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Articles	Pages
Peru: Counterterrorist Capabilities of Civilian Security Forces	1
[REDACTED]	7
[REDACTED]	11
[REDACTED]	15
[REDACTED]	17
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Articles

Peru: Counterterrorist Capabilities
of Civilian Security Forces (U)

Peru's civilian security forces are hampered in their struggle against the Maoist terrorist group Sendero Luminoso.

electrical towers, public buildings, and police posts. Within the last year, however, operations have become more aggressive, and have included an increasing number of assassinations of local officials and suspected police informants.

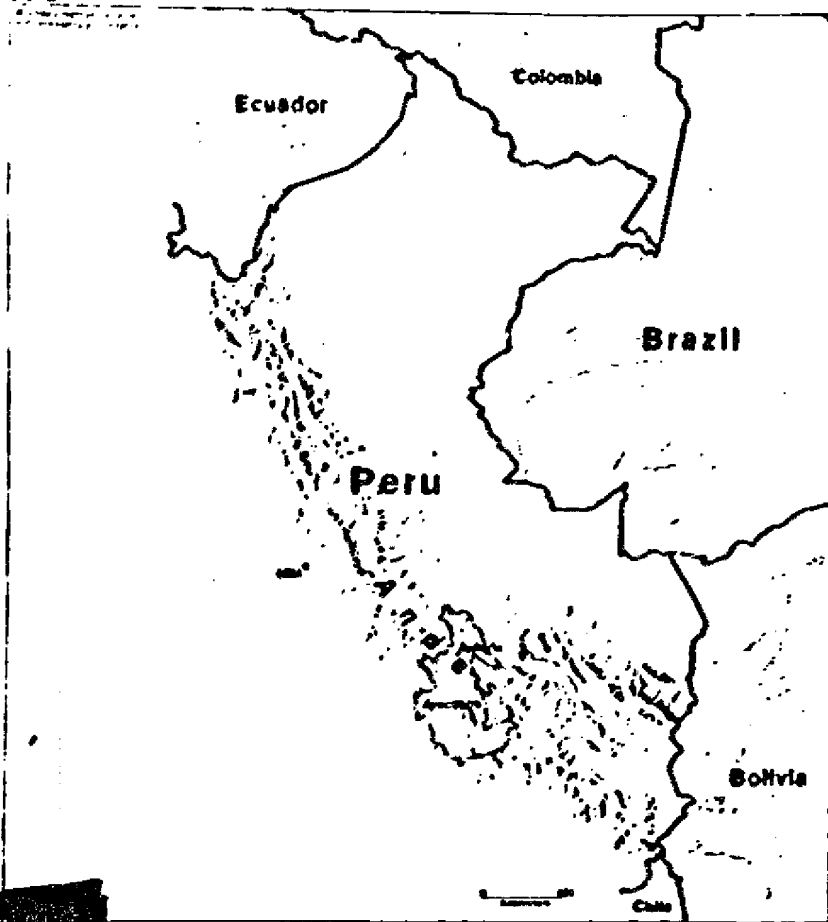
The memory of his ouster in 1968 by the military, which had been politicized during an earlier counterinsurgency campaign, has led Belaunde to rely almost exclusively on civilian security forces to contain the threat. To date, the results have been mixed. In recent months, a number of midlevel members of the group have been arrested or killed. Nevertheless, repeated attacks on isolated police posts in Ayacucho have forced the overstretched civilian security forces to pull back and consolidate in larger garrisons. Incidents such as Sendero Luminoso's attack on Ayacucho prison in March, which freed many imprisoned terrorists, have highlighted police weaknesses and increased pressure on Belaunde to sanction the direct involvement of the armed forces.

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Background

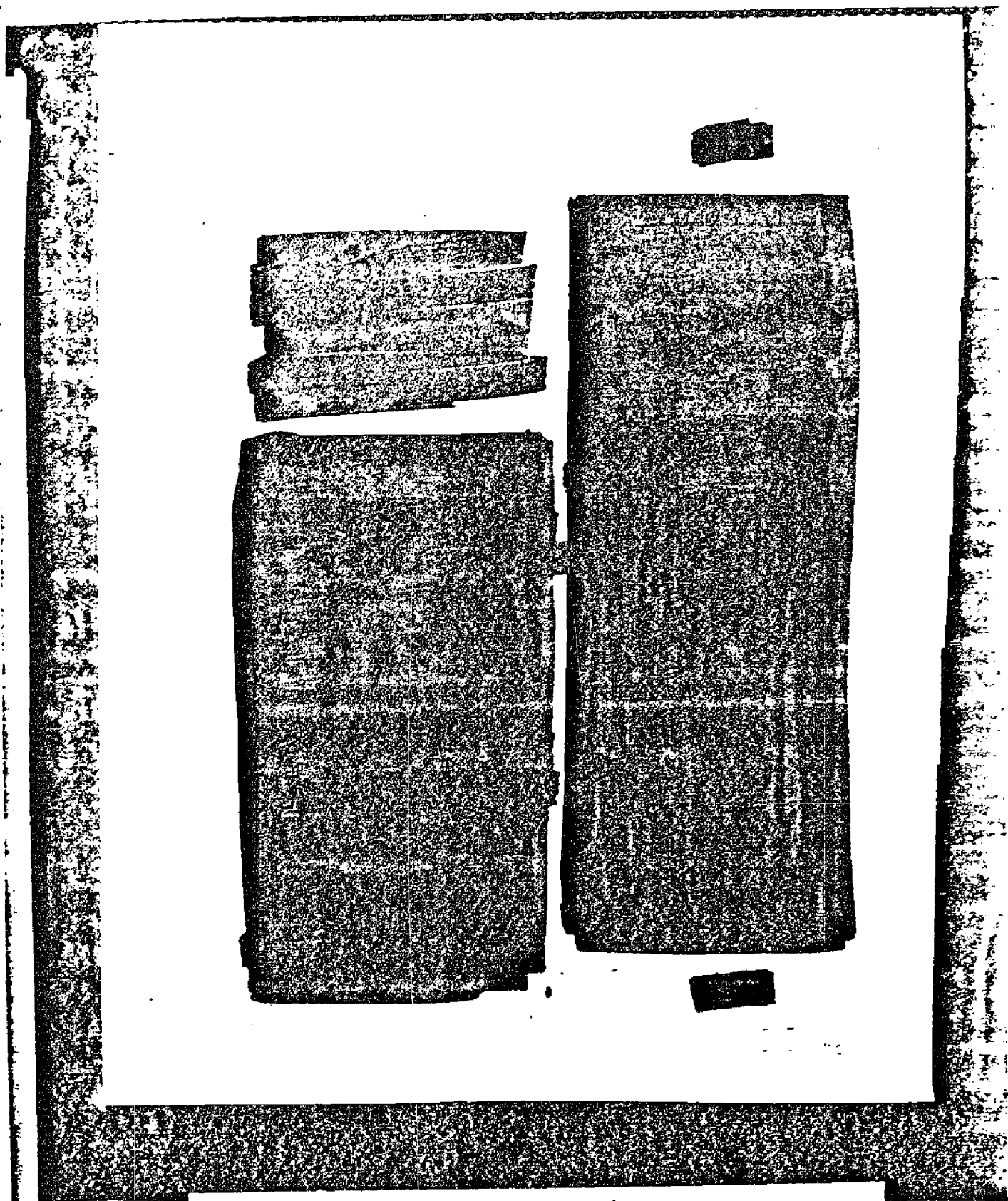
Sendero Luminoso is concentrated in the rural Andean department of Ayacucho, where it enjoys most of its popular support, but there are also small cells in Lima and other metropolitan areas.

B3
Following Belaunde's inauguration in 1980, the group embarked on a campaign of low-risk, high-profile terrorist attacks consisting primarily of dynamiting

Peru



Calle



B3

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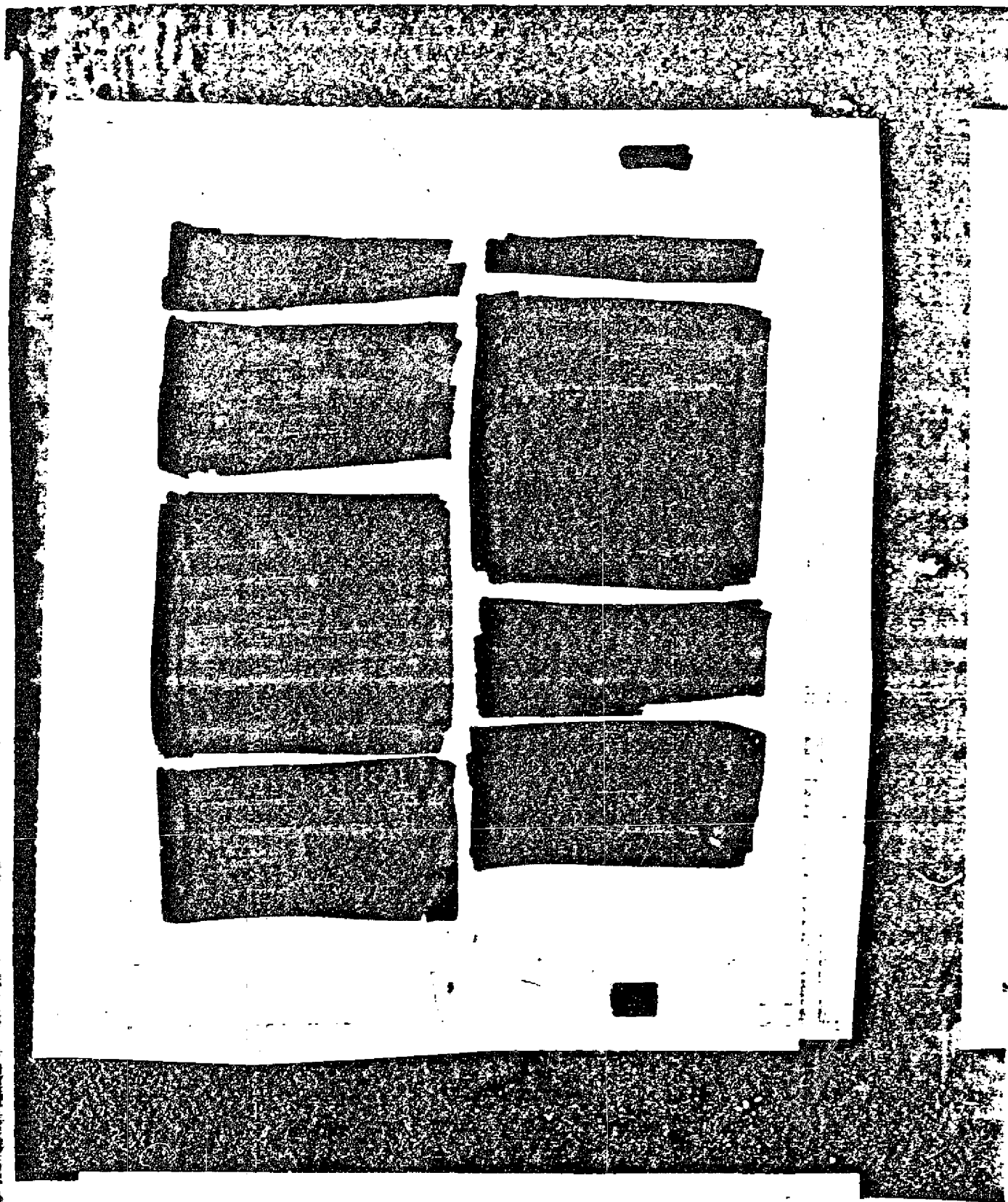
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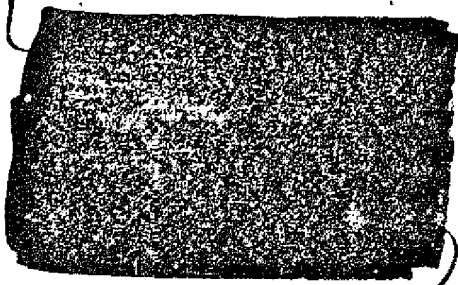
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