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Weekly Summary

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Jose Lopez Portillo

Western Hemisphere

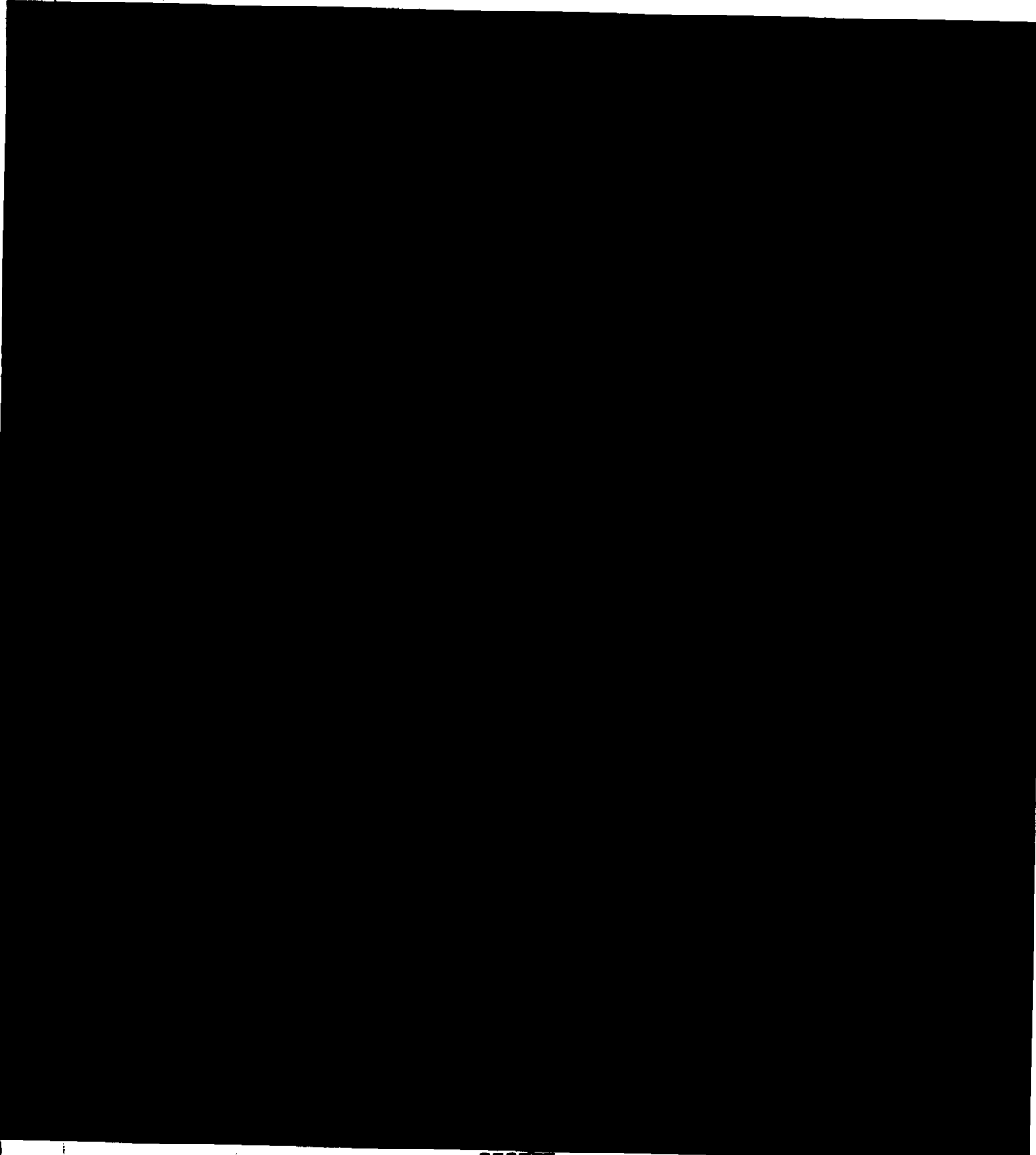
MEXICO

Jose Lopez Portillo is unopposed in the election on July 4 for a six-year presidential term. Even if he had opposition, the pervasive power and proven voter appeal of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party would assure him victory. Lopez Portillo will assume office December 1.

Although the PRI does very well at the polls in all areas of the country, its standing in the large cities has slipped in recent years. In 1973, when elections for the lower house were last held, the PRI obtained only 51.7 percent of the 439,400 votes cast in the Federal District. These results were a surprise to the party, leading to the appointment of new leaders to top party posts. The opposition, particularly the National Action Party, will probably regain a few seats in the Federal District and in other metropolitan areas, but the PRI will as before capture most of the congressional seats.

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