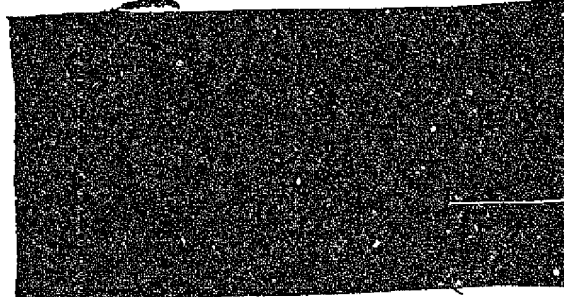
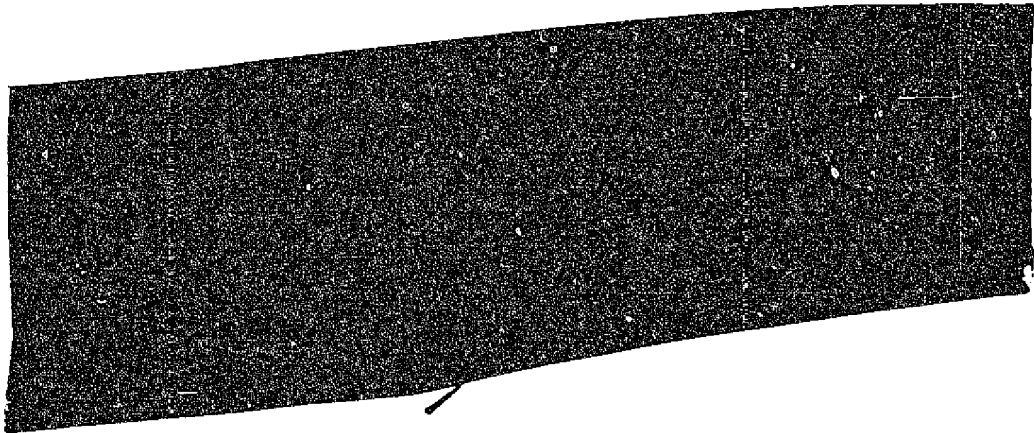


DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE



Approved for Release
Date 1 DEC 1989

7 April 1970

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
7 April 1970

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

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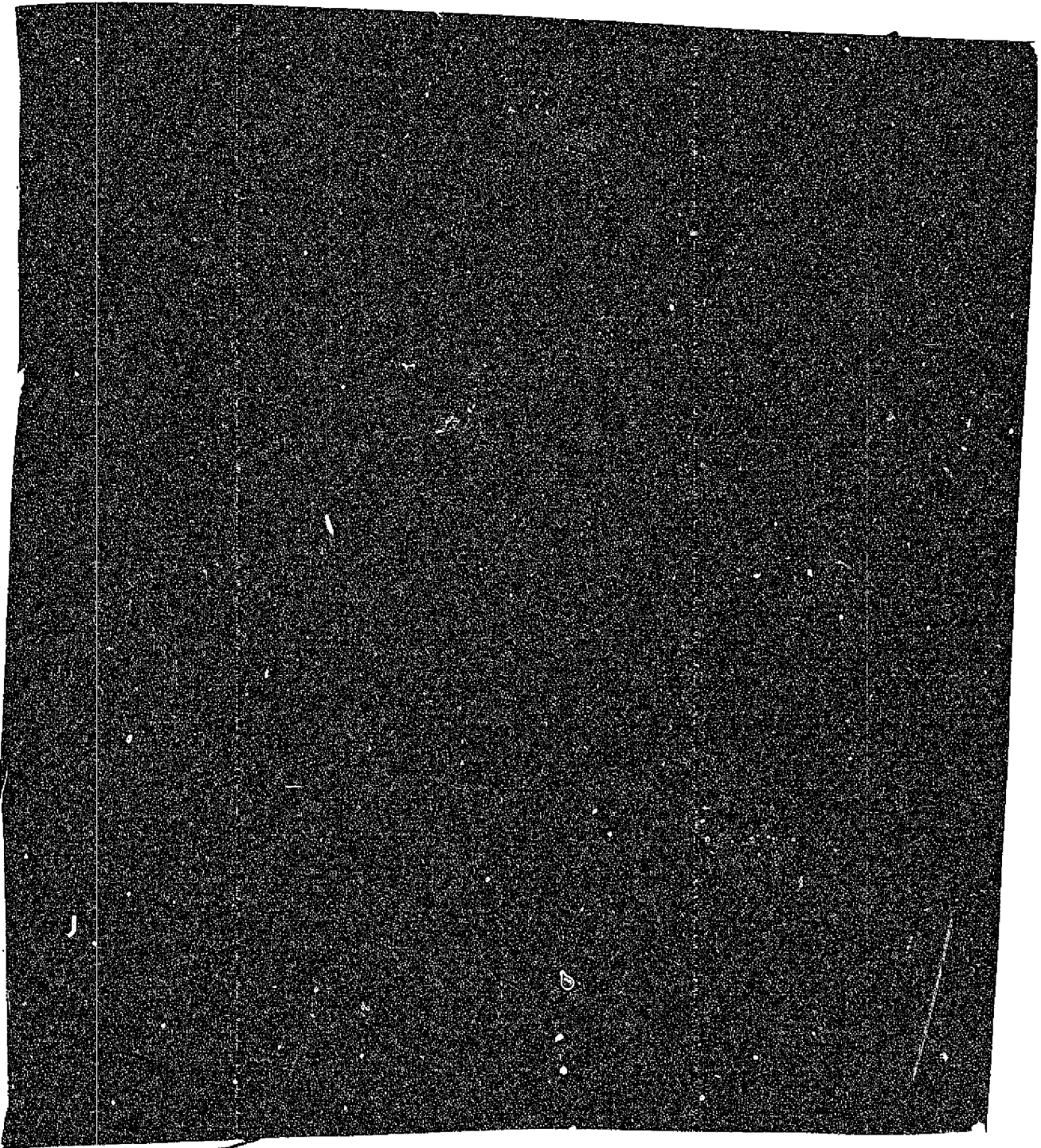
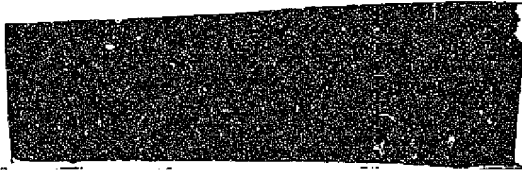
Summary

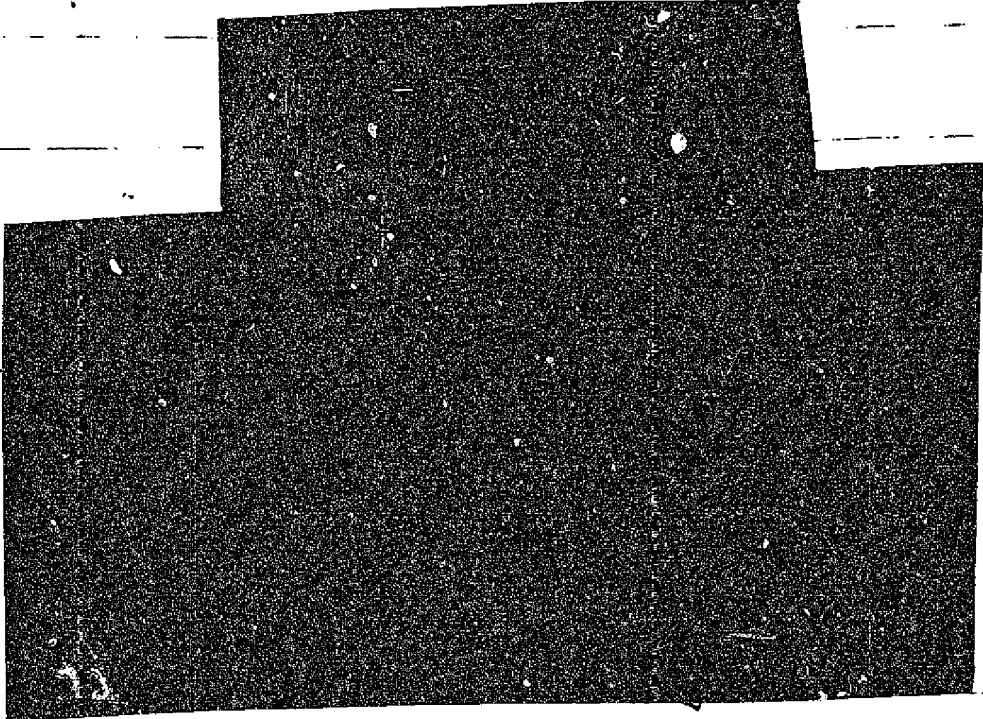
Since the late 1950s, Latin American terrorists have conducted kidnappings as a means of embarrassing governments or obtaining money. It is only within the past year and a half, however, that foreign diplomats have been seized and held in exchange for prisoners. Subsequent to the kidnaping of US Ambassador Elbrick in Brazil last September, five other diplomats--two of them US--have been abducted.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

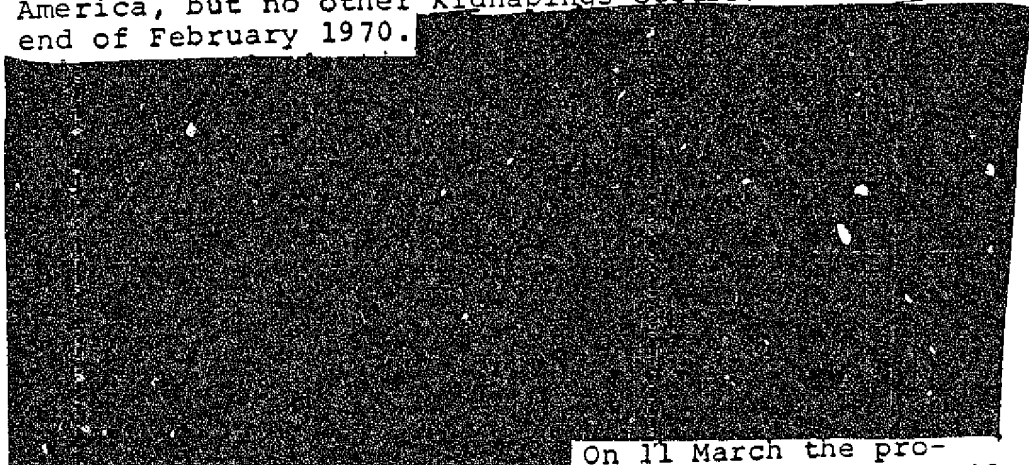
[REDACTED]





Recent Incidents

7. The first incident of the new wave of terrorist kidnappings occurred in Brazil in September 1969. A group of university students working with the National Liberating Action, some of whose members had been trained in Cuba, kidnaped US Ambassador Elbrick. He was only released after 15 prisoners were flown to Mexico. This episode put a new twist on terrorist kidnappings and prompted the term "diplomatic kidnapping." At the time there were fears that the Brazilians would be emulated elsewhere in Latin America, but no other kidnappings occurred until the end of February 1970.




On 11 March the pro-Castro Popular Revolutionary Vanguard (VPR) in Brazil

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seized the Japanese consul general in Sao Paulo. The VPR, which is led by a renegade Army colonel, demanded the release of five prisoners. It also demonstrated that a crack-down by security forces following the Elbrick kidnaping had not destroyed the terrorist groups.

[REDACTED]



12. On 4 April terrorists in Porto Alegre, Brazil, tried to kidnap the principal officer of the US Consulate. The official was shot, but he managed to escape his assailants. The attempt was probably made by the extreme leftist Revolutionary Armed Vanguard-Palmares.

