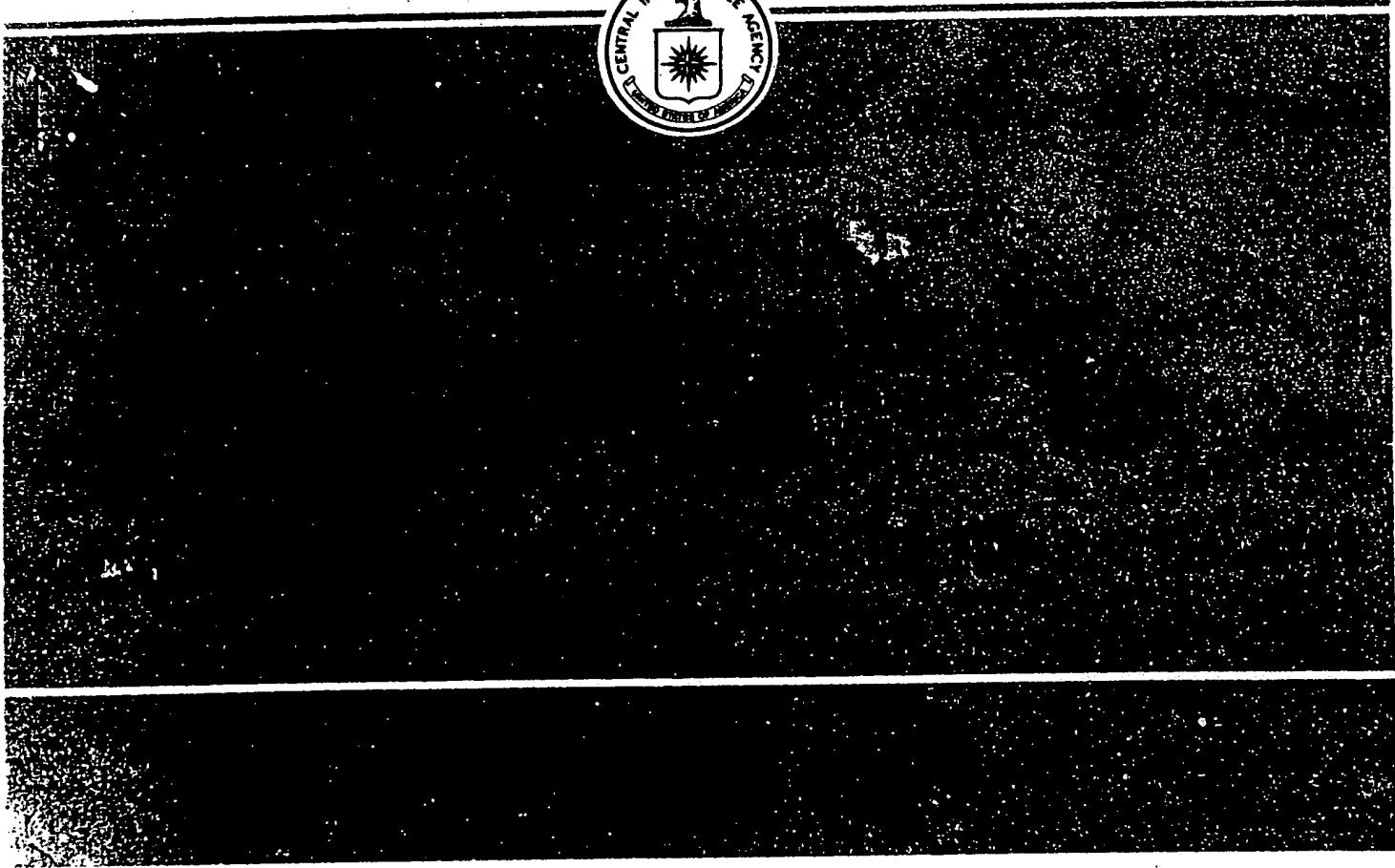


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July 2000

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15 May 1990

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**CHILE:**

**Violence Complicates Human Rights Effort**

*The assassination of a retired police colonel on Thursday emphasizes the dissatisfaction of the extreme left, the right, and the military with President Aylwin's commission to investigate past human rights abuses.*

Several terrorist groups claimed responsibility for the murder of the colonel, who was widely associated with human rights abuses in the Pinochet era. The attack—the second against a former security official since Aylwin took office in March—followed the announcement last month of the commission's limited mandate, which does not include the prosecution of human rights cases.

The government appears ill-prepared to combat increased terrorist activity.

**Comment:** The terrorists are protesting Aylwin's reluctance to pursue judicial action against alleged human rights abusers; Aylwin, however, is anxious to avoid any appearance of an antimilitary witch hunt. Public attention to the issue may encourage more violence by terrorists seeking to vent their frustration and may press Aylwin to adopt a hard line. Any such terrorism will increase charges from the right and the Army that investigations by the commission will spur vigilantism from the extreme left.

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