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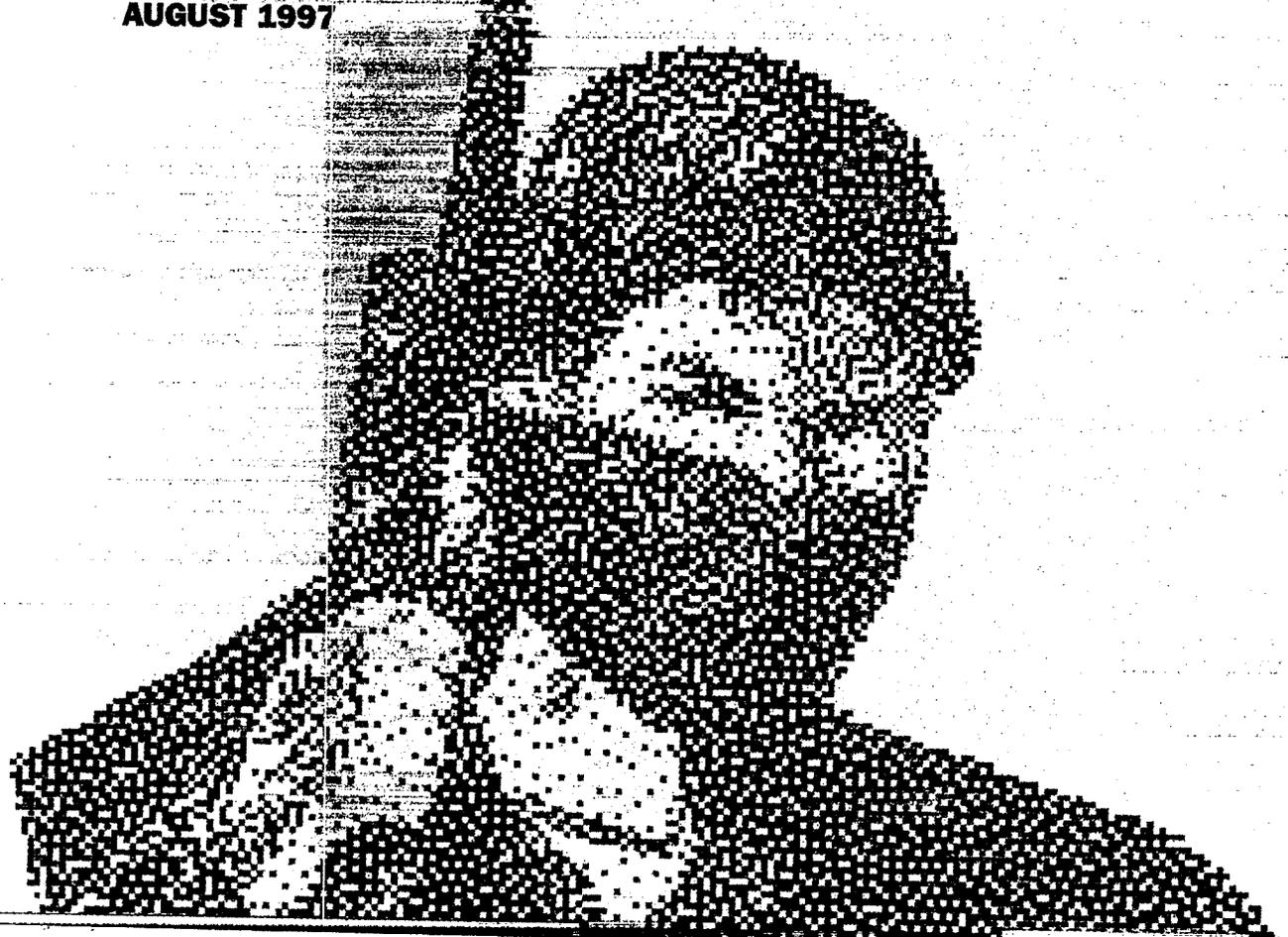


DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

COUNTERTERRORIST CENTER

TERRORISM REVIEW

AUGUST 1997

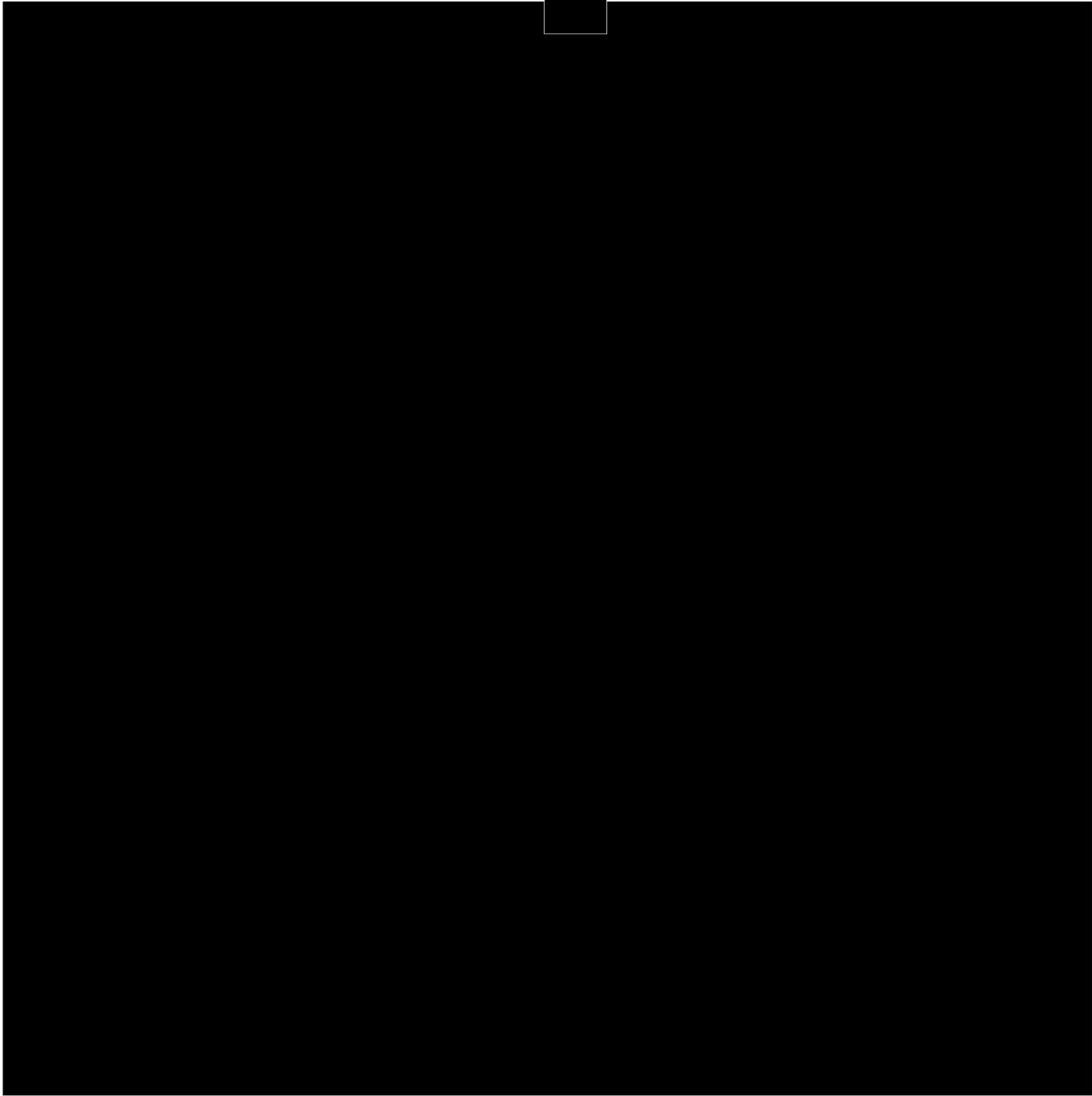


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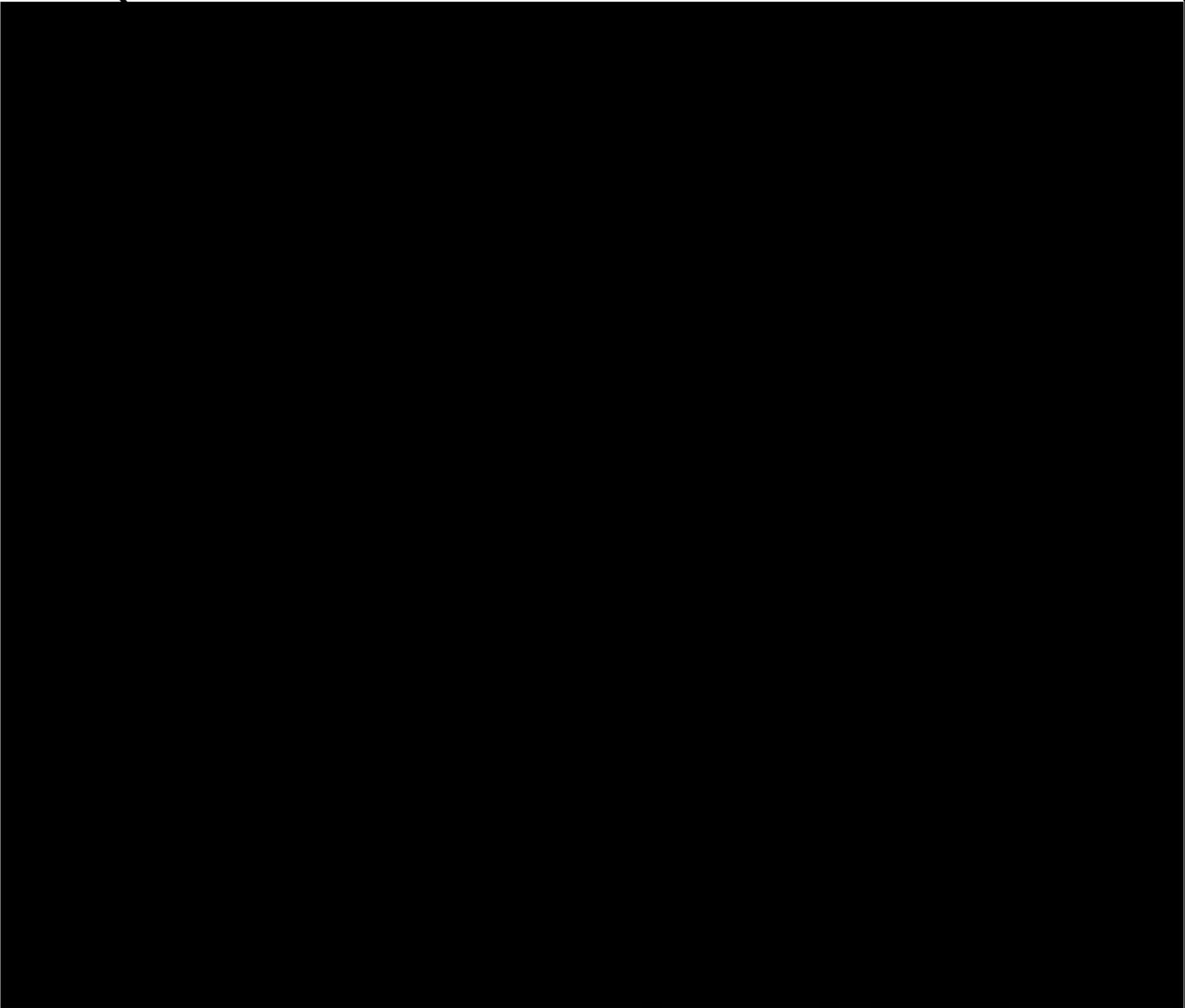
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Terrorism Review

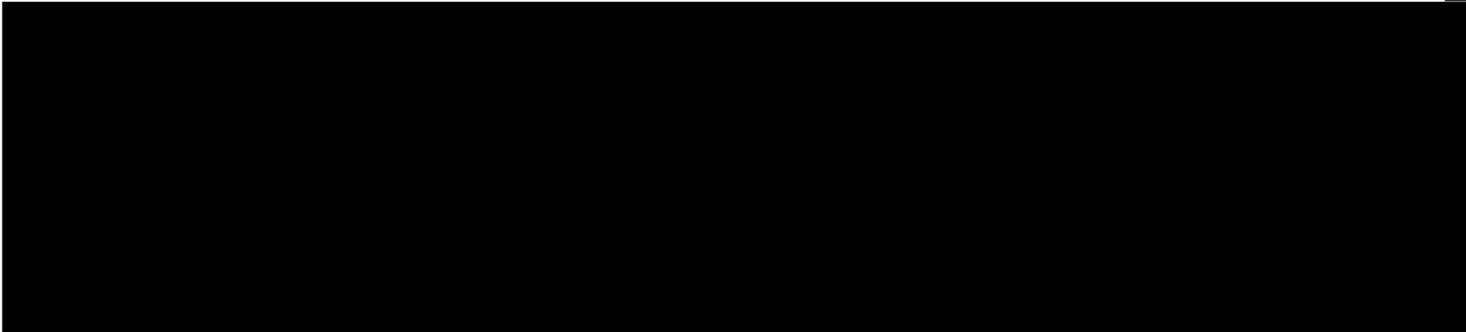


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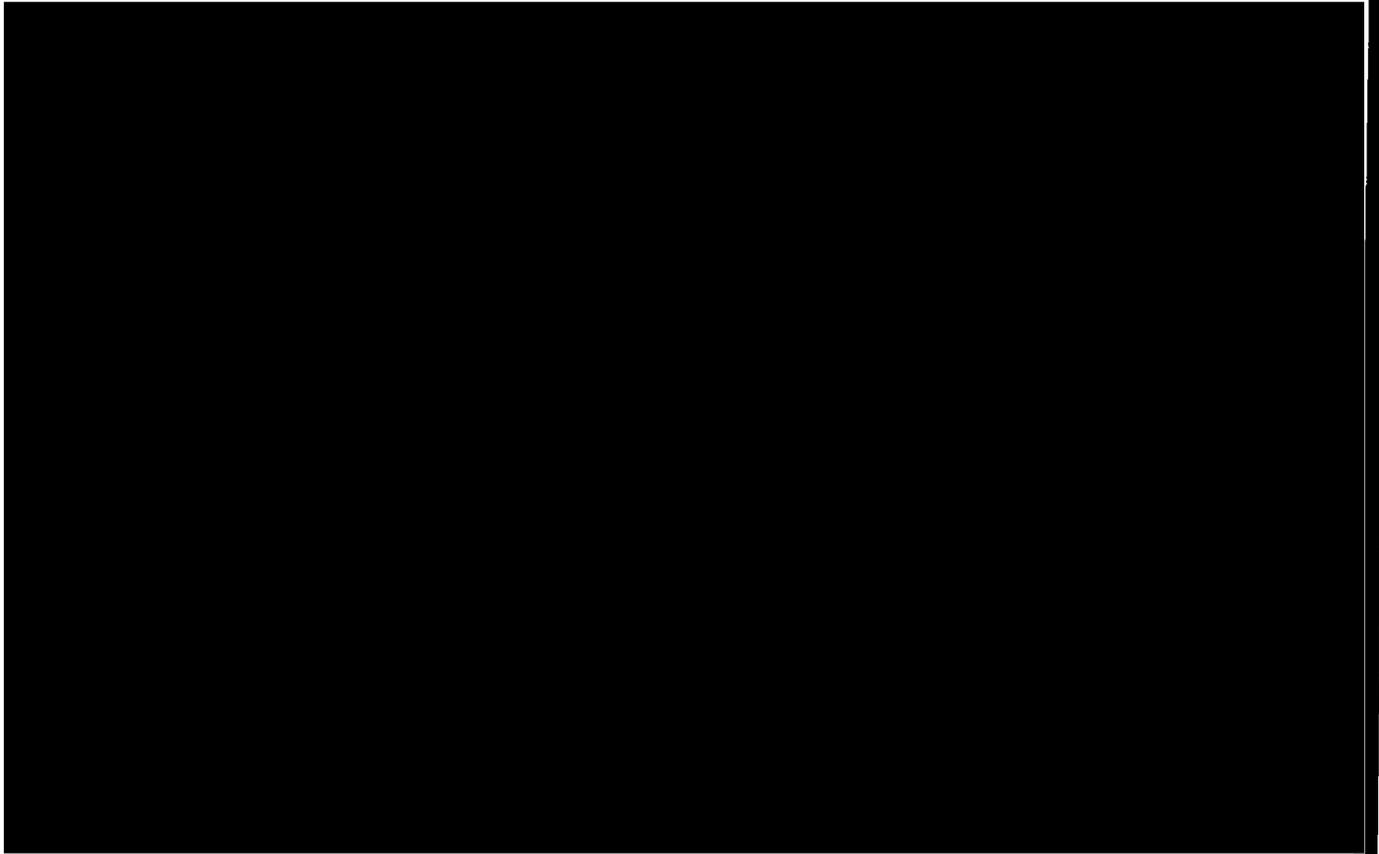


Colombia: Paramilitaries Adopting Terrorist Tactics [redacted]

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Colombia



Paramilitaries Adopting Terrorist Tactics

Colombia's right-wing paramilitary groups—private militias that carry out assassinations and massacres targeting leftist guerrillas and alleged sympathizers—have intensified their violent activities in recent months. Carlos Castano's notorious Peasant Self-Defense Group of Cordoba and Uraba (ACCU), which operates throughout northwestern Colombia and the border regions of Panama, is the most active of these groups. [REDACTED] the ACCU probably was responsible for the takeover of the village of Mapiripana, Colombia, in mid-July 1997 and the subsequent killing of several village residents. Other ACCU activities that month, including an attempted bombing in Bogota and a death threat against an international human rights delegation, suggest that the group also is beginning to adopt more traditional terrorist tactics:

- On 25 July, paramilitaries shot and killed a Bogota policeman who caught them planting a dynamite bomb at the headquarters of the Patriotic Union (UP), a political party associated with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the country's largest guerrilla group. [REDACTED]
- On 28 July, members of a delegation investigating reports of human rights abuses in Antioquia province were forced to cut short their mission after receiving a written bomb threat from the ACCU ordering them to leave the area within 12 hours. Two delegation members were employees of the UN High Commission for Human Rights, according to press. [REDACTED]

These incidents highlight the possibility that foreign citizens could become victims of expanding paramilitary violence, either as unintended casualties of attacks against domestic targets or as deliberate targets if paramilitary groups associate them with leftist guerrillas. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Paramilitaries receive most of their backing from large landowners and narcotraffickers who are threatened by guerrilla activities, [REDACTED]

