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DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

COUNTERTERRORIST CENTER

TERRORISM REVIEW

JANUARY 1998

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: 07-25-2011



CIA/DCI | TR 98-001

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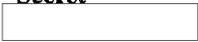
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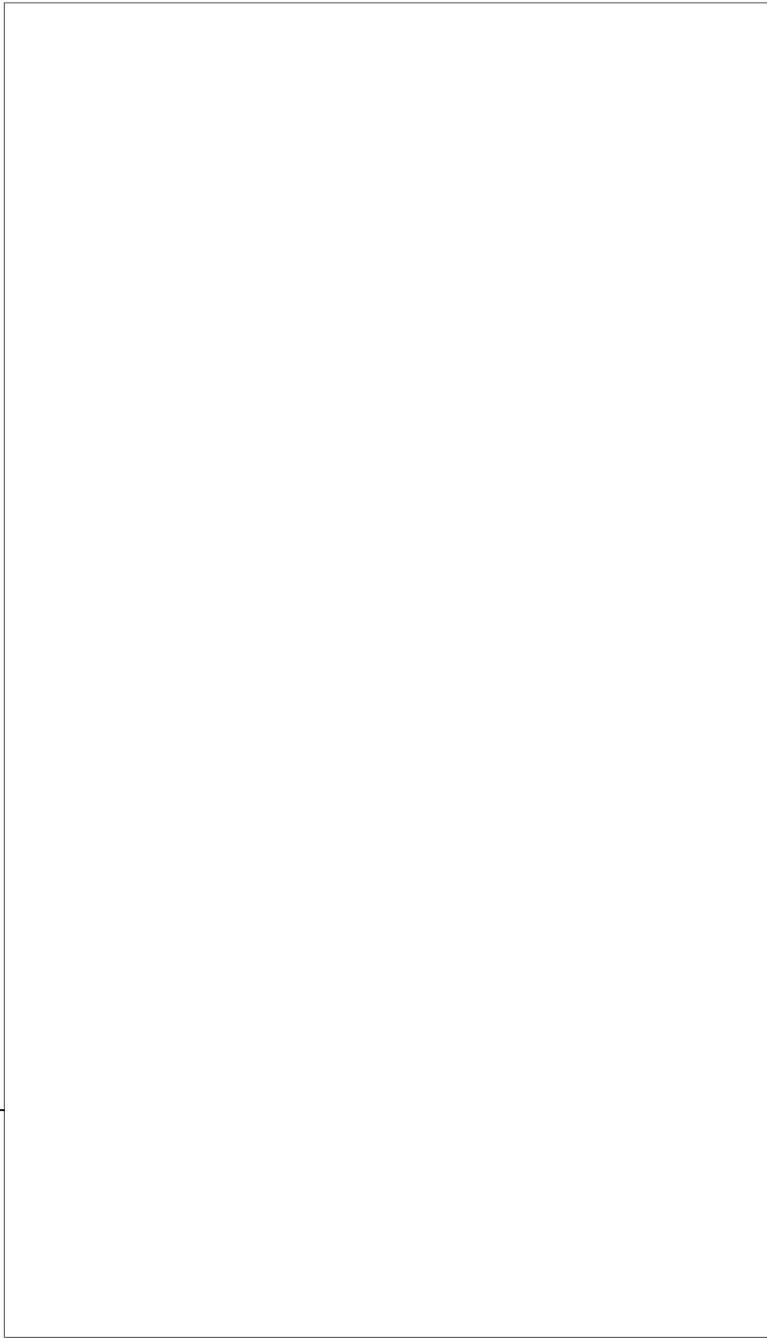
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This Review is published monthly by the DCI Counterterrorist Center. Comments and queries are welcome and may be directed to

[Redacted]

Information available as of 20 January 1998 was used in this Review.



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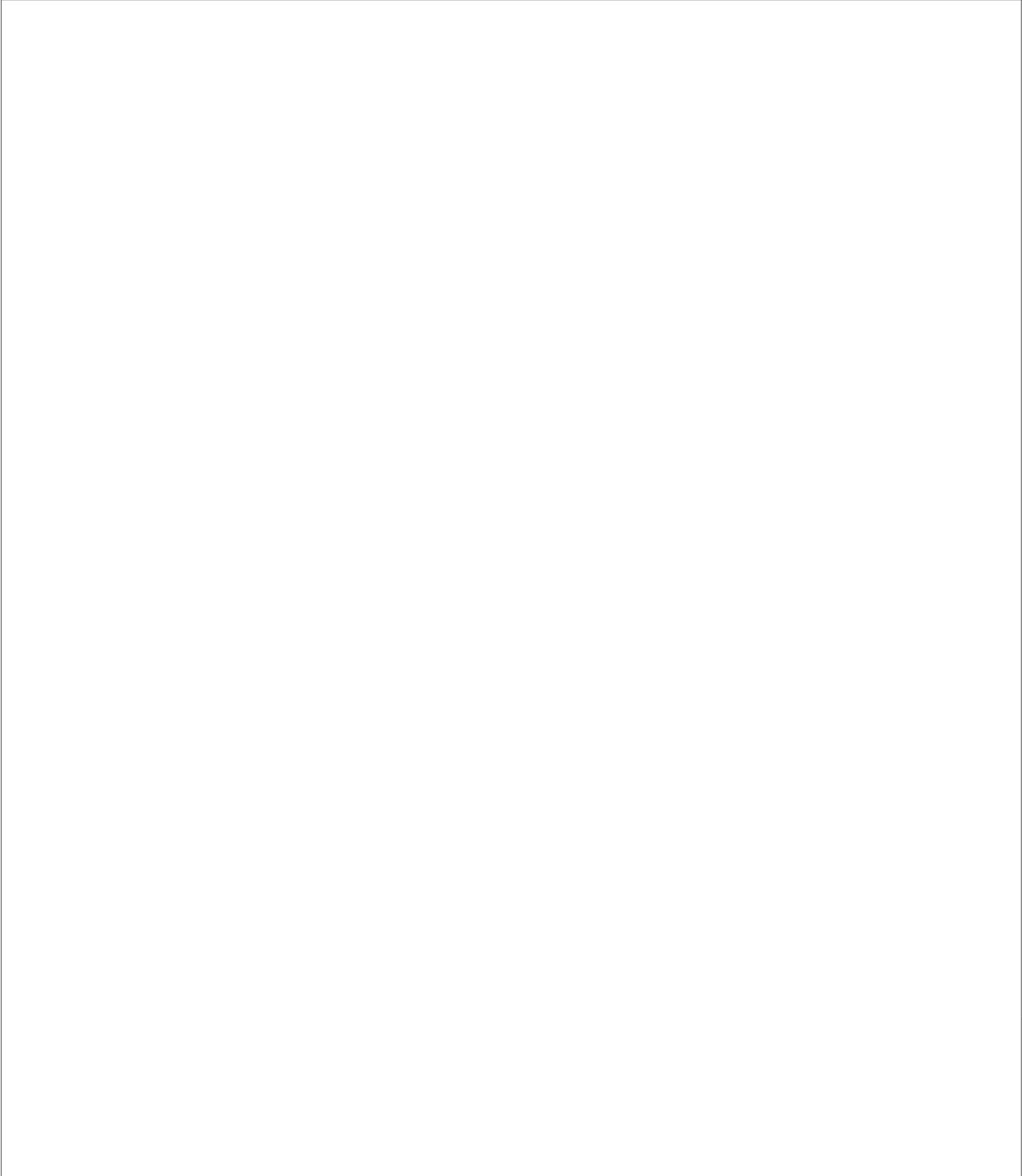


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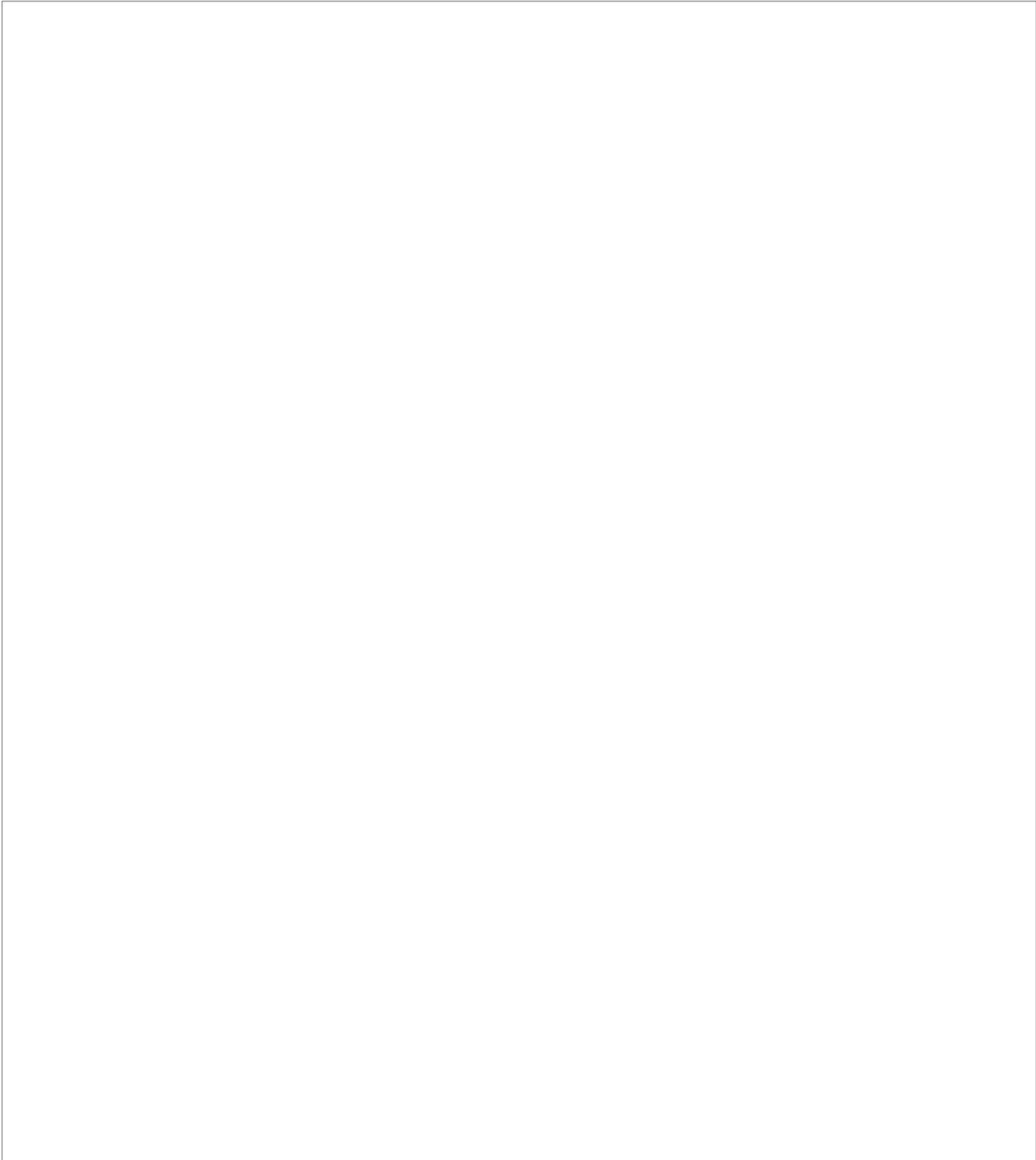
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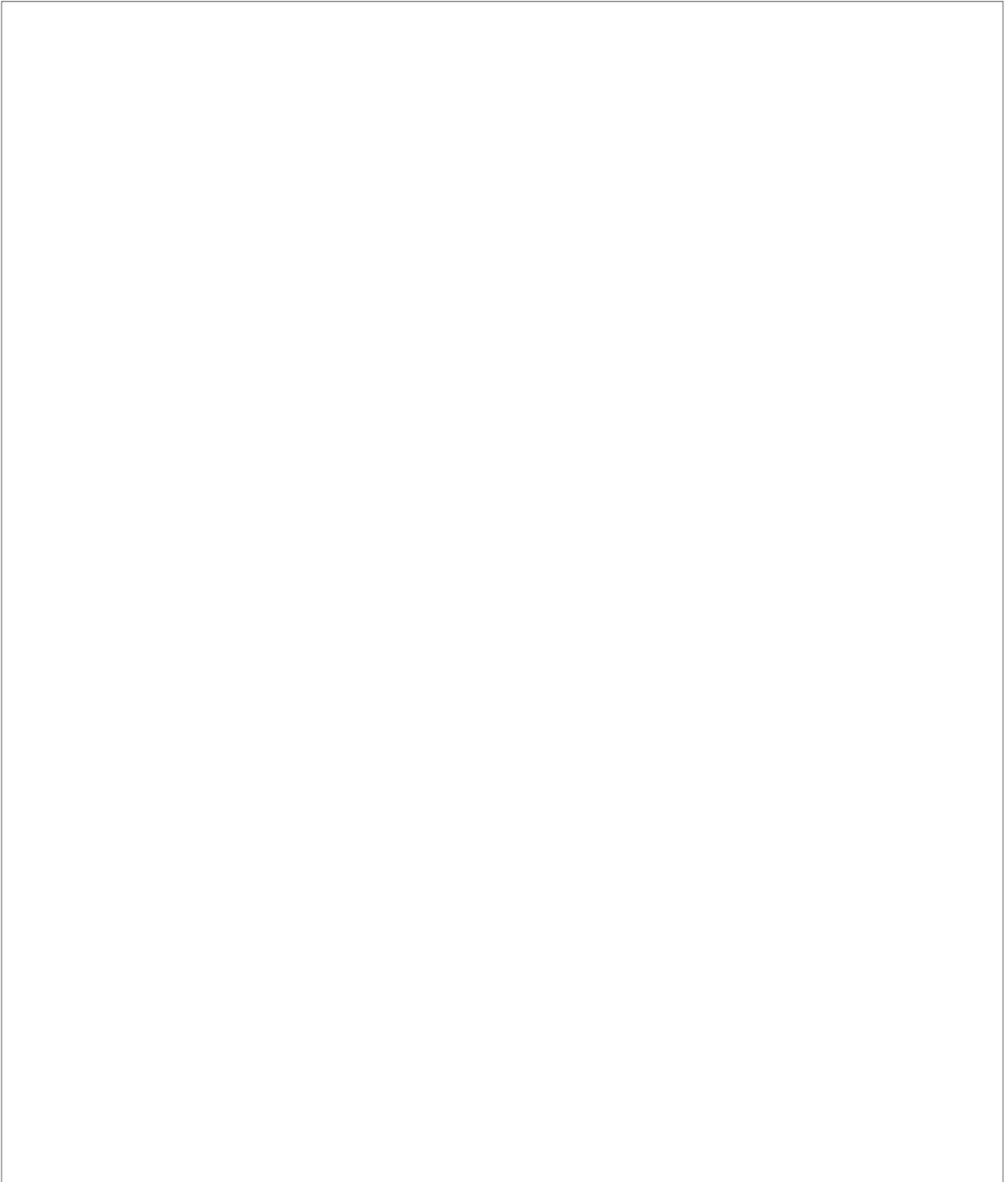
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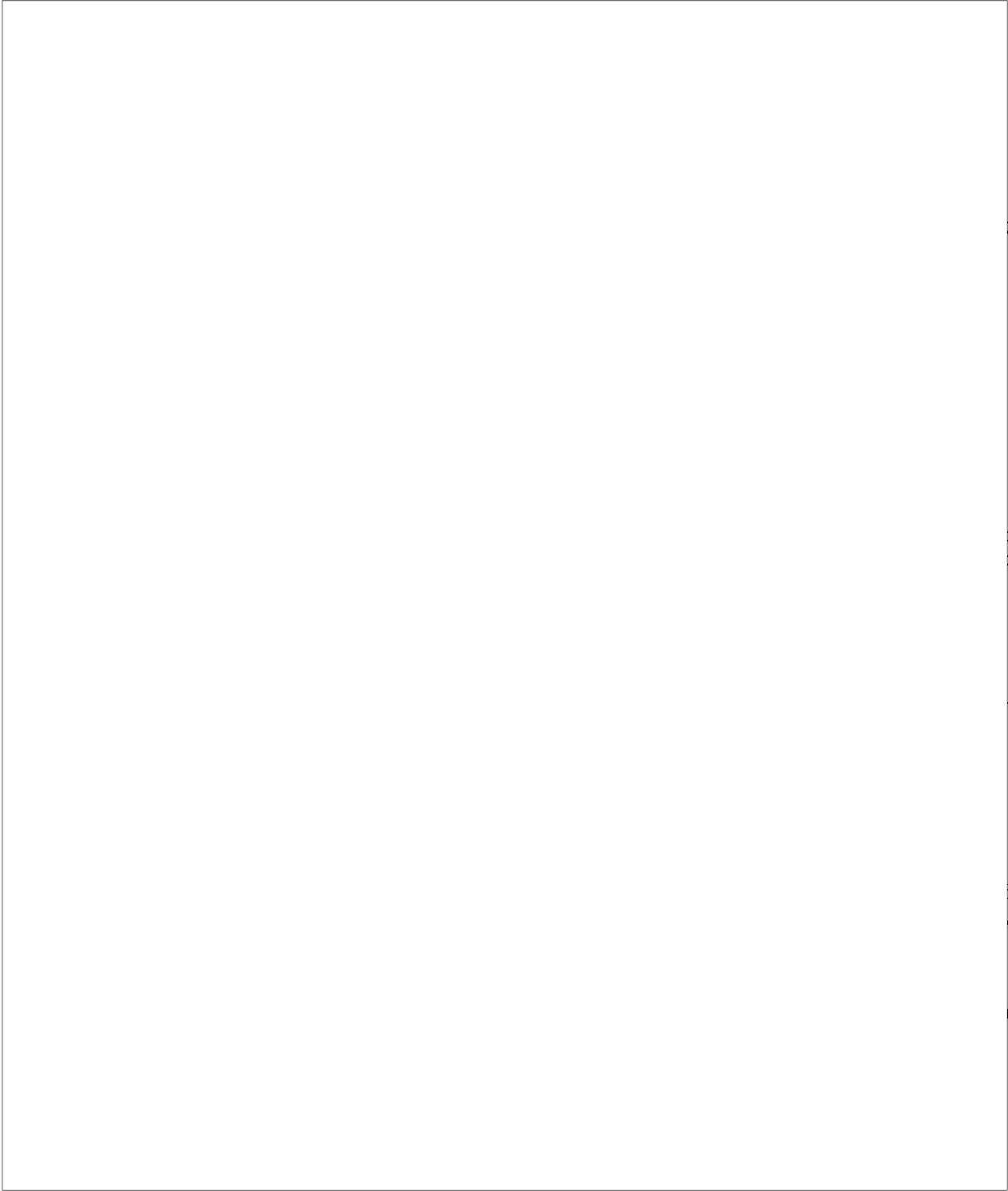
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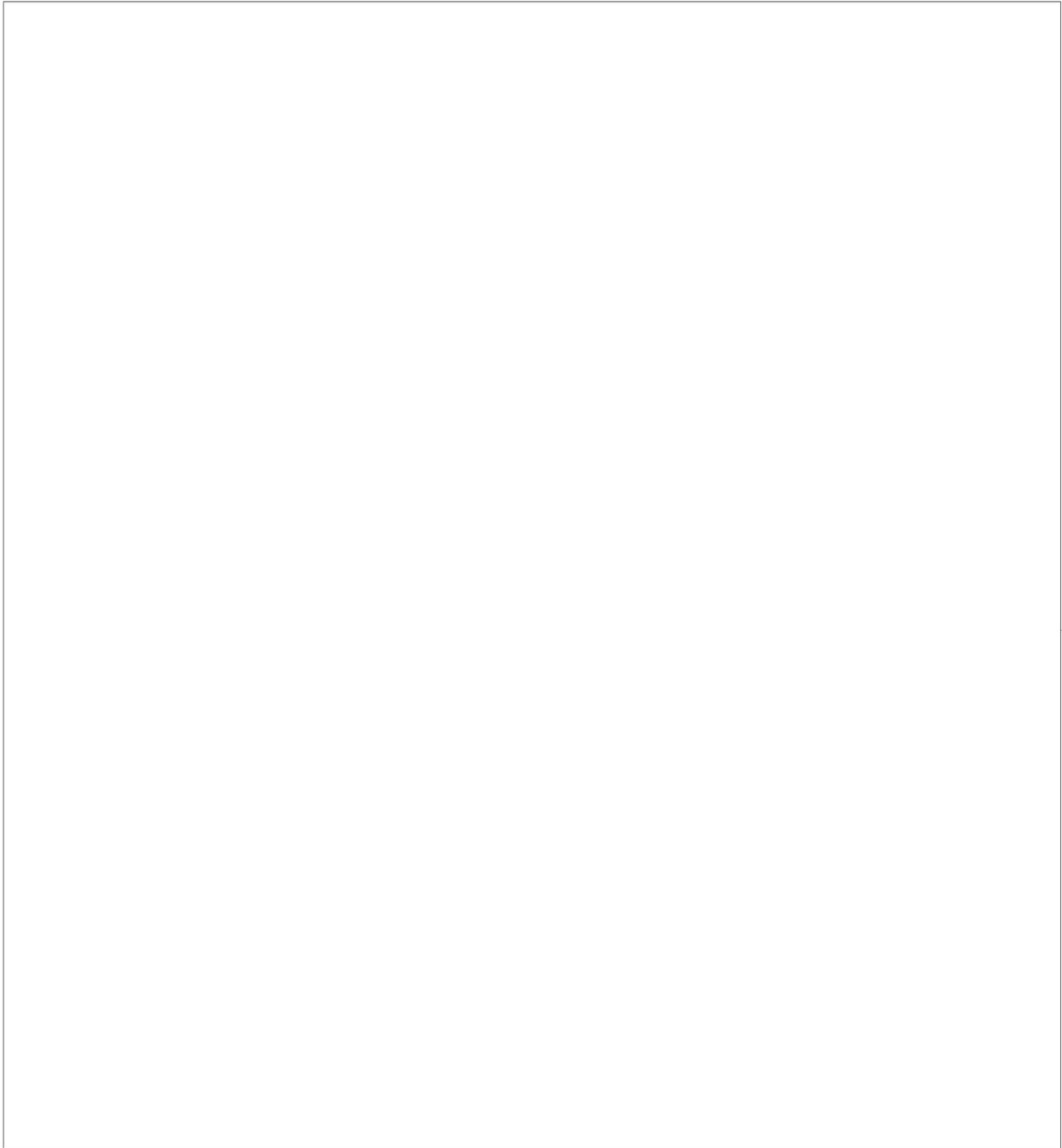


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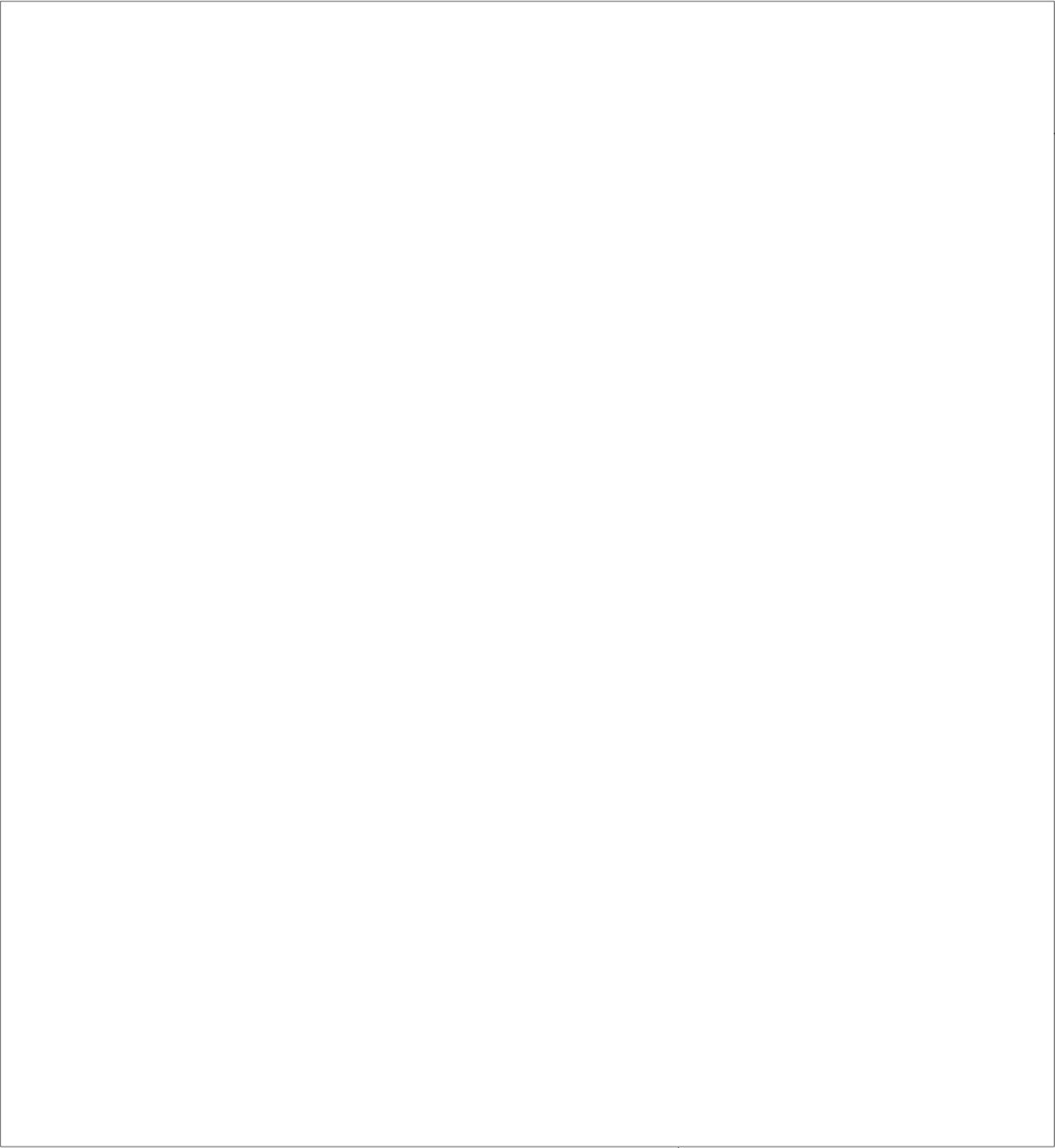
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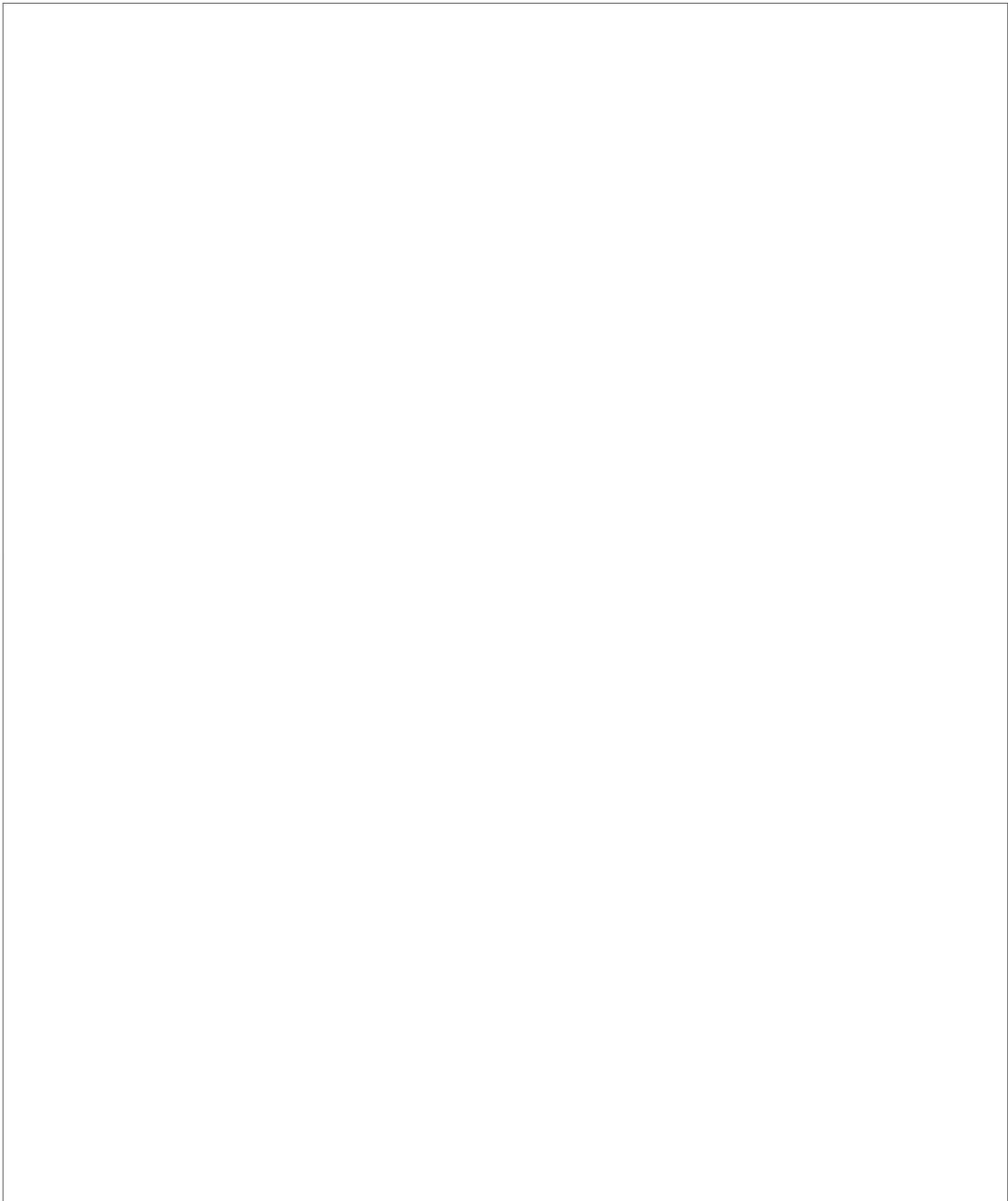
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Highlights





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The Terrorism Diary for February and March 1998

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

- 1 February 1979** *Iran.* Return of Ayatollah Khomeini to Iran from exile in Paris.
- 1 February 1984** *India.* Kashmir separatist leader Maqbool Butt executed.
- 3 February 1963** *Iraq.* Anniversary of Ba'th Revolution.
- 4 February 1948** *Sri Lanka.* Independence Day.
- 4 February 1979** *Iran.* Revolution Day.
- 7 February 1997** *Quds Day or Jerusalem Day.* Muslims protest Israeli occupation of Jerusalem. (Quds Day is commemorated on the last Friday of Ramadan, which ends on 8 February 1997.)
- 8 February 1963** *Iraq.* Revolution Day.
- 14 February 1979** *Iran.* Attack on US Embassy in Tehran; the Embassy was briefly occupied and the Ambassador briefly held.
- 19 February 1980** *Egypt, Israel.* Exchange of ambassadors.
- 22 February 1969** *Palestinians.* Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine founded.
- 25 February 1991** *Iraq.* Beginning of the ground war in Desert Storm.
- 26 February 1993** *United States.* World Trade Center bombing in New York City.
- 2 March 1956** *Morocco.* Independence Day (termination of Treaty of Fez).
- 2 March 1977** *Libya.* Establishment of Jamahiriyah (Masses' State).
- 3 March 1878** *Bulgaria.* Independence Day.
- 3 March 1961** *Morocco.* Accession of King Hassan to throne.
- 4 March 1982** *Colombia, United States.* Effective date of extradition treaty aimed at narcotics traffickers.

6 March 1957 **Ghana.** Independence Day.

6 March 1975 **Kurdish Region.** Algerian accord between Iran and Iraq abandoning support for the Kurds.

10 March 1979 **Kurdish Region.** Death of Kurdish leader Mulla Mustafa Barzani.

11 March 1966 **Indonesia.** President Sukarno turns over power to Suharto.

12 March 1968 **Gabon.** National Day.

12 March 1880 **Turkey.** Birthday of Ataturk.

12 March 1968 **Mauritius.** Independence Day.

13 March 1979 **Grenada.** Coup d'etat by Maurice Bishop (National Day).

14 March 1975 **Japan.** Chukaku-Ha (Nucleus Faction) Secretary General Honda assassinated by rival radical groups.

16 March 1921 **Armenians.** Signing of Soviet-Turkish border treaty that ended Armenian hopes of establishing an independent state.

17 March **Ireland.** St. Patrick's Day (National Day).

20 March 1956 **Tunisia.** Independence Day.

20 March 1981 **Colombia.** Death of M-19 terrorist Carmenza Londono (La Chiqui).

21 March **Turkey.** Kurdish New Year.

22 March 1945 **Arab World.** Founding of Arab League (original members: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Saudi Arabia, and Syria).

23 March 1956 **Pakistan.** Pakistan Day (founding of Islamic republic).

25 March 1921 **Greece.** Greek Revolution Memorial Day (celebrating beginning of independence from Turkey).

25 March 1975 **Saudi Arabia.** Assassination of King Faisal and accession of King Khalid.

26 March 1970 **Libya.** UK Evacuation Day (day British forces turned over bases and departed).

26 March 1971 **Bangladesh.** Independence Day.

26 March 1978 **Egypt, Israel.** Peace agreement ratified.

28 March

Palestinians. National Day.

30 March 1974

Turkey. Death of terrorist Mahir Cayan, member of Turkish People's Liberation Party.

30 March 1976

Palestinians. Day of the Homeland.





Chronology of International Terrorism



The following incidents were determined to meet the criteria for international terrorism by the Intelligence Community's Incident Review Panel since publication of the previous issue of the Terrorism Review. These incidents are the basis for the State Department's Patterns of Global Terrorism, published annually as the US Government's official record of international terrorism



Africa

31 October

Uganda: Unknown assailants hurled two handgrenades into a tourist hostel in Kampala, injuring a Briton, a South African and an unidentified foreign tourist.

[redacted]

21 November

Somalia: Approximately 20 unidentified gunmen kidnapped five United Nations and European Aid workers in the Elayo village in Somaliland. The kidnappers released the hostages—a Briton, a Canadian, two Kenyans, and an Indian—on 24 November.

[redacted]

13 December

Nigeria: On the Nigerian coast, angry employees and villagers kidnapped a US citizen, an Australian, two British oil workers, and at least nine Nigerian staff members of Western Geophysical, a US-owned oil exploration company. The kidnappers released the hostages on 17 and 18 December.

[redacted]

Asia

12 November

Pakistan: In Karachi two unidentified gunmen shot to death four US-citizen auditors from Union Texas Petroleum and their Pakistani driver. The *Islami Inqilabi Council* claimed responsibility in a call to the US Consulate. Another group, the *Aimal Secret Committee*, claimed responsibility in a letter sent to Pakistani newspapers. [redacted] suspect the *Harakat ul-Ansar* is behind the attack.

[redacted]

18 November

Philippines: Two suspected former members of the Moro National Liberation Front kidnapped a Belgian Roman Catholic priest in Ozamis. The kidnappers released the priest on 19 November.

[redacted]

23 December

Pakistan: Unidentified assailants opened fire on the teachers' residential compound of the Karachi American School, wounding a Frontier Constabulary guard. The compound, located one block from the school compound, is home to nine US-citizen and six Canadian teachers.

[redacted]

Eurasia

18 November

Tajikistan: The brother and friends of jailed militant Bahrom Sodirov kidnapped a French couple in Dushanbe in hopes of gaining his release. On 29 November the kidnappers released one of the hostages. A second hostage later died from wounds sustained when Tajik authorities stormed the building.

[redacted]

25 November

Bosnia-Herzegovina: A grenade exploded under a parked European Community Monitoring Mission vehicle in Trebinje.

[redacted]

17 December

Chechnya: Fifteen armed assailants kidnapped five Polish citizens working for the Catholic charity Caritas Poland. On 5 January authorities reported a \$3 million ransom demand had been made.

[redacted]

20 December *Bosnia-Herzegovina: A lone attacker threw a handgrenade over the perimeter fence of a Dutch Stabilization Force compound near Vitez, injuring two Dutch soldiers.*

28 December *Croatia: Authorities safely defused a time bomb found inside a McDonald's restaurant in Rijeka.*

Europe

24 October *Greece: An improvised incendiary device ignited outside the German Archaeological Institute in Athens, causing minor damage. The Anti-Sovereignty Struggle claimed responsibility for the attack stating the act commemorated the 20th anniversary of the suicide of Red Army Faction members in German prisons.*

12 November *Greece: Unknown assailants set fire to two vehicles belonging to a Brazilian diplomat and the Italian Embassy in Athens, causing minor damage. The Arsonists with Conscience claimed responsibility.*

17 November *Ireland: Authorities defused a bomb found inside a shopping center in Dundalk, a few miles from the Ireland-Northern Ireland border. Authorities located the device after receiving a series of warning calls from a person using a recognized Loyalist Volunteer Force codeword.*

10 December *Turkey: Authorities defused a time bomb found inside a gas cylinder about to be refilled at a Turkish facility adjoining the international ATAS oil refinery in Mersin. The ATAS refinery is a joint venture of the Royal Dutch/Shell group, Mobil Oil, British Petroleum, and Turkey's Marmara Petrol.*

17-18 December *Austria: An unidentified assailant threw a Molotov cocktail at a Turkish shop in Vienna. The device failed to ignite. The following day the assailant returned and hurled a second device at the store, causing extensive damage. The store's owner stated that members of the Kurdistan Workers' Party had threatened to burn his business unless he made a financial contribution to their organization.*

25 December *Greece: Arsonists set fire to a Philippine Embassy van in Athens, causing major damage. The Arsonists with Conscience claimed responsibility.*

Latin America

11 November *Argentina: In Cordoba authorities defused an explosive device found at the hotel door of the British Ambassador. The incident may be related to the sovereignty dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom over the Falkland Islands.*

Argentina: Authorities defused an explosive device found at a British school in Urca.

- 11 November** *Colombia: Unknown assailants kidnapped a German industrialist in Cundinamarca.* []
- 12 November** *Colombia: Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia rebels kidnapped a Mexican and a Colombian engineer from a hydroelectric plant in Sonson municipality. The rebels also stole dynamite and two vehicles.* []
- 14 November** *Colombia: National Liberation Army (ELN) guerrillas blew up several sticks of dynamite along the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline in Arauca, causing an oil spill and temporarily suspending pumping operations.* []
- 5 December** *Colombia: ELN guerrillas bombed the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline near La Gloria, disrupting service via the pipeline until 10 December.* []
- Colombia: Suspected ELN rebels bombed the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline, causing an undetermined amount of damage.* []
- 9 December** *Colombia: Suspected ELN guerrillas bombed the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline near El Carmen, Norte de Santander.* []
- 13 December** *Colombia: Suspected leftist guerrillas dynamited the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline near Saravena, causing a 1,000-barrel-oil spill and suspending pumping.* []
- 17 December** *Colombia: In Arauita municipality, ELN rebels dynamited the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline, spilling 9,000 barrels of oil and suspending pumping operations.* []
- 18 December** *Colombia: ELN rebels kidnapped four Colombian Coca Cola employees at a roadblock in Norte de Santander. The rebels were seeking both individual ransoms and a payoff from Coca Cola to prevent further kidnappings.* []
- 24 December** *Colombia: Suspected leftist guerrillas dynamited the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline near Saravena, spilling 7,000 barrels of oil and suspending pumping operations.* []
- 29 December** *Peru: A car bomb exploded near an electric company in Lima, causing damage. The facility is co-owned by Chile's Chilquinta International and Canada's Ontario Hydro. Sendero Luminoso propaganda was found at the blast site.* []
- 30 December** *Colombia: A bomb exploded at the front door of a McDonald's restaurant in Cali, causing minor damage. The explosion occurred when the restaurant was closed.* []

Middle East

17 November ***Egypt: Al-Gama'at al-Islamiyya (IG) gunmen shot and killed 58 tourists and four Egyptians and wounded 26 others at the Hatshepsut Temple in the Valley of the Kings near Luxor. Thirty-four Swiss, eight Japanese, five Germans, four Britons, one French, one Colombian, a dual national Bulgarian/Briton, and four unidentified are among the dead. Twelve Swiss, two Japanese, two Germans, one French, and nine Egyptians are among the wounded. The IG militants left a leaflet at the scene calling for the release of Oman Abdel Rahman, the IG spiritual leader imprisoned in the United States.***

20 November ***Israel: Unknown gunmen shot and killed a Hungarian Yeshiva student and wounded an Israeli student in the Old City of Jerusalem.***

25-26 November ***Yemen: Yemeni tribesmen kidnapped a US citizen, two Italians, and two unspecified westerners near Aden to protest the eviction of a tribal member from his home. The kidnappers released the five hostages on 27 November without incident.***

3 December ***Algeria: Unidentified assailants shot and killed a guard in front of the Mauritanian Embassy. The Armed Islamic Group (GIA) may have killed the guard in an effort to intimidate Algerians employed by foreign embassies.***

10 December ***Algeria: Unidentified assailants shot and killed an Algerian policeman guarding the Mexican Embassy. The GIA may be responsible.***

Summary of Indigenous Terrorism—December 1997

The incidents and situations listed below are not a detailed accounting of all domestic terrorist incidents, but rather provide an overview of selected indigenous terrorism worldwide.

Asia

Burma

On 4 December, *Karen National Union* rebels detonated a mine on the Rangoon-Mandalay route near Bago, derailing a passenger train and injuring four persons.

India

A previously unknown group called the *Islamic Defense Force* claimed responsibility for explosions on three passenger trains in Tamil Nadu and Kerala on 6 December, killing at least 10 persons and injuring 70 others.

Japan

On 15 December a timed incendiary device exploded at the Narita home of a Ministry of Transport official, causing fire damage to the garage and car. The *Chukaku-Ha* is suspected.

Sri Lanka

On 9 December suspected *Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)* guerrillas threw a grenade into a public market in Batticaloa, killing four persons and wounding 28 others.

On 1 December explosives carried by a suspected *LTTE* suicide bomber detonated in a taxi in Batticaloa, killing the driver and the suicide bomber.

Europe

Greece

An explosive device detonated at the offices of the Greek Development Minister in Athens on 10 December, injuring a police officer and causing extensive damage. The *Fighting Guerrilla Formation* claimed responsibility.

Spain

A bomb exploded outside a bank in San Sebastian on 2 December, injuring three police officers and causing minor damage. The *Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA)* is suspected.

Gunmen shot and wounded a city councilor's bodyguard on 5 December as he patrolled the grounds outside the politician's residence in San Sebastian. The *ETA* claimed responsibility.

Turkey

Unidentified assailants threw a pipe bomb at a Greek Orthodox church in Istanbul on 3 December, injuring a priest and causing major damage.

On 15 December a landmine exploded under a minibus in Mardin, killing 12 persons and injuring 13 others. The *Kurdistan Workers' Party* is suspected.



United Kingdom

Gunmen shot and killed a Catholic man in Belfast on 5 December. Authorities suspect the *Loyalist Volunteer Force*. []

Latin America

Colombia

National Liberation Army (ELN) rebels bombed two power pylons near Tona municipality on 4 December, causing power outages in Arauca, Bocaya, and Norte de Santander Departments. []

Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrillas attempted to take over Ecopetrol's offices in Sanbana De Torres on 4 December. []

Three hundred *FARC* and *ELN* guerrillas attacked the villages of Guaca and Mogotes on 11 December, killing eight persons, wounding several others and kidnapping the mayor, his father and several local residents. The rebels hurled handgrenades and fired automatic weapons during the attack and blew up the main road connecting the two villages. []

On 15 December 250 *FARC* guerrillas armed with grenades, firearms, missiles, and firebombs attacked the town of Mesetas, killing two civilians and wounding three police officers. The rebels also attacked several buildings and stole office equipment. []

Peru

On 4 December suspected *Sendero Luminoso* rebels bombed an electrical pylon in El Agustino district, destroying it. Propaganda leaflets were scattered around the site. []

Middle East

Algeria

In Rais on 4 December a bomb hidden in a crate of oranges on a farm exploded, killing two persons and injuring a third. []

On 8 December a car bomb exploded outside an apartment building in Arzew, killing a civilian and wounding 14 others. *The Armed Islamic Group (GIA)* may be responsible. []

A bomb exploded at a school in Blida on 9 December, killing four persons and wounding 11 others. The *GIA* may be responsible. []

On 14 December in Cheraga, an eastern suburb of Algiers, an armed group slit the throats of 14 civilians and kidnapped five women. The bodies of four of the women were found on 16 December. The *GIA* is probably responsible. []