



**Directorate of
Intelligence**

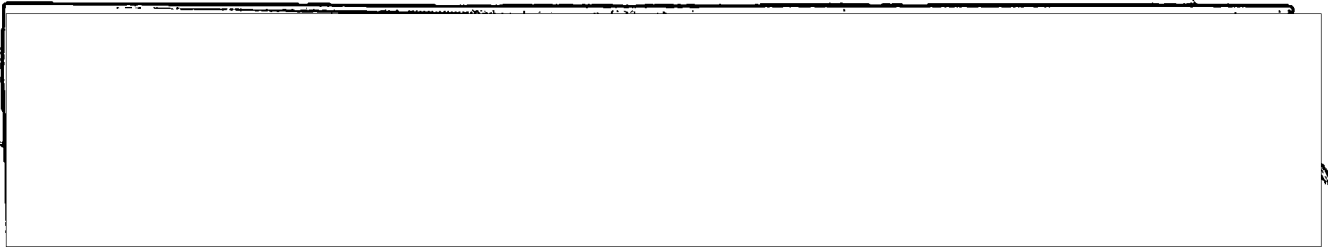
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Leadership Review (U)

January 1988



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*LDA LR 88-001
January 1988*

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Mexico: Leading Opposition Party Names Presidential 42
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Mexico

Leading Opposition Party Names Presidential Candidate

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In November, at the 36th national convention of the conservative National Action Party (PAN), businessman Manuel Clouthier del Rincon was nominated as the PAN presidential candidate for the July 1988 election (he won 70 percent of the votes cast). Clouthier was the PAN's 1986 gubernatorial candidate in Sinaloa.



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His strong showing in the Sinaloa election indicates that Clouthier will probably be a more credible candidate than many past PAN standardbearers. An agroindustrialist, he claims special insight into the country's agricultural difficulties, which may help the party expand its traditionally urban support to rural areas and agricultural workers, especially in the north. Nevertheless, because of his party's small size and the PRI's tight grip on the electoral process, he would have to overcome almost insurmountable odds to win the July election.

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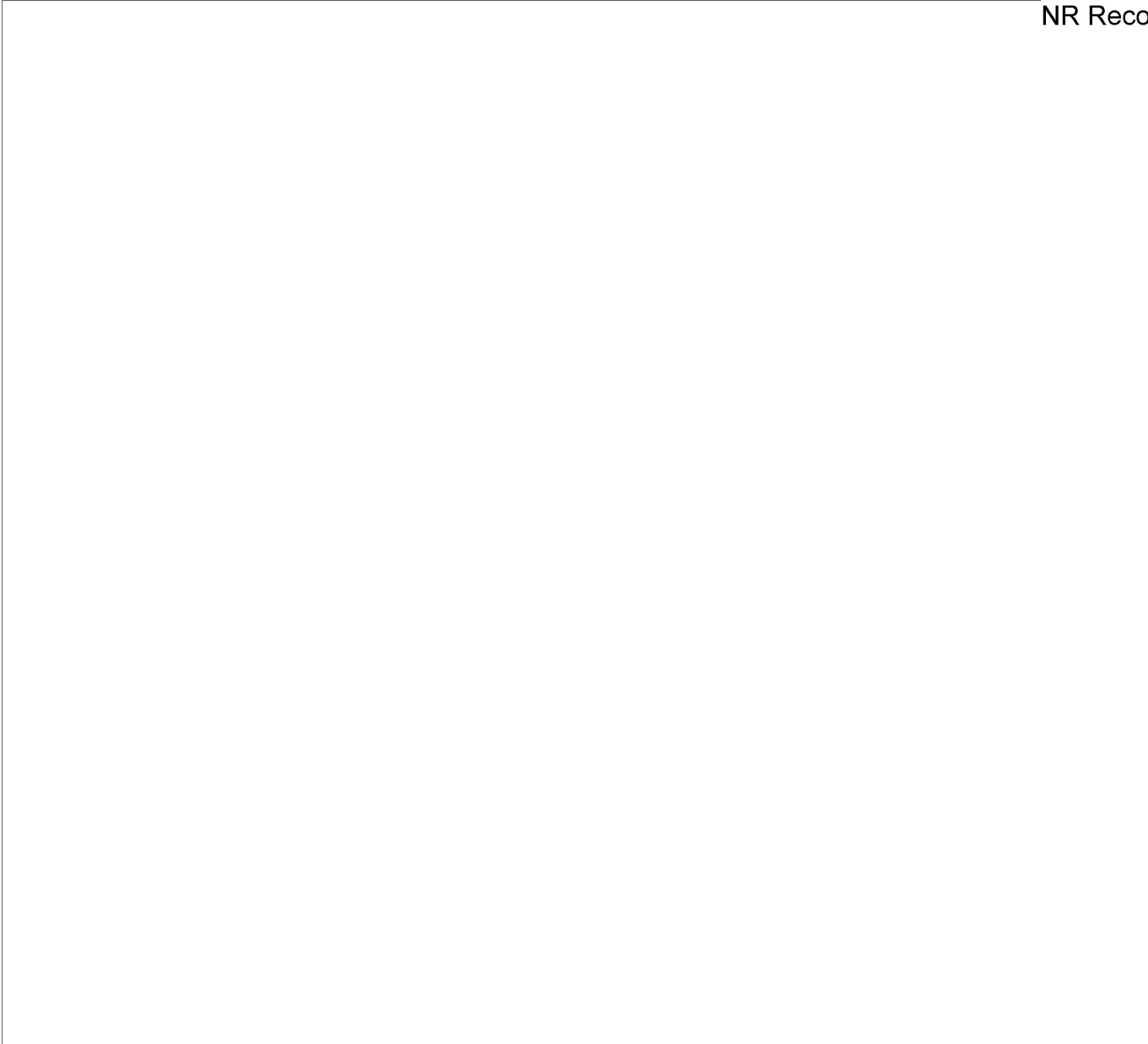
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