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HISTORY OF THE
AIR FORCE TECHNICAL APPLICATIONS CENTER
PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA
1 JANUARY 1979 - 31 DECEMBER 1980

VOLUME I - NARRATIVE

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AIR FORCE TECHNICAL APPLICATIONS CENTER
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

AF b(2)



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NON-RESPONSIVE

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NON-RESPONSIVE

22 September 1979 ~~(S)~~ An AEDS satellite detected a possible atmospheric nuclear explosion in the Southern Hemisphere (Alert 747) and set off one of the most extensive air sampling operations in recent years. 25-26, 34

NON-RESPONSIVE

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Figure 2-2

Airborne Nuclear Alerts/Missions
1 January 1979 - 31 December 1980

[REDACTED]
NON-RESPONSIVE

Southern Hemisphere

[REDACTED]
NON-RESPONSIVE

(S) On 22 September 1979, an AEDS satellite detected a possible atmospheric explosion in the Southern Hemisphere (Alert 747) and set off one of the most extensive air sampling operations in recent years. The suspected area encompassed the South Atlantic, South Indian Ocean, the southern tip of Africa, and adjacent parts of Antarctica. The event was picked up on two bhangmeters on a single VELA satellite.

[REDACTED]
22 September until 29 October 1979, sampling aircraft flew 25 sorties totalling 230.4 hours against this unexplained event.

AF b(1)

[REDACTED]

(S) [REDACTED]

AF b(1)

[REDACTED] the source remained unidentified. The analysis of the various data, as well as other factors surrounding the event seemed to indicate it was probably non-nuclear and more likely of an unknown natural origin.¹²

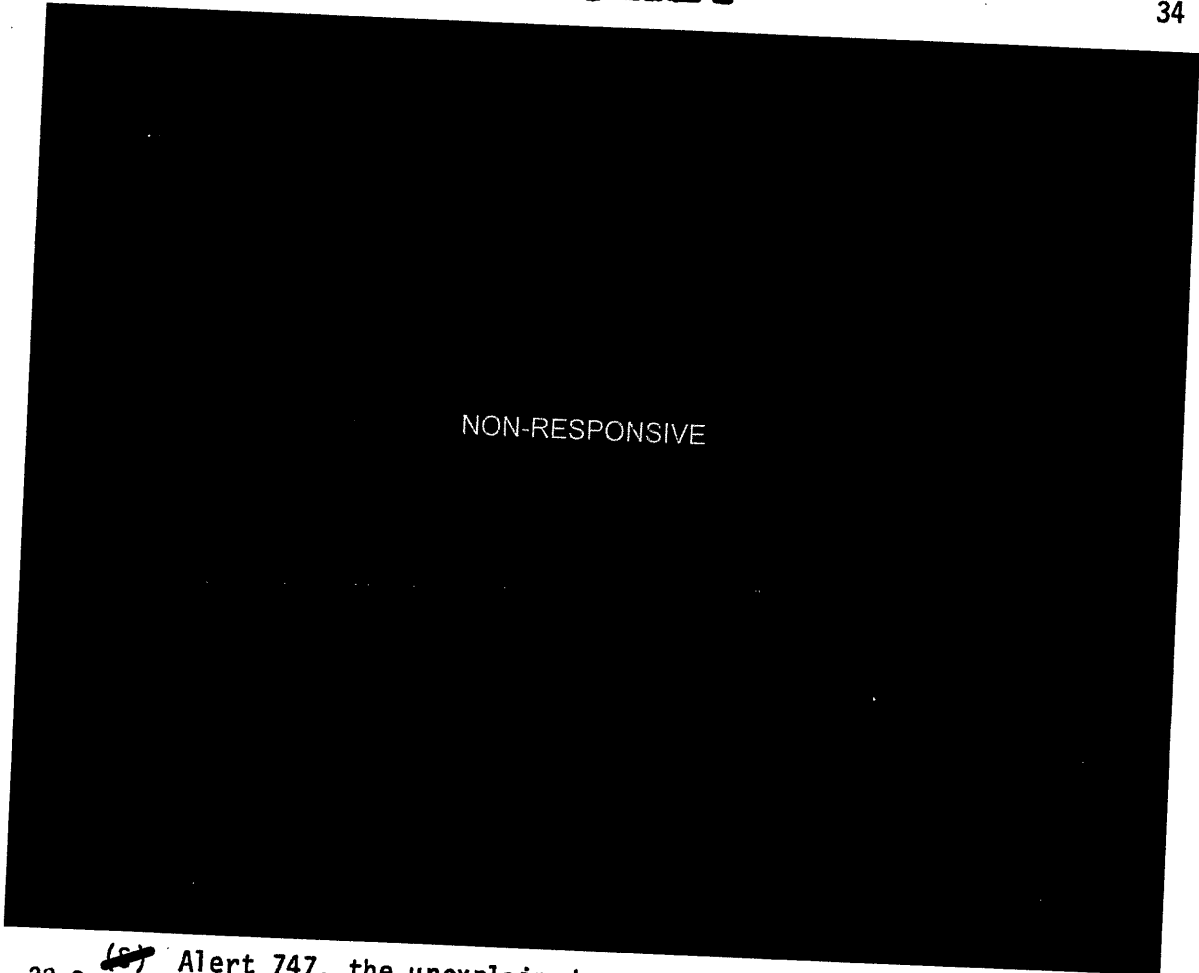
[REDACTED]
NON-RESPONSIVE

NON-RESPONSIVE

Figure 2-3 Special Events
1 January 1979 - 31 December 1980

| <u>Special Event Number</u> | <u>Detonator</u> | <u>Type Aircraft</u> | <u>Missions Flown From</u> | <u>Sorties Flown</u> | <u>Hours Flown</u> | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------|
| [REDACTED] | Unknown | WC-135B | [REDACTED] | 13 | 114.5 | AF b(1) |
| | | WC-135B | | 1 | 10.8 | |
| | Unknown | WC-135B | | 5 | 62.1 | |
| | | WC-135B | | 1 | 12.6 | |
| | Unknown | WC-135B | | 2 | 21.7 | |
| | | | | <u>22</u> | | |

NON-RESPONSIVE



NON-RESPONSIVE

~~(S)~~ Alert 747, the unexplained event that occurred on 22 September 1979 in the Southern Hemisphere, brought to light AFTAC's meager resources in that area of the world. This generated high-level interest in the AEDS program and a reevaluation of the system to improve coverage in the Southern Hemisphere. The outcome of this reevaluation was a decision to activate a southern United States station (SUSS) near Alpine, Texas, set up a Southern Hemisphere Network (SHN), and install a borehole seismometer at the South Pole station. These projects were collectively called the Auxiliary Seismic Network (ASN).⁴⁷

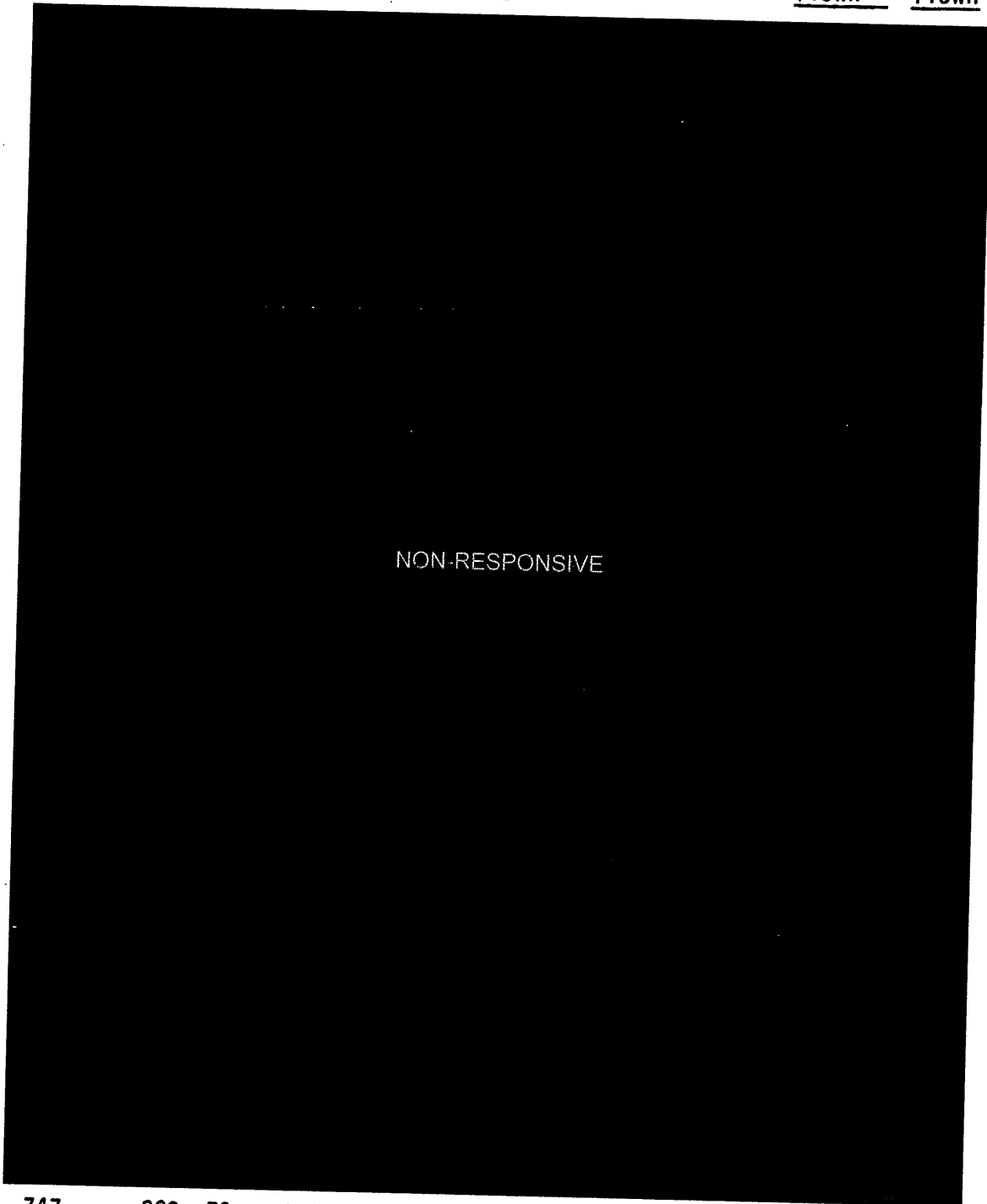


NON-RESPONSIVE

Appendix VII

Detected Nuclear Events
1 January 1979 - 31 December 1980

| <u>Alert Number</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Country</u> | <u>Site</u> | <u>Sorties Flown</u> | <u>Hours Flown</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
|-------------------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|--------------------------|------------------------|



NON-RESPONSIVE

| | | | | | |
|-----|---------|---------|---------------------|----|-------|
| 747 | 22Sep79 | Unknown | Southern Hemisphere | 25 | 230.4 |
|-----|---------|---------|---------------------|----|-------|

NON-RESPONSIVE

Appendix VIII

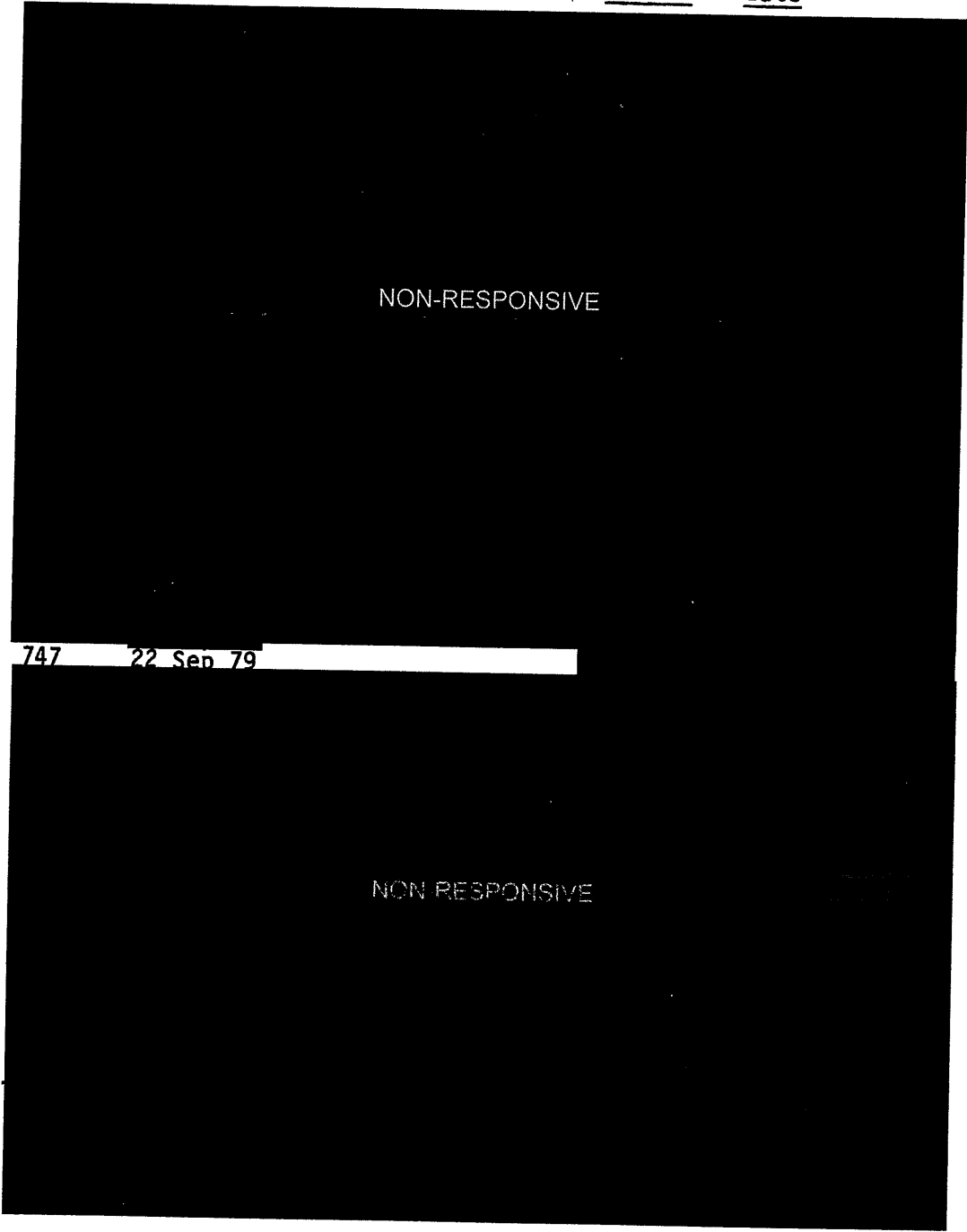
"B" Technique Seismic Alerts
1 January 1979 - 31 December 1980

Alert
Number

Date

Alert
Number

Date



NON-RESPONSIVE

747 22 Sep 79

NON RESPONSIVE