

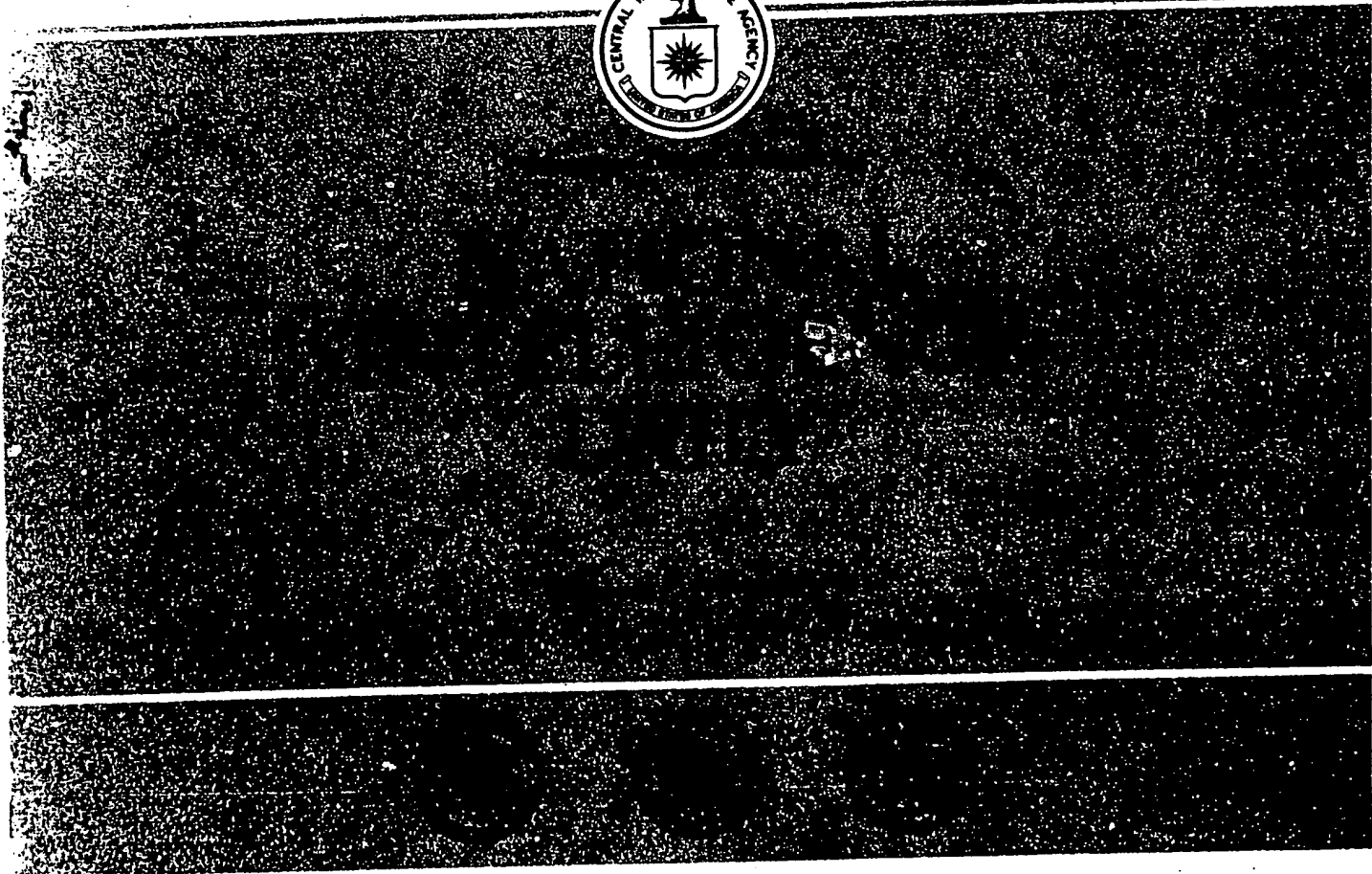
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CHILE: Human Rights Report Spurs Terrorism

Extreme leftists have mounted a series of attacks on security forces this month in response to a controversial government human rights report that details abuses under the Pinochet regime without charging those responsible. Rival groups have assassinated two security officials and wounded several others, bombed three police stations, and tried to bomb a Navy hospital. The groups have threatened to kill any officials suspected of human rights crimes but not brought to justice. The Army has responded to the attacks by publicly reemphasizing its role as guarantor of internal security.

Comment: The extreme left will continue using the human rights issue as a pretext for attacks, and the military and the right may blame the government for provoking reprisals. President Aylwin, despite the Army's statement, is likely to continue to rely most on the police for internal security. The attacks are directed mainly at officials linked to repression under Pinochet and probably do not portend an increased threat to US interests.