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DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

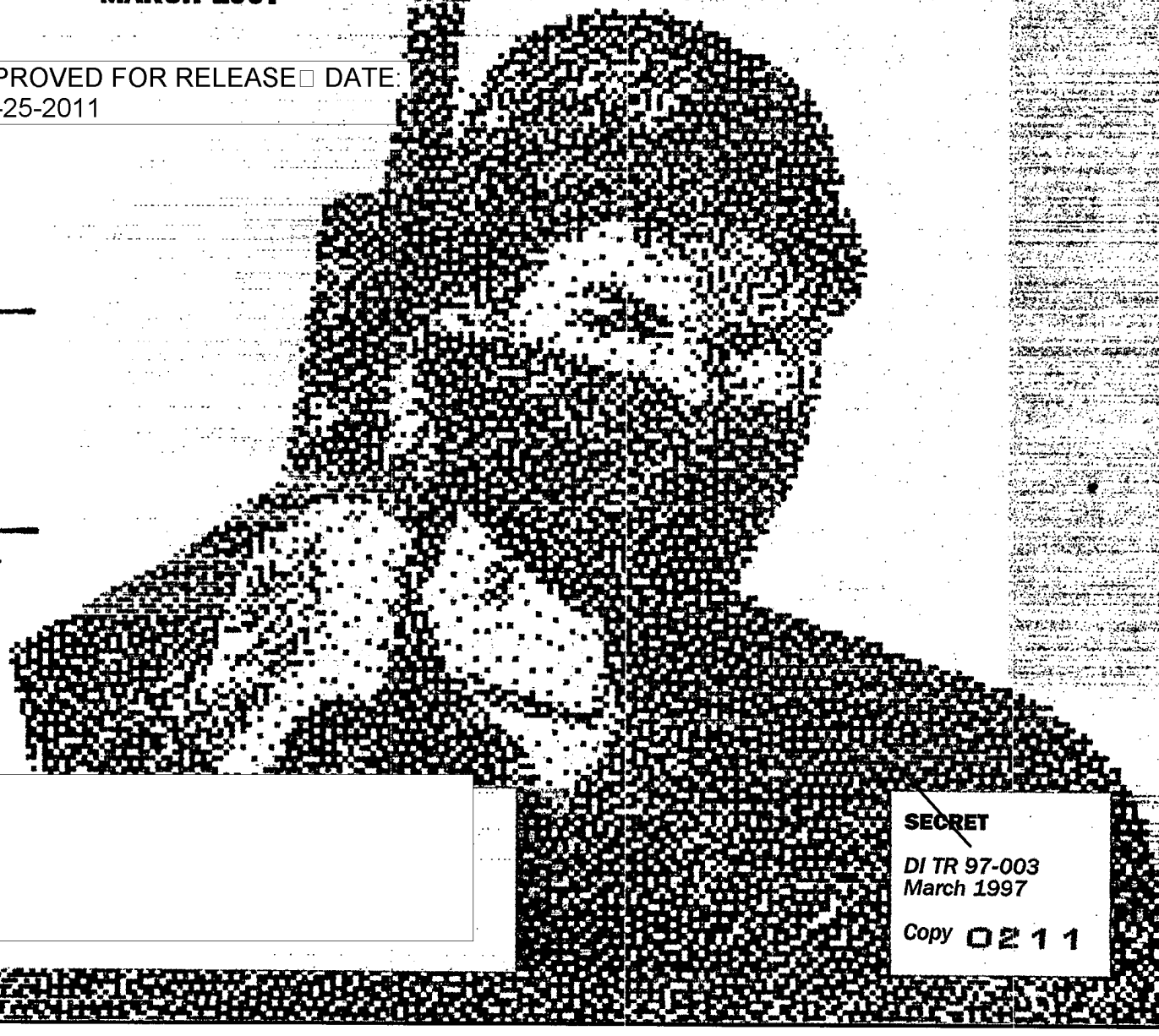
COUNTERTERRORIST CENTER

TERRORISM REVIEW

MARCH 1997

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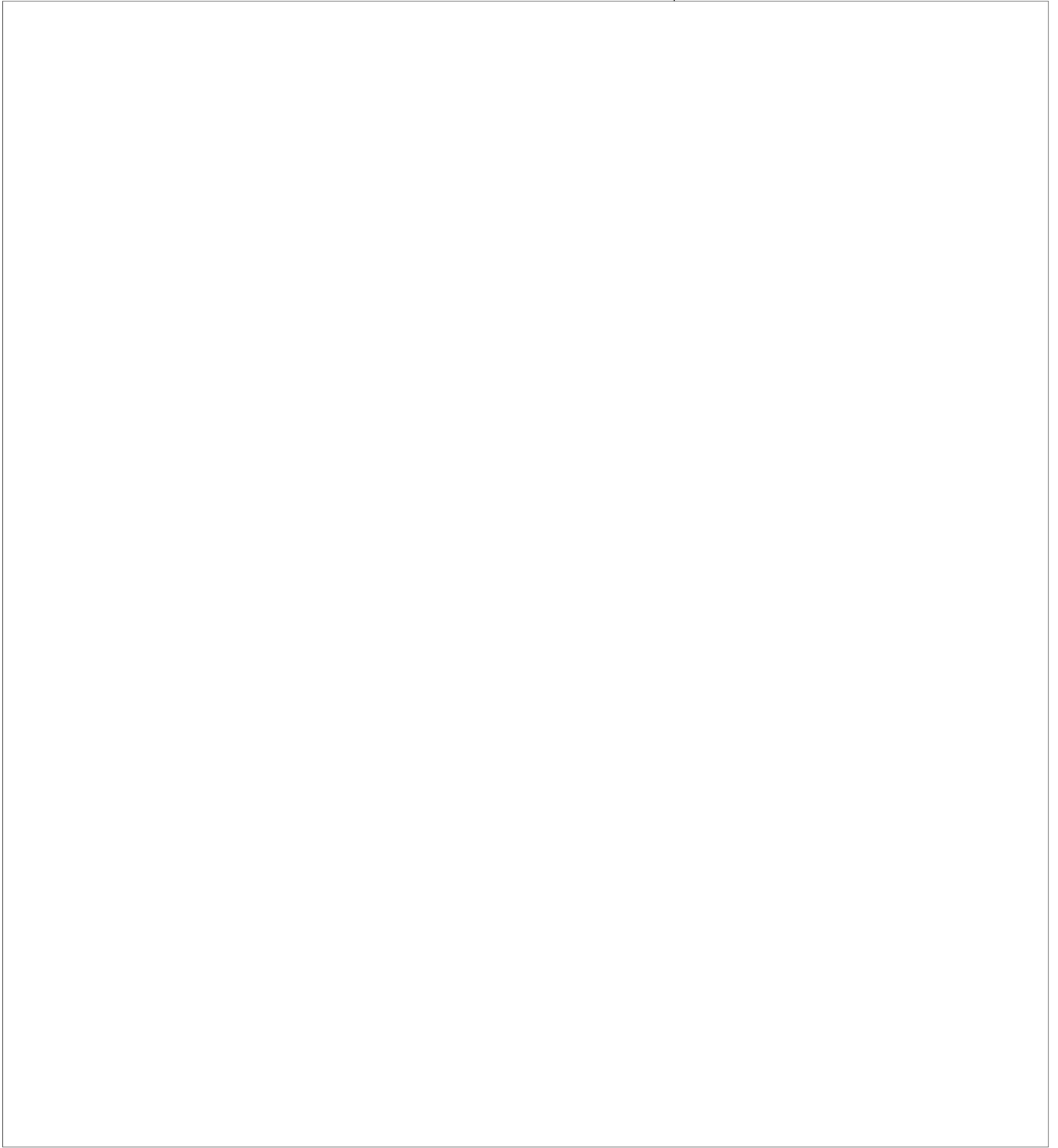
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This review is published monthly by the DCI Counterterrorist Center. Comments and queries are welcome and may be directed to

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Information available as of 21 March 1997 was used in this Review.

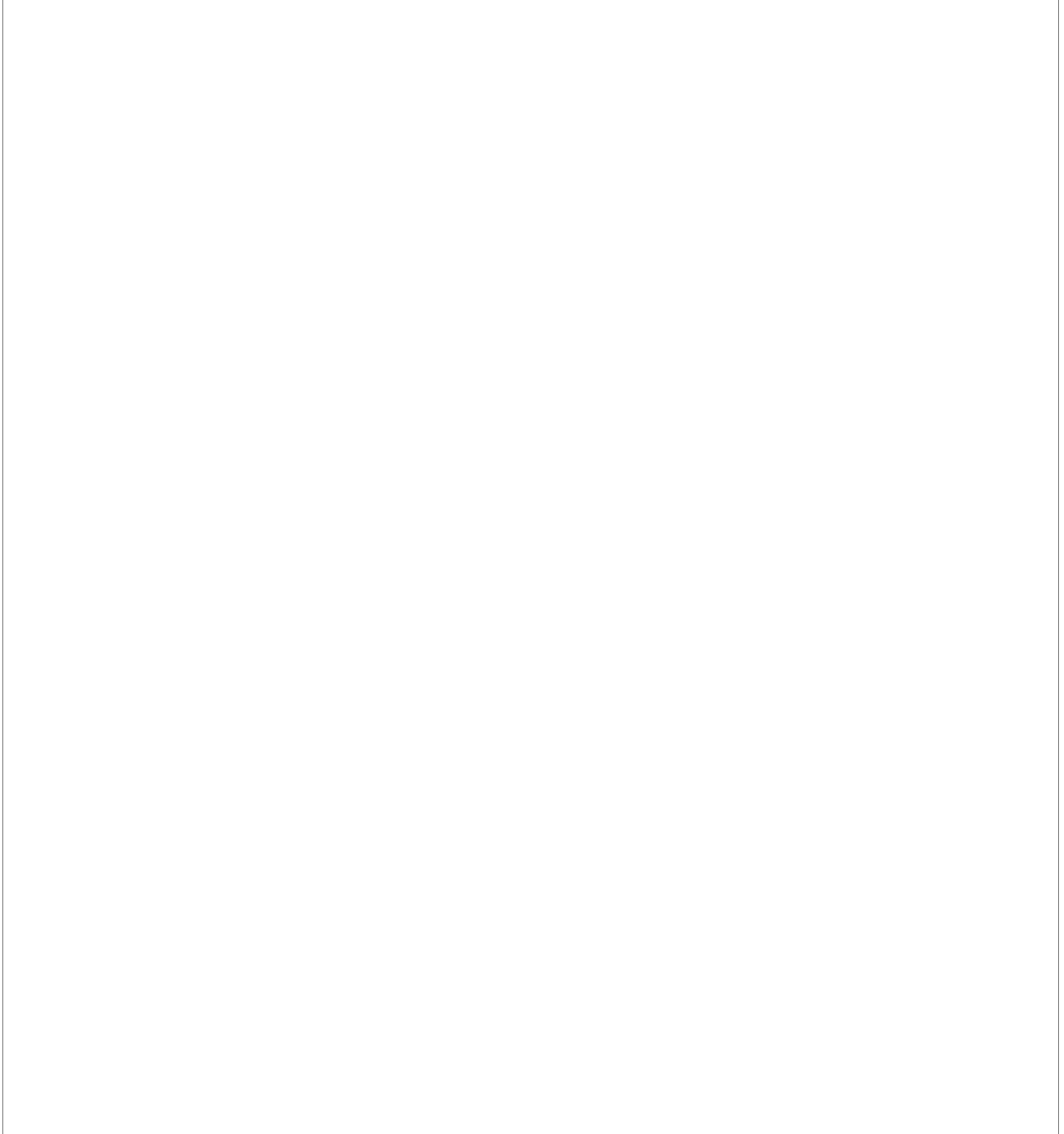






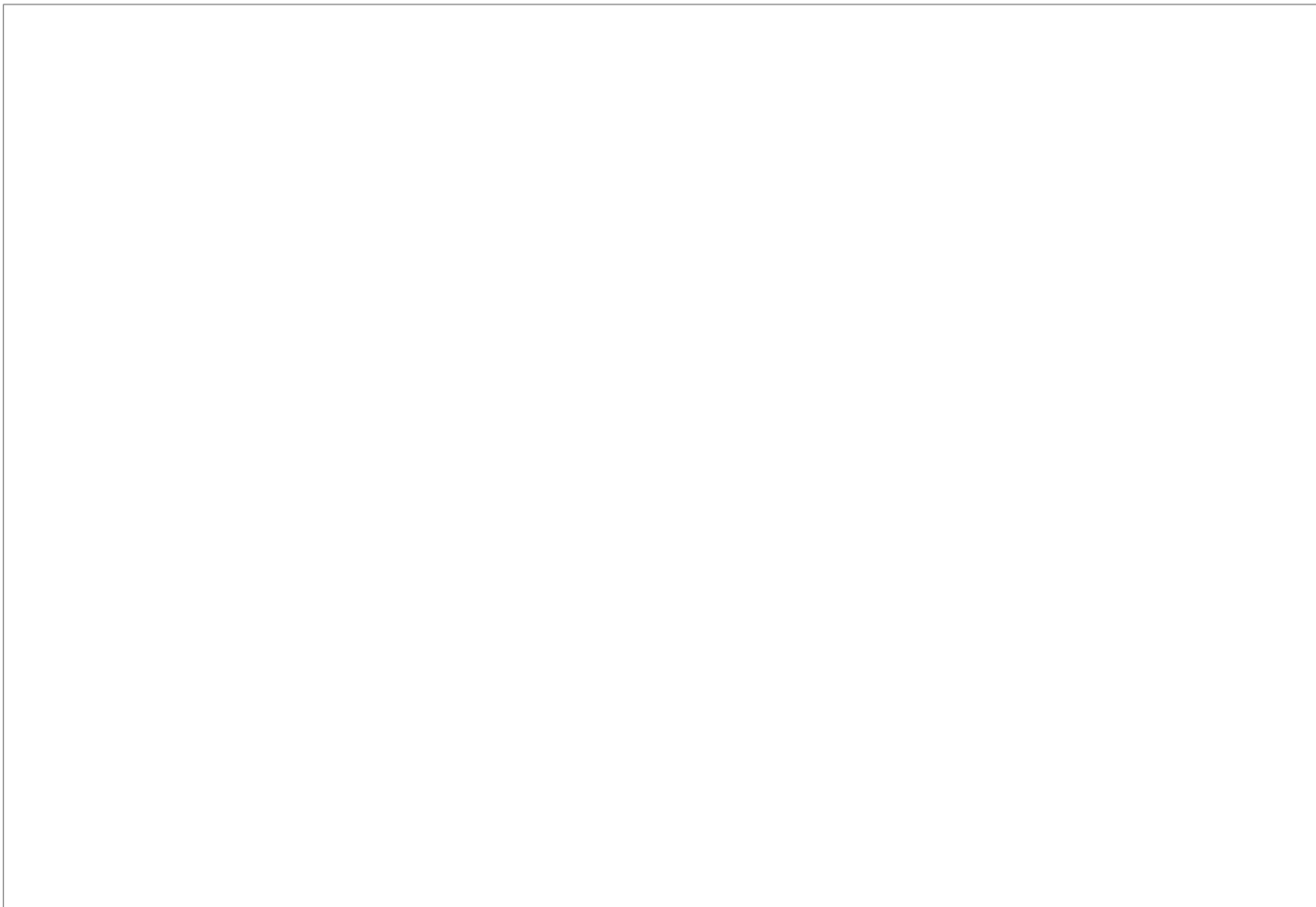


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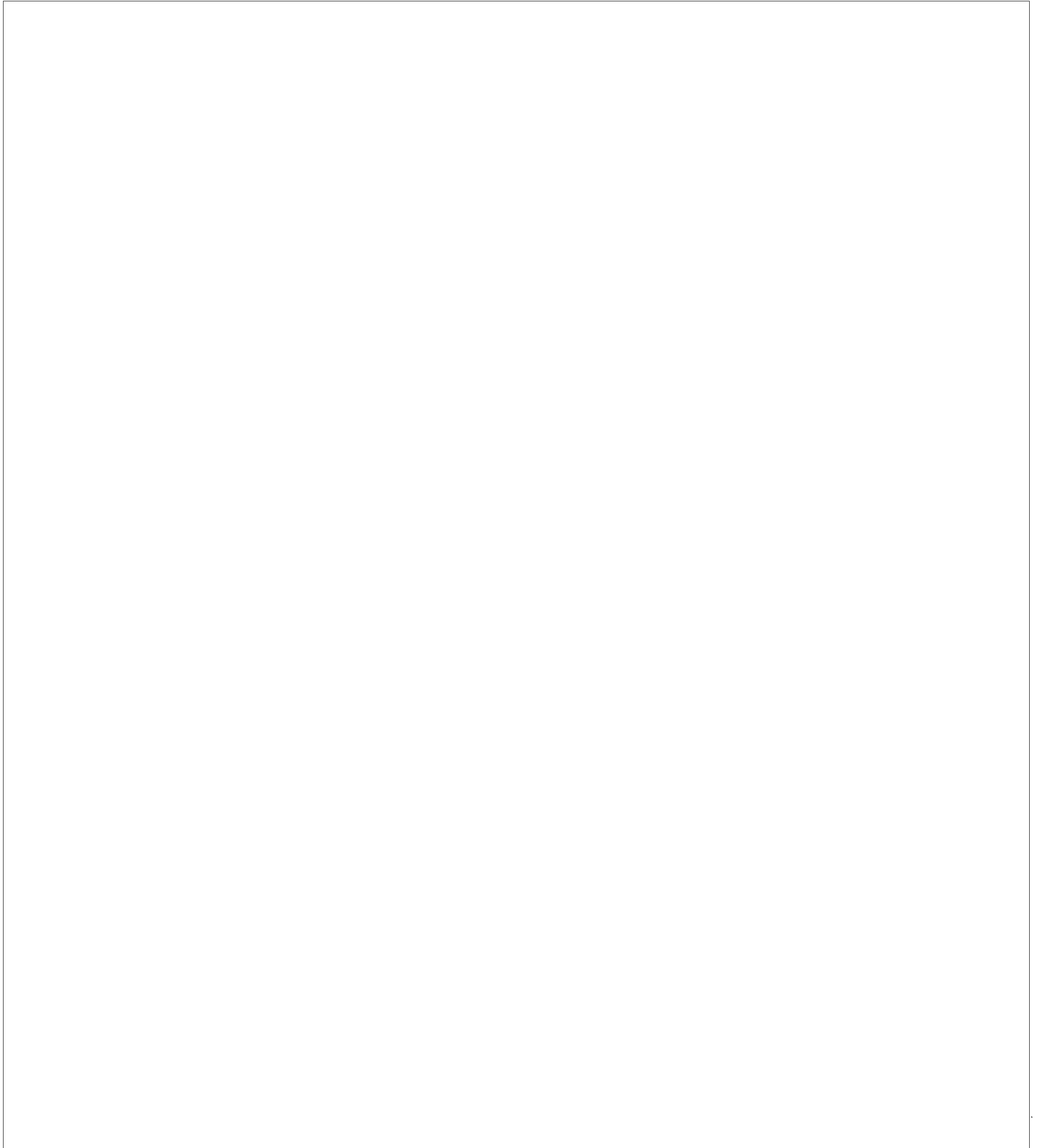
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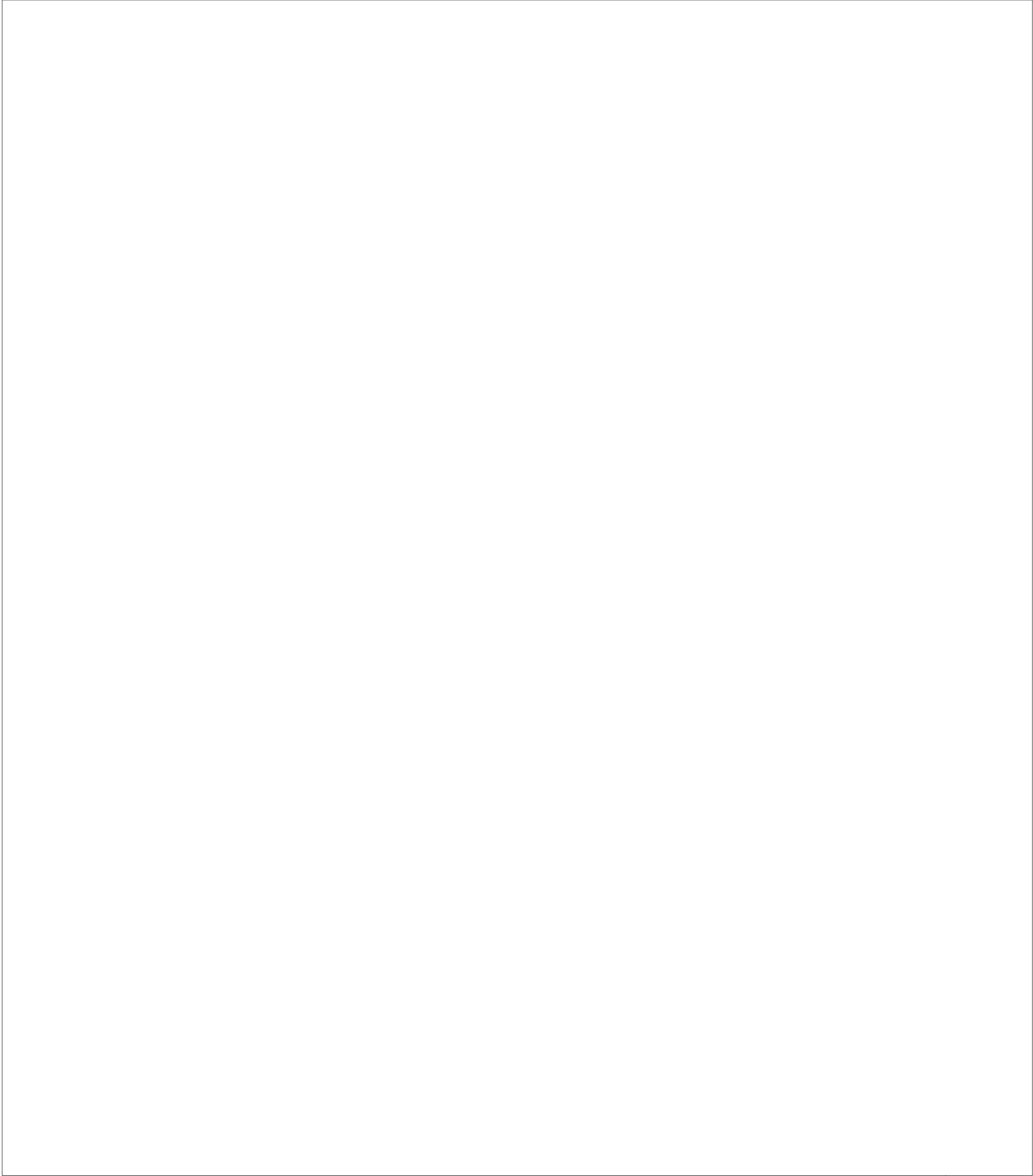




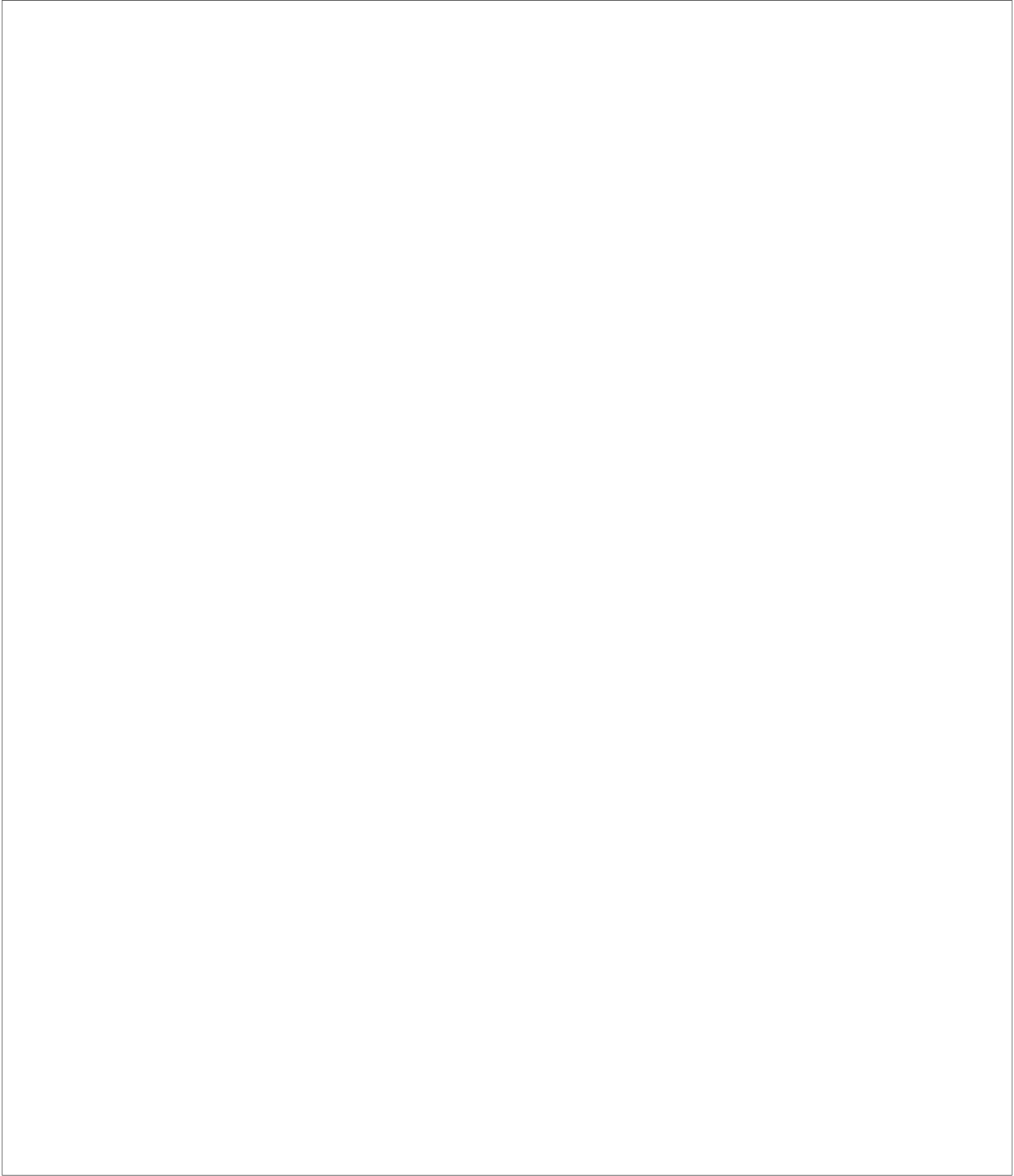
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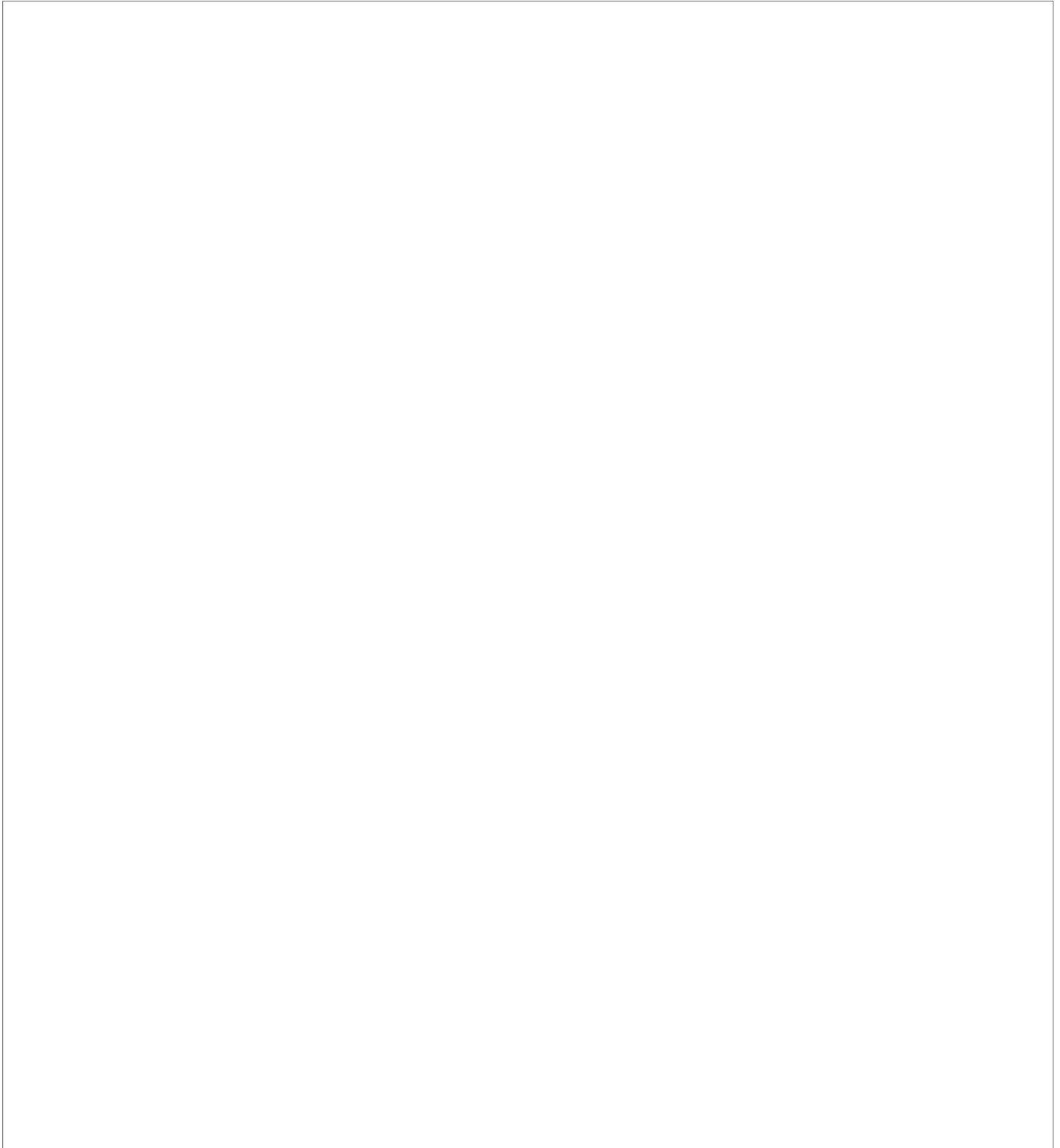
Highlights



Significant Developments









Latin America

Colombia

Another US Citizen Kidnapped [redacted]



[redacted] US mining engineer Frank Skee was kidnapped on 7 March in southwestern Colombia, apparently by members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the country's largest guerrilla group. Members of the FARC's 29th Front for several weeks had called a rarely used telephone number to demand extortion payments from the victim's employer, a US-owned mining company based near the Ecuadorian border. The kidnappers called the same number to set up ransom talks with the company. [redacted]

Colombian guerrillas already held four US citizens:

[redacted]

- The FARC kidnapped three US missionaries from Panama in 1993. Although the guerrillas have not provided any news on their status or whereabouts since 1994, information [redacted] indicates that all three were alive and in FARC captivity in February 1996.
- Another kidnapped US citizen was found dead last month in northeastern Colombia. [redacted]

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The Terrorism Diary for April and May

Below is a compendium of April and May dates of known or conceivable significance to terrorists around the world. Our inclusion of a date or event should not by itself be construed to suggest that we expect or anticipate a commemorative terrorist event.

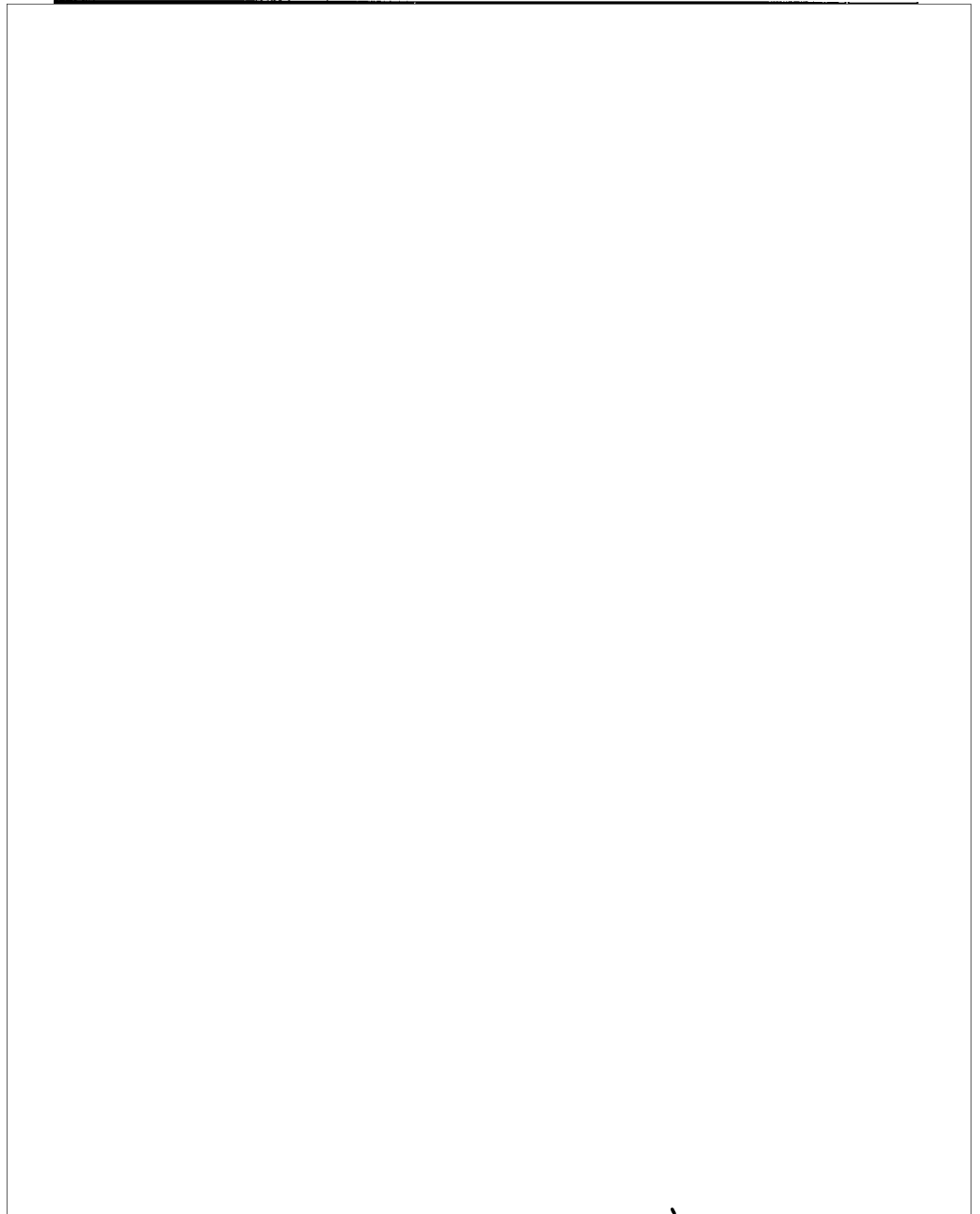
- April** *Armenians.* April is dedicated by Armenian groups to the memory of the massacre of Armenians by Turks during World War I.
- 1 April 1979** *Iran.* Islamic Republic Day.
- 4 April 1947** *Syria.* Founding of Ba'th Party.
- 4 April 1979** *Pakistan.* Ex-President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto executed; the terrorist group Al-Zulfikar, founded by his two sons, is named after him.
- 7 April 1916** *Ireland.* Beginning of insurrection that led to independence.
- 8 April 1947** *Iraq.* Founding of ruling Ba'th Party.
- 8 April-6 May** *Muslim World.* Month of the hajj. The pilgrimage will take place probably 16-18 April.
- 11 April 1968** *Palestinians.* Founding of Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC).
- 13 April 1975** *Lebanon.* Phalange militiamen attack bus, triggering Lebanese civil war.
- 14-15 April 1986** *Libya.* US aircraft bomb Tripoli and Benghazi in retaliation for Libyan involvement in anti-US terrorism.
- 19 April 1973** *Colombia.* Populist group National Popular Alliance extremists founded 19th of April Movement (M-19).
- 24 April 1915** *Armenians.* National Day of Sorrow. Commemorates Turkish massacre.
- 28 April 1937** *Iraq.* Birthday of Saddam Husayn.
- 29 April 1986** *India.* Sikh militants declare independent republic of Khalistan at Golden Temple in Amritsar; militants expelled from temple next day.
- 1 May** *Socialist World.* May Day (commemorates labor violence in Chicago).
- 1 May 1980** *Peru.* Destruction of electoral material in Chuschi, Province de Cangallo, marks beginning of armed struggle by Sendero Luminoso; anniversary is commemorated by acts of violence throughout May, but especially on 16 May.

- 2 May 1953** *Jordan.* King Husayn assumed constitutional power.
- 4 May 1997** *Jewish World.* Commemoration of the Holocaust.
- 6 May 1900** *Iran.* Birthday of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.
- 12 May 1997** *Israel.* Independence Day.
- 14 May 1948** *Middle East.* Beginning of first Arab-Israeli war.
- 15 May 1948** *Palestinians.* Palestine Day (end of UN mandate); 15 May Organization, founded in 1979 by remnant of Special Operations Group of Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), takes its name from this event.
- 17 May 1983** *Lebanon, Israel.* Signing of troop withdrawal accord (known as 17 May agreement).



Chronology of International Terrorism

The following incidents were considered by the Intelligence Community's Incident Review Panel since publication of the previous issue of the Terrorism Review and were determined by the Panel to constitute international terrorism. Such incidents provide the basis for the State Department's Patterns of Global Terrorism, which is published annually as the US Government's official record of international terrorism.



Africa

5 January

South Africa: A bomb exploded at a mosque in Rustenburg, injuring a Sudanese citizen and a South African. The Boere Aanvals Troepe claimed responsibility for the attack. [redacted]



2 February

Rwanda: An unidentified gunman entered a church in Ruhengeri and shot and killed a priest as he served communion. No one claimed responsibility for the attack. [redacted]

4 February

Rwanda: In Cyangugu Prefecture, suspected Hutu militants killed five members of the UN Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda using firearms, grenades, and machetes. The victims included a Briton, a Cambodian, and three Rwandans. [redacted]

Eurasia

2 January

Tajikistan: Gunmen shot and killed a Russian medical service officer and a Tajik nurse in an apartment in Dushanbe. No one claimed responsibility for the attack. Authorities believe Islamic opposition fighters may be responsible. [redacted]

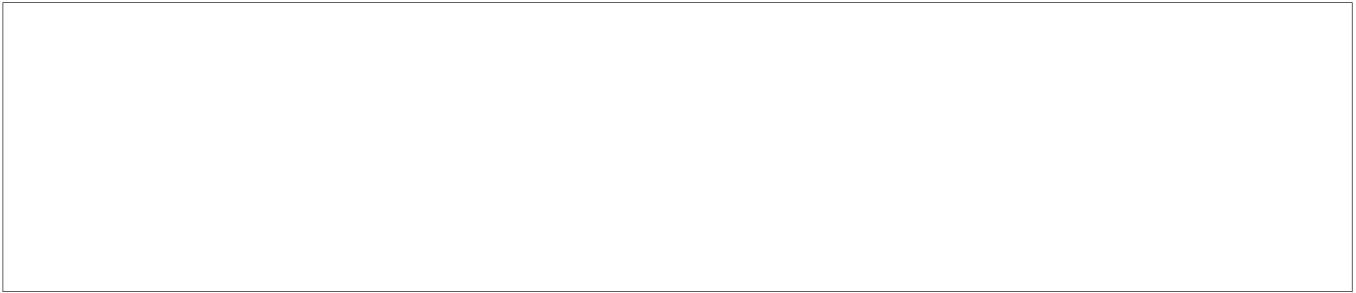


13 January

Russia: Unidentified assailants kidnapped two Russian journalists in Chechnya. The kidnappers issued a ransom demand of \$500,000. A Jordanian militant is suspected of leading the kidnappers. [redacted]

23 January

Tajikistan: Gunmen shot and killed a retired Cossack military commander, his mother, and his fiancée in Dushanbe. No one claimed responsibility for the attack. [redacted]



Europe

1 January

Greece: Unidentified assailants ignited two incendiary devices underneath the company car of a Wackenhut guard in Athens, destroying the vehicle but causing no injuries. No one claimed responsibility for the attack.

10 January

Spain: Unknown attackers hurled several molotov cocktails at a Renault car dealership in Anoeta, causing extensive damage but no injuries. Authorities suspect youth sympathizers of the *Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA)* organization.



12 January

Spain: Assailants in San Sebastian set fire to two French-registered vehicles during a pro-ETA demonstration. Authorities suspect ETA-organized youth groups are responsible.

13 January

United Kingdom: A letter bomb detonated at a London building housing the Al-Hayat newspaper and the Al-Majallah magazine, injuring two guards and causing minor damage. Authorities defused three additional devices. The bombs were postmarked in Alexandria, Egypt, and are similar to others found at Al-Hayat offices in the United States and Saudi Arabia.



22 January

Turkey: A device exploded on an Iraqi-owned pipeline in Mardin. The pipeline, extending from Kirkuk, Iraq, to Yumurtalik, Turkey, sustained major damage. The PKK is suspected. [redacted]

23 January

Italy: Italian leftists seized the office of the Peruvian Honorary Consul in Padua, holding the Consul and several workers hostage for several hours. The intruders left painted messages on office walls calling for the release of Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) prisoners in Peru. [redacted]

[redacted]

5 February

Germany: Suspected PKK members or sympathizers firebombed a Turkish cultural club in Goepfingen, injuring two Turks and causing extensive damage. [redacted]

Latin America

10 January

Colombia: Alleged National Liberation Army (ELN) members dynamited a section of the Barrancabermeja pipeline in Barrancabermeja, causing minor damage. [redacted]

27 January

Colombia: Two aircraft, including one piloted by a US civilian, were hit by ground fire while eradicating coca crops in the southeastern part of the country. No one was injured, but one aircraft had to make an emergency landing. No group claimed responsibility, but Colombian guerrillas are suspected. [redacted]

Middle East

4 and 11 January

Saudi Arabia: In two separate incidents, bomb disposal experts safely detonated two letterbombs received at the Al-Hayat newspaper office in Riyadh. No one claimed responsibility. The devices were postmarked in Alexandria, Egypt, and are similar to those received by Al-Hayat bureaus in the United States and the UK. [redacted]

[redacted]

North America

[redacted]

Summary of Indigenous Terrorism—February 1997 [redacted]

This description of incidents and situations is not meant to be a detailed accounting of all domestic terrorist incidents, but rather to provide an overview of indigenous terrorism worldwide [redacted]

Asia

India

A bomb exploded on a bus in Panipat, Haryana State, on 1 February, killing one person and injuring at least 19 others. No one claimed responsibility, but Kashmiri or Sikh separatists are suspected [redacted]

On 11 February unidentified extremists attacked Pakkajala Village in Tripura State, killing 15 persons, injuring three others, and burning down 22 houses. [redacted]

On 19 February suspected Muslim militants detonated a bomb three miles from the airport in Srinagar, where the US Ambassador was scheduled to arrive within the hour. One person was killed, and two Indian soldiers were injured [redacted]

Sri Lanka

On 11 February in the district of Pollanruwa, *Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)* guerrillas attacked the Sungaveli police post, killing at least 15 constables and wounding several others [redacted]

Europe

Greece

Police defused an explosive device that was found outside the Athens home of a terrorist expert and former adviser to the Greek Ministry of Public Order on 23 February. The *Fighting Guerrilla Formation* claimed responsibility in warning calls to local media outlets [redacted]

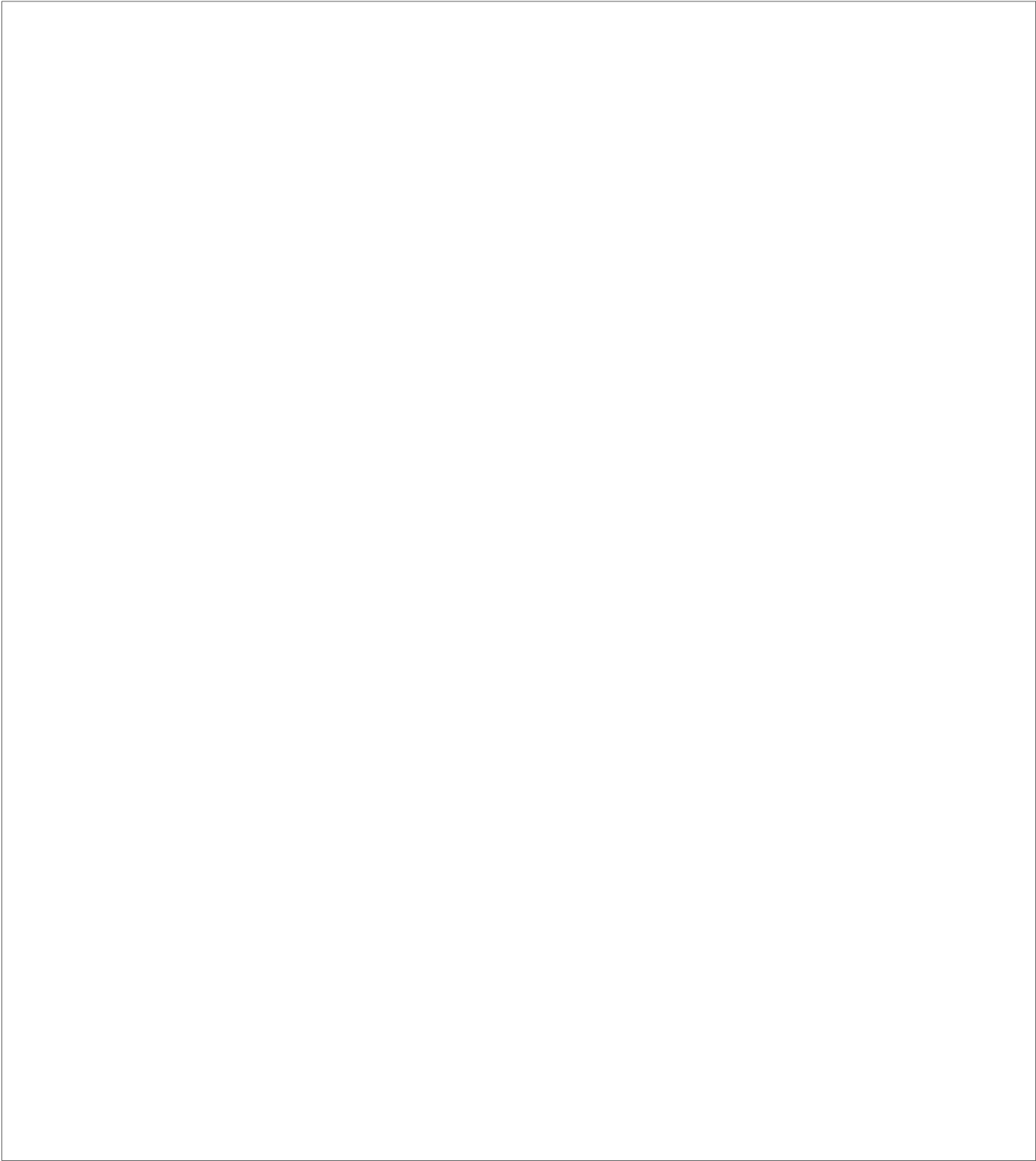
Spain

A car bomb exploded outside a San Sebastian wine shop on 2 February, causing minor damage but no injuries. The *Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA)* organization is suspected [redacted]

[redacted]

Two gunmen shot and killed a Spanish Supreme Court judge outside his Madrid home on 10 February. No one claimed responsibility, but authorities suspect the *ETA* [redacted]

On 11 February an unidentified gunman shot and killed a prominent local businessman as he conducted a band during a carnival celebration in Tolosa. The *ETA* is suspected. [redacted]



An explosive device detonated under the car of a Bilbao policeman on 17 February, killing the driver and causing minor damage to a nearby school. The *ETA* is suspected. [redacted]

Turkey

On 3 February in Istanbul, two gunmen kidnapped and killed the Kartal district leader of the National Action Party. The assailants left an unnamed leftist organization's pamphlet near the victim's body [redacted]

A group of militants clashed with security forces on 9 February near the Gomece village in Hatay, killing a village guard and wounding a soldier. The *Kurdistan Peoples' Liberation Army (ARGK)*, the military arm of the *Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK)*, is suspected [redacted]

The *ARGK* claimed responsibility for executing a government employee on 10 February in Mardin. [redacted]

United Kingdom

On 5 February unknown assailants hurled an explosive device at a police vehicle in Dungannon, Northern Ireland, causing minor damage but no injuries. The *Irish Republican Army (IRA)* probably was responsible [redacted]

Authorities deactivated a large bomb placed in an empty lot next to a hotel in Strabane, Northern Ireland, on 9 February. In a coded telephone call to a local police station, the *IRA* warned officials and claimed responsibility for planting the device. [redacted]

A suspected *IRA* sniper opened fire on a Bessbrook, Northern Ireland, vehicle checkpoint on 12 February, killing a British soldier and injuring a motorist [redacted]

Latin America

Colombia

Two hundred *National Liberation Army (ELN)* guerrillas attacked the town of Cubara on 8 February, killing five women and five policemen and destroying the police station [redacted]

On 12 February an explosive device activated by an electronic mechanism detonated on the runway as Colombian President Samper's aircraft approached the airstrip in Barranquilla. The crew had to abort their landing because of the blast, but there were no injuries. No group has claimed responsibility [redacted]

Alleged *Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC)* guerrillas ambushed a prison van and freed 10 *FARC* prisoners in Caqueta Province on 18 February. The six prison guards were stripped of their weapons but unharmed, and the van was set on fire [redacted]

Peru

Sendero Luminoso (SL) rebels threw a bomb near an electric company office in Lima on 9 February, causing minor damage. Leaflets were left at the site that read: "Viva Presidente Gonzalo" referring to *SL's* leader and founder, who was arrested in 1992 and is serving a life sentence in prison [redacted]

Middle East

Algeria

On 18 February some 30 militants attacked the village of Kerrach in Blida and beheaded 33 villagers. The *Armed Islamic Group (GIA)* is suspected. [redacted]

A bomb exploded at a market in Boufarik, Blida, on 24 February, killing one person and wounding 13 others. The *GIA* may be responsible [redacted]

Egypt

On 12 February six gunmen broke into a village church in Abu Qurqas, Al-Minya Governorate, closed the doors, and opened fire randomly, killing nine persons and wounding six others. During their escape the assailants killed another person outside the church. *Al-Gama'at al-Islamiyya* is suspected [redacted]