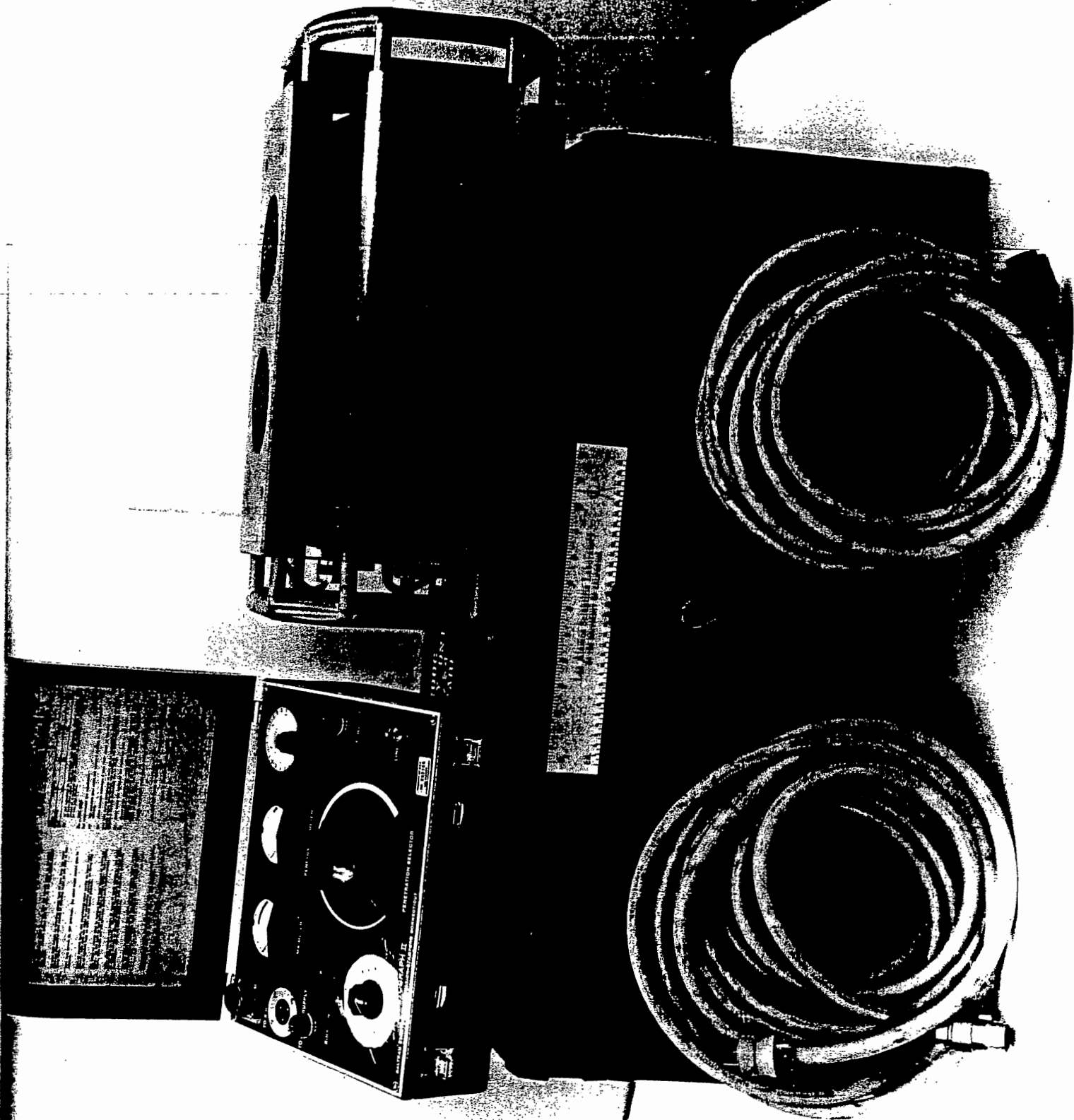
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