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April 1998

# TERRORISM REVIEW



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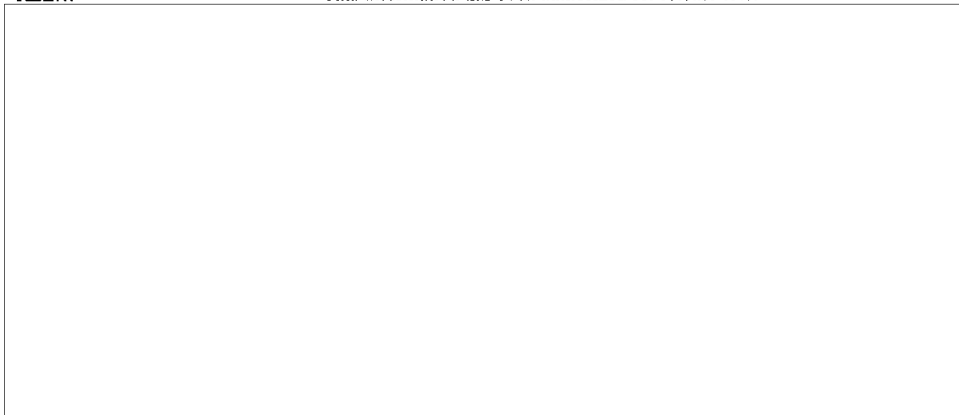
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Abbreviations**

NOFORN (NF)	Not releasable to foreign nationals
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ORCON (OC)	Dissemination and extraction of information controlled by originator
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**Terrorism Review**



**Articles**

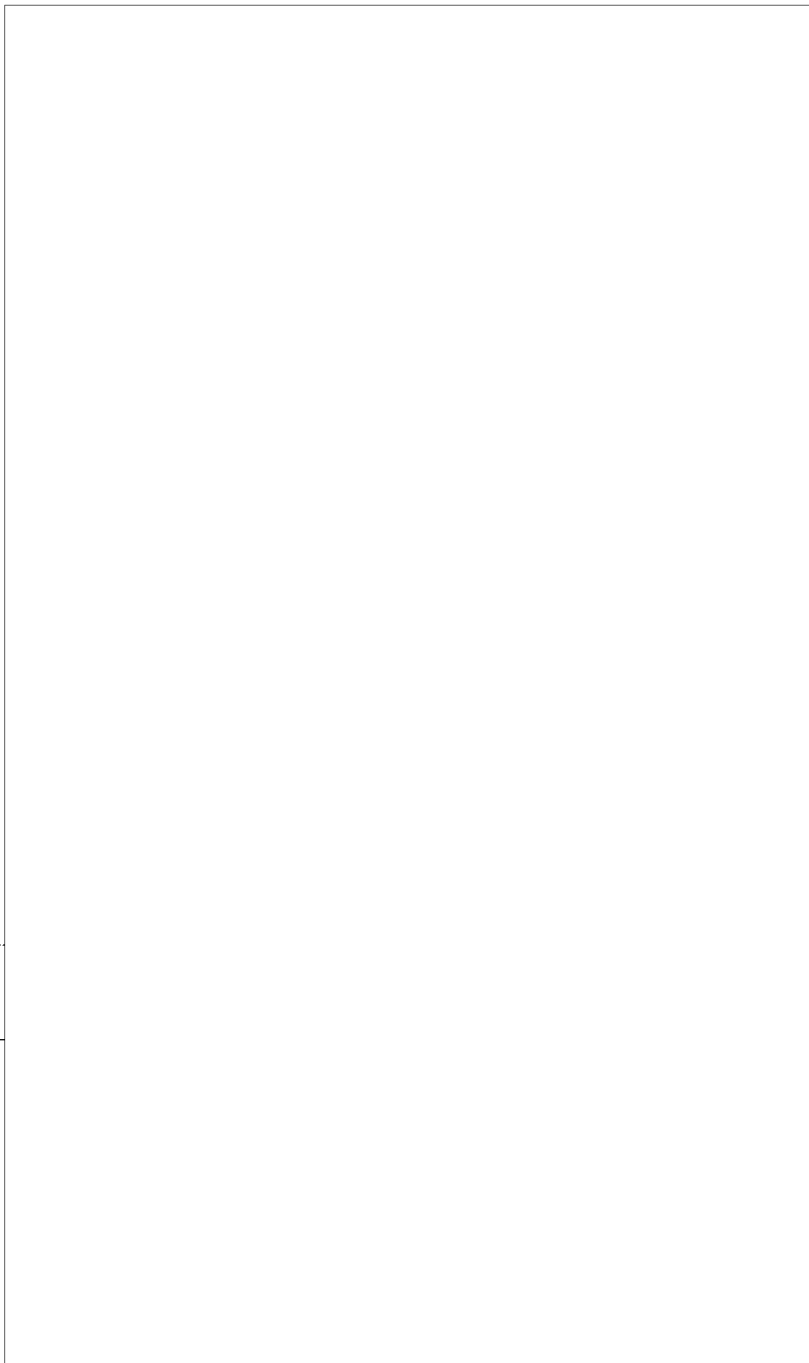


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*This review is published monthly by the DCI Counterterrorist Center. Comments and queries are welcome and may be directed to*

[Redacted]

*Information available as of 21 April 1998 was used in this Review.*

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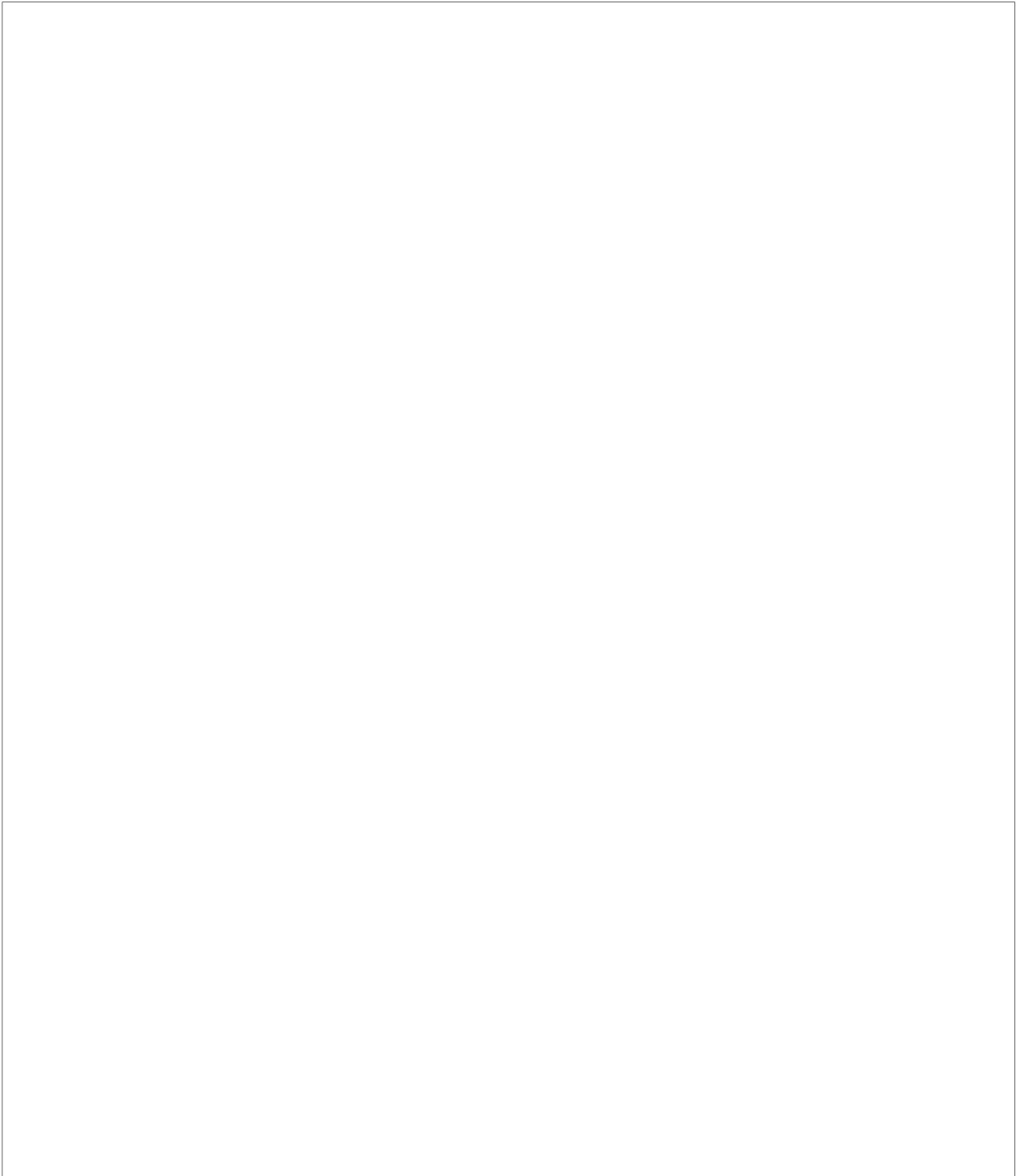
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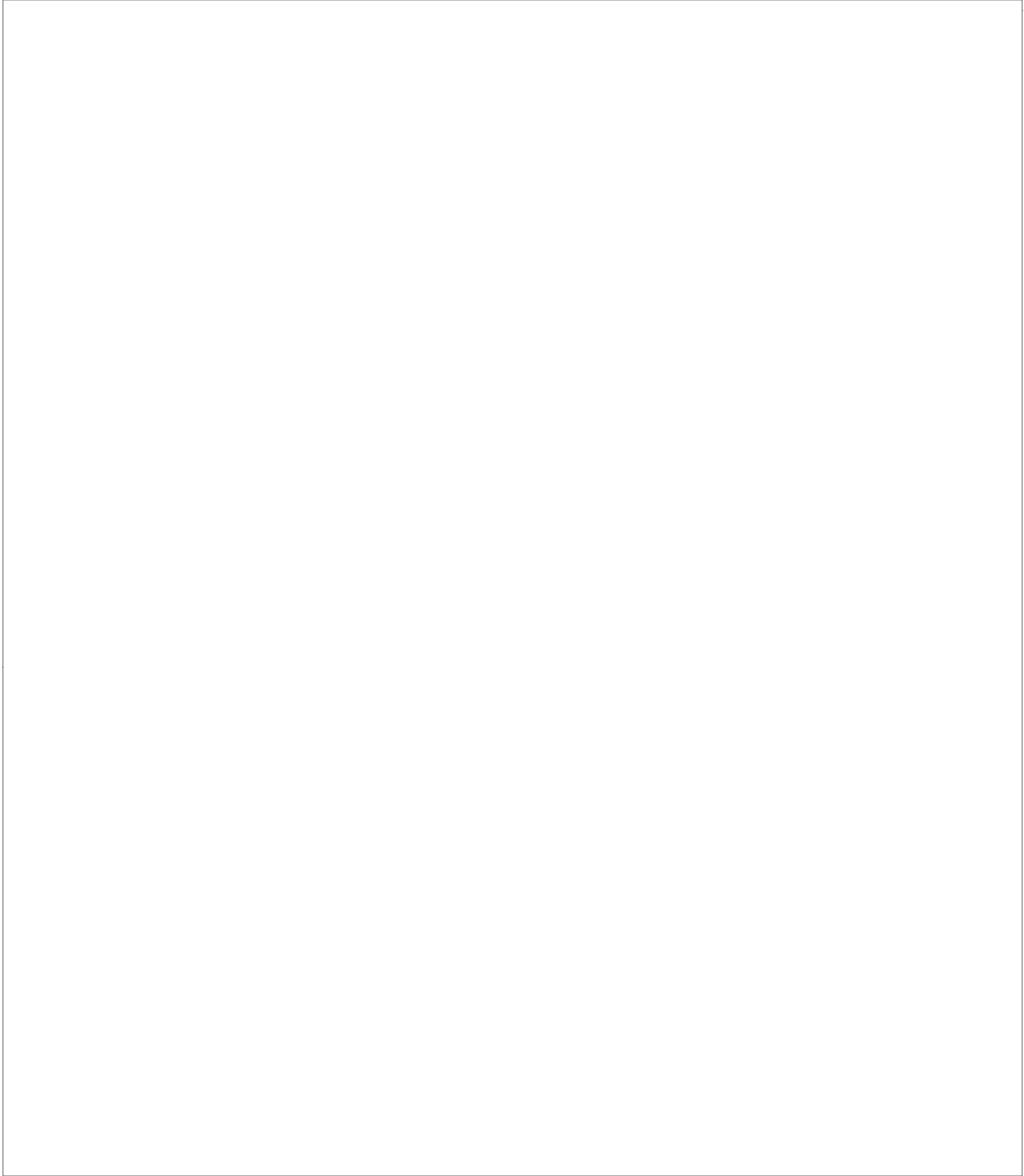
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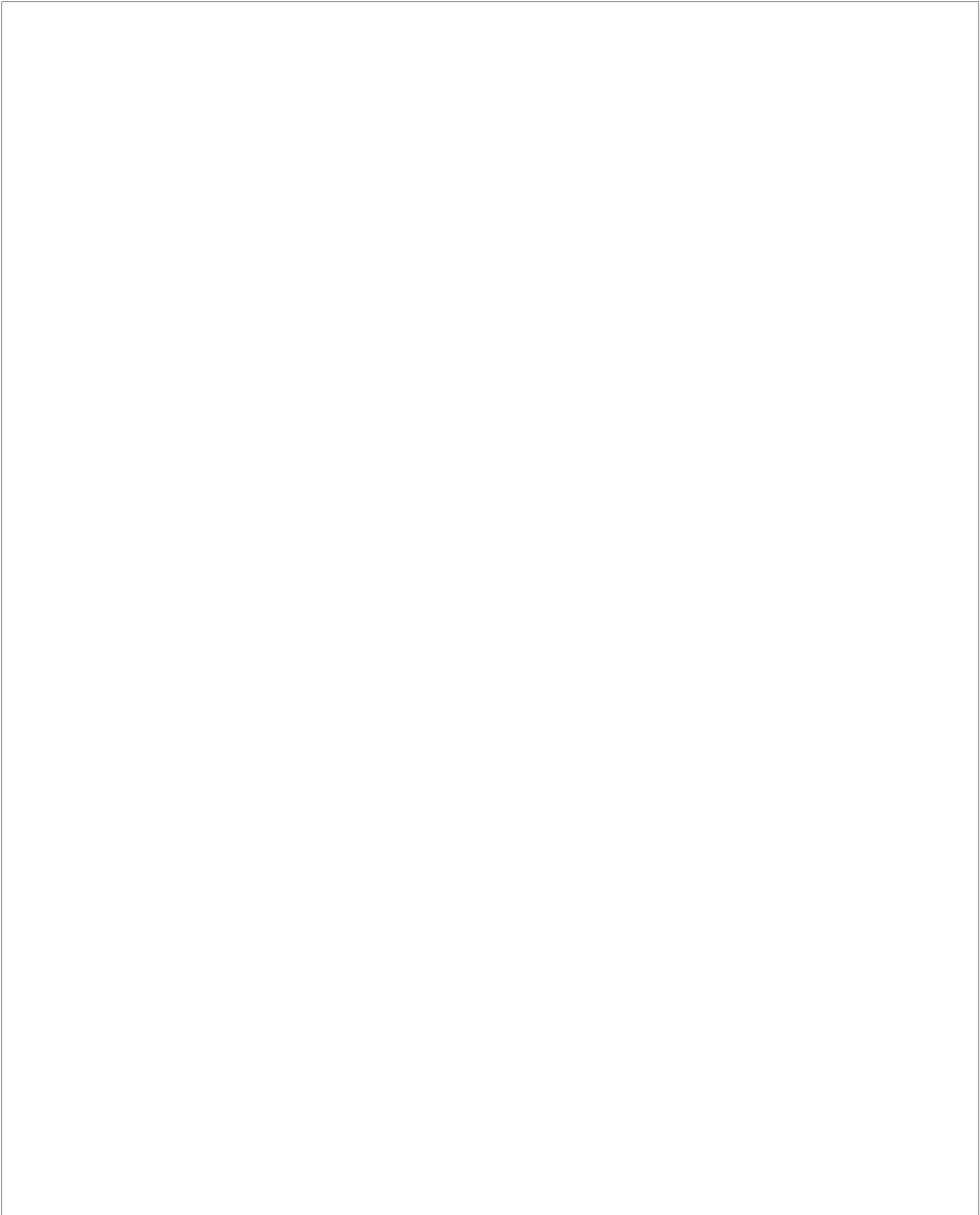
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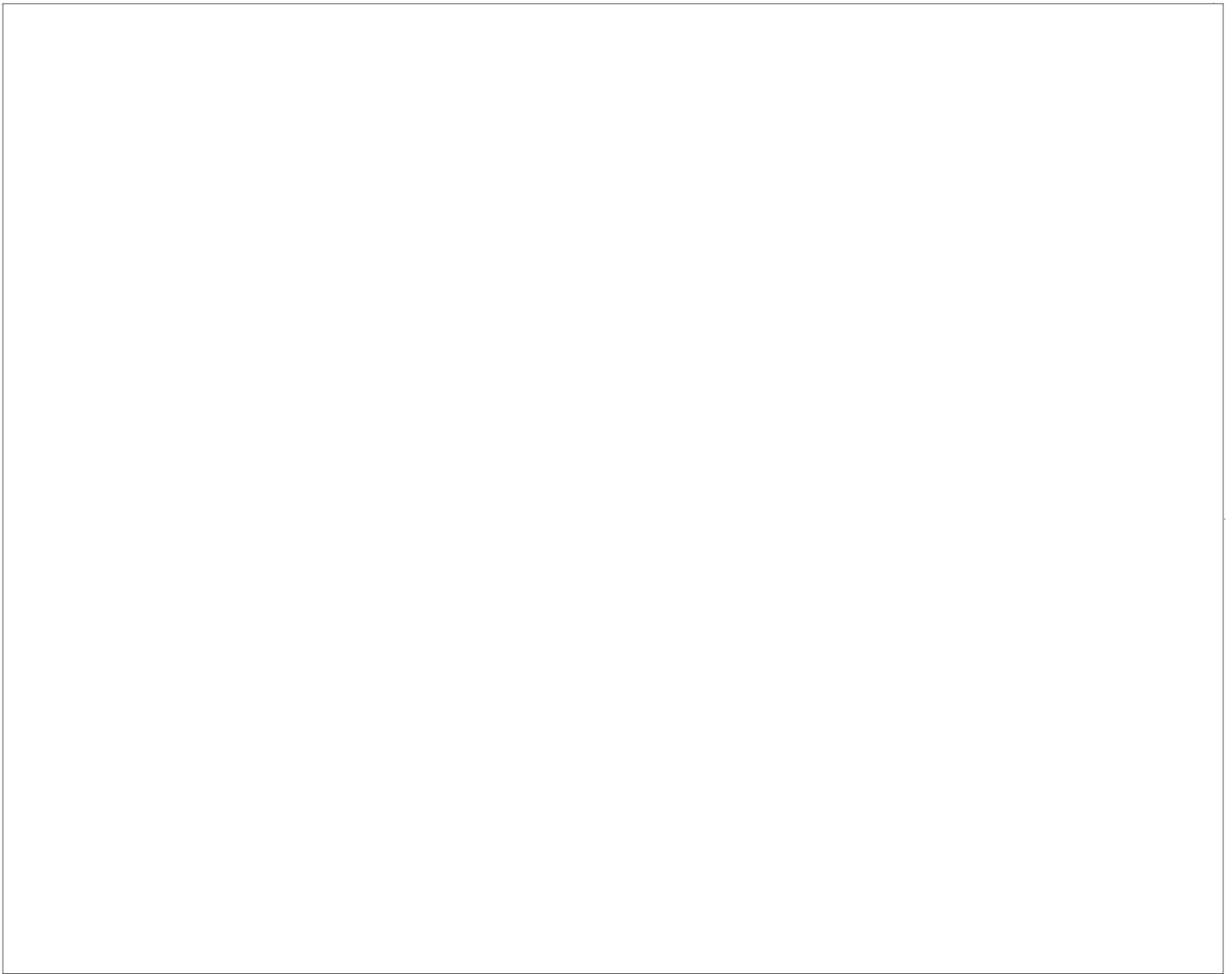


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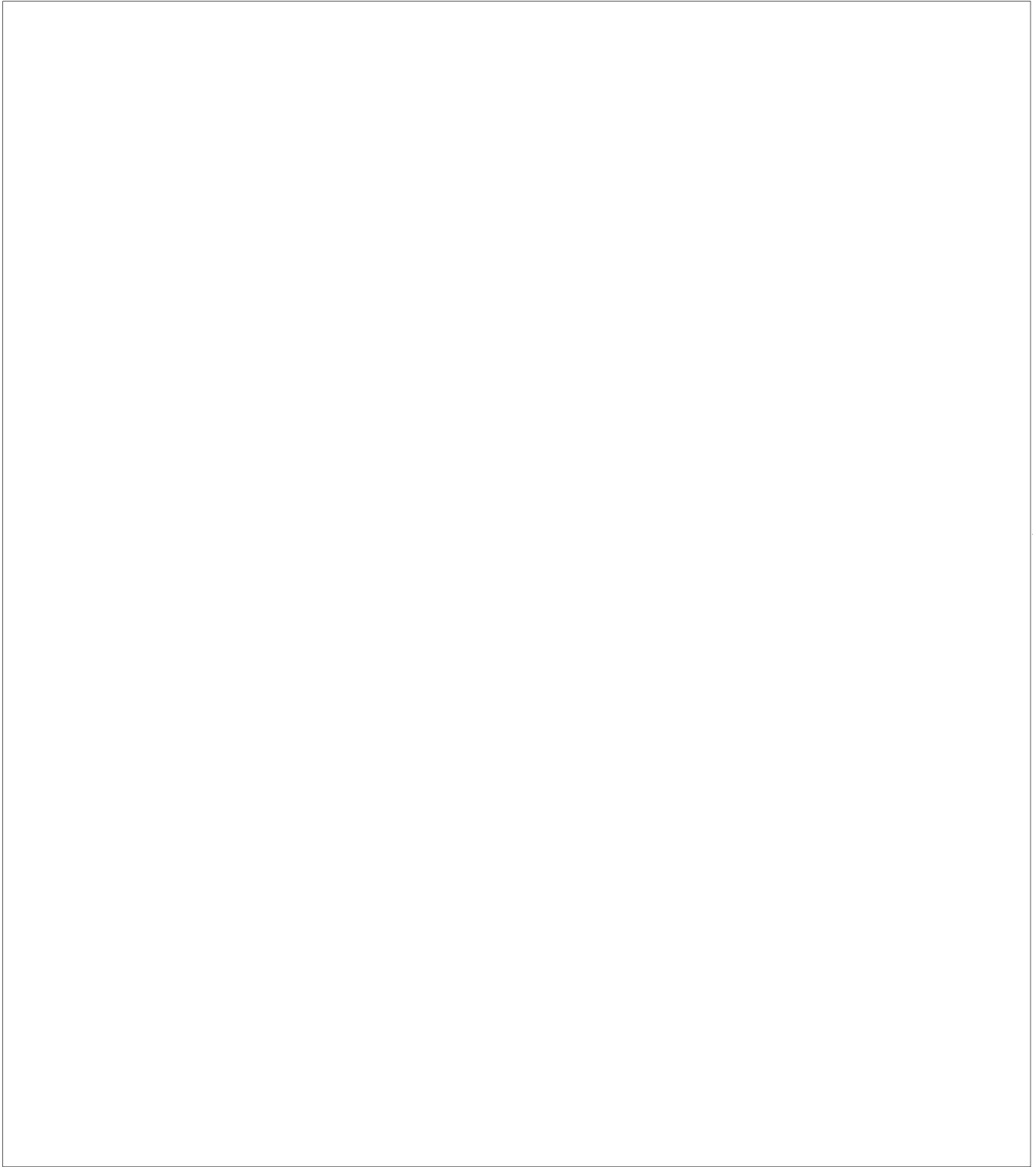


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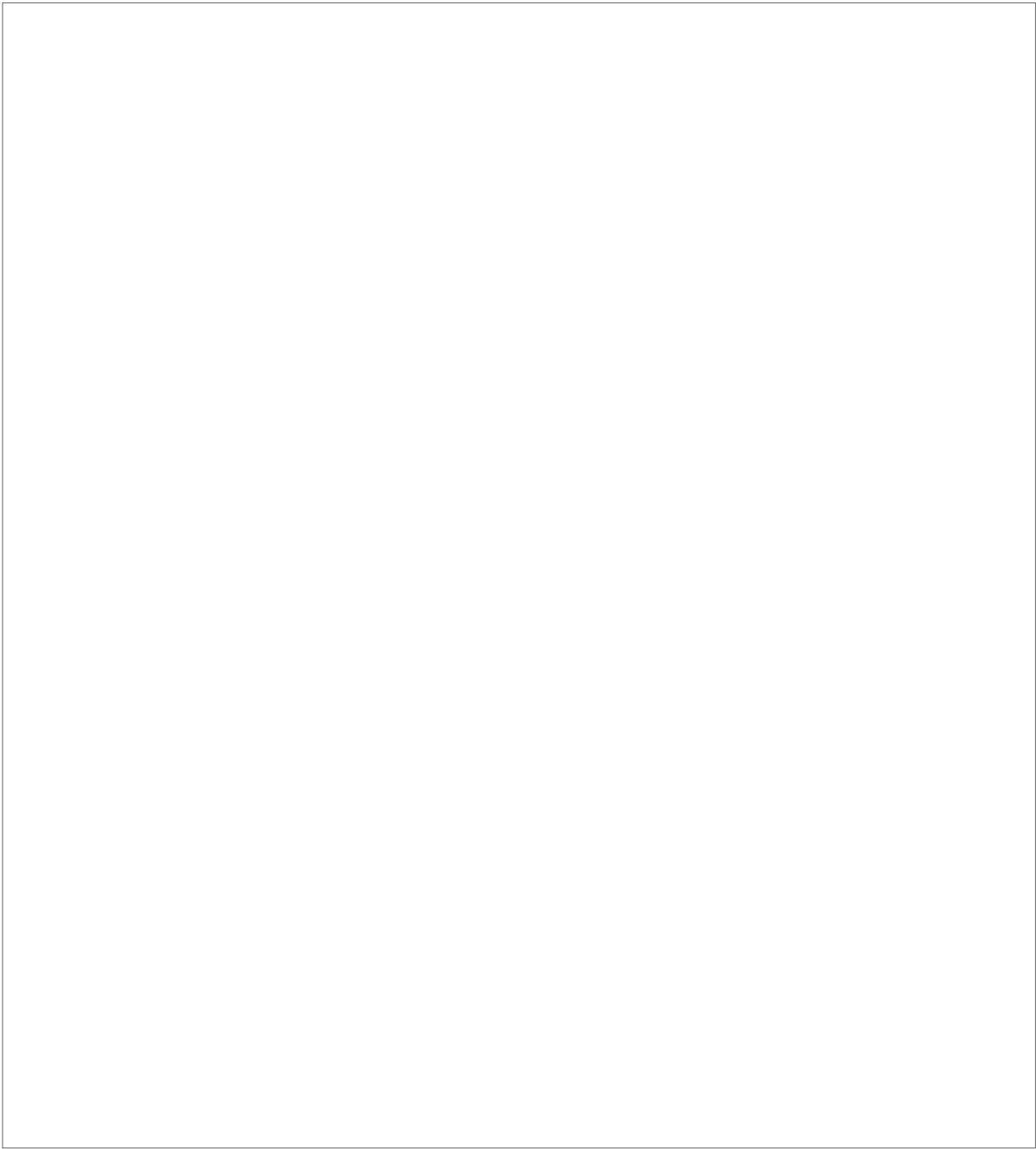
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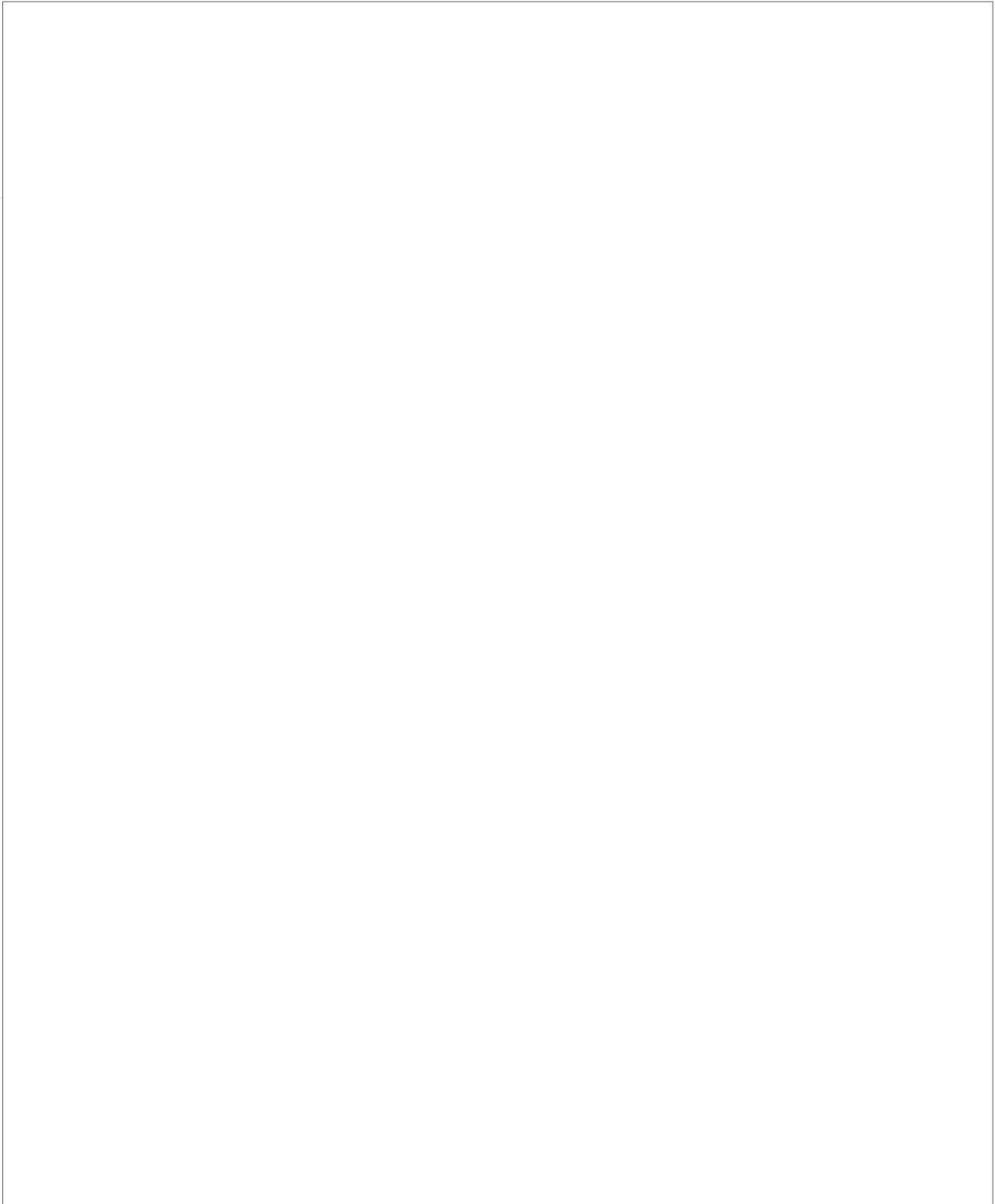
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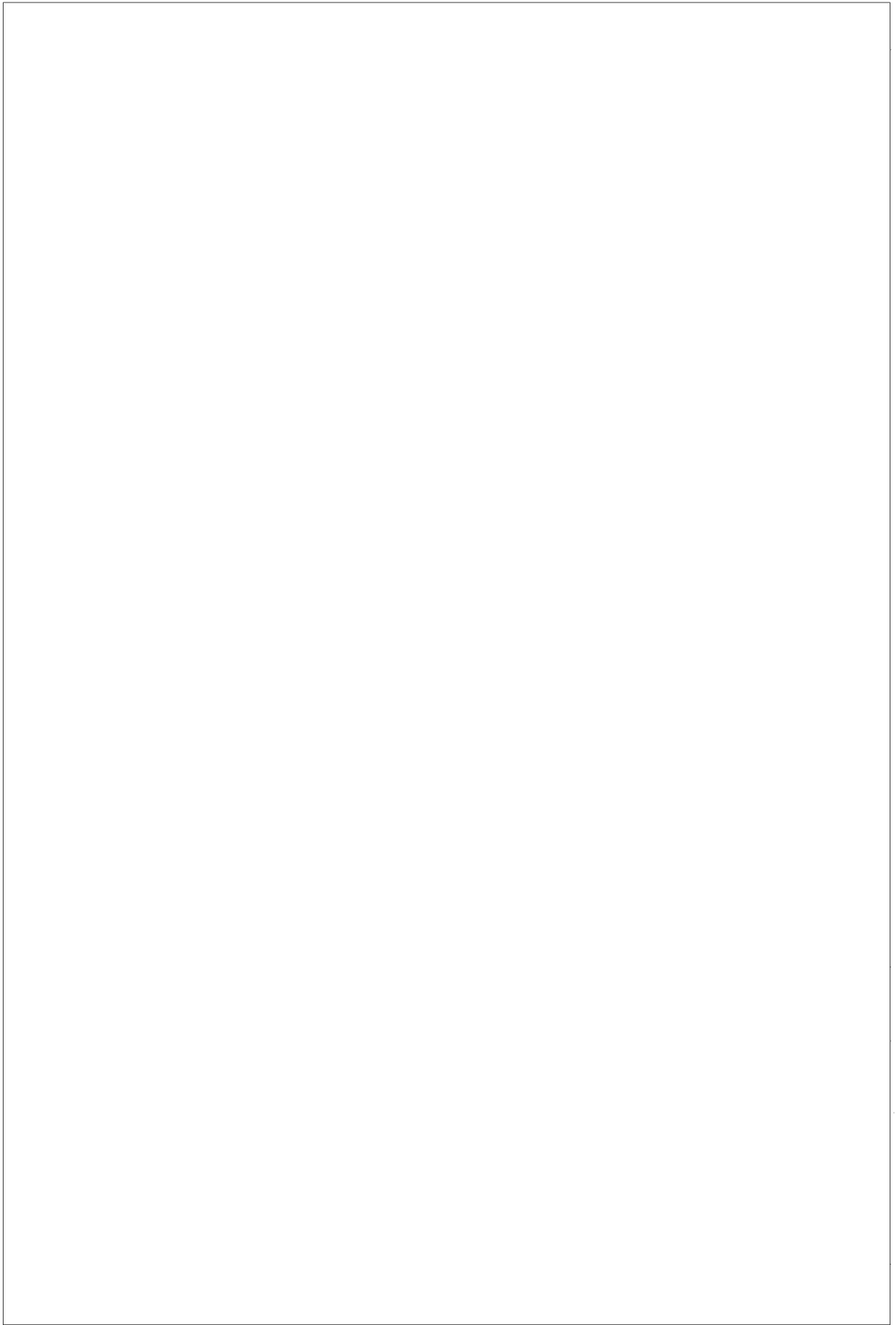


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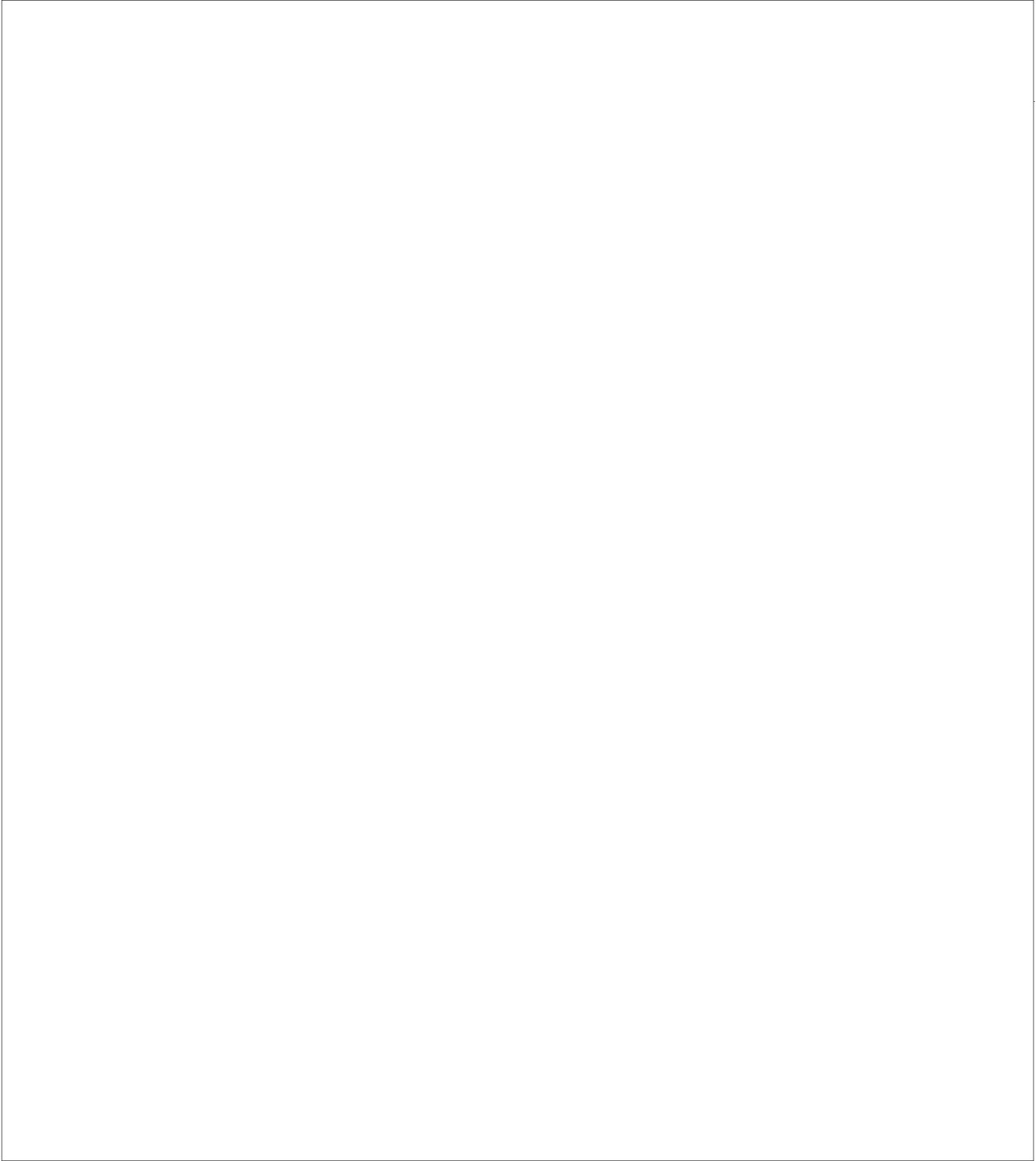
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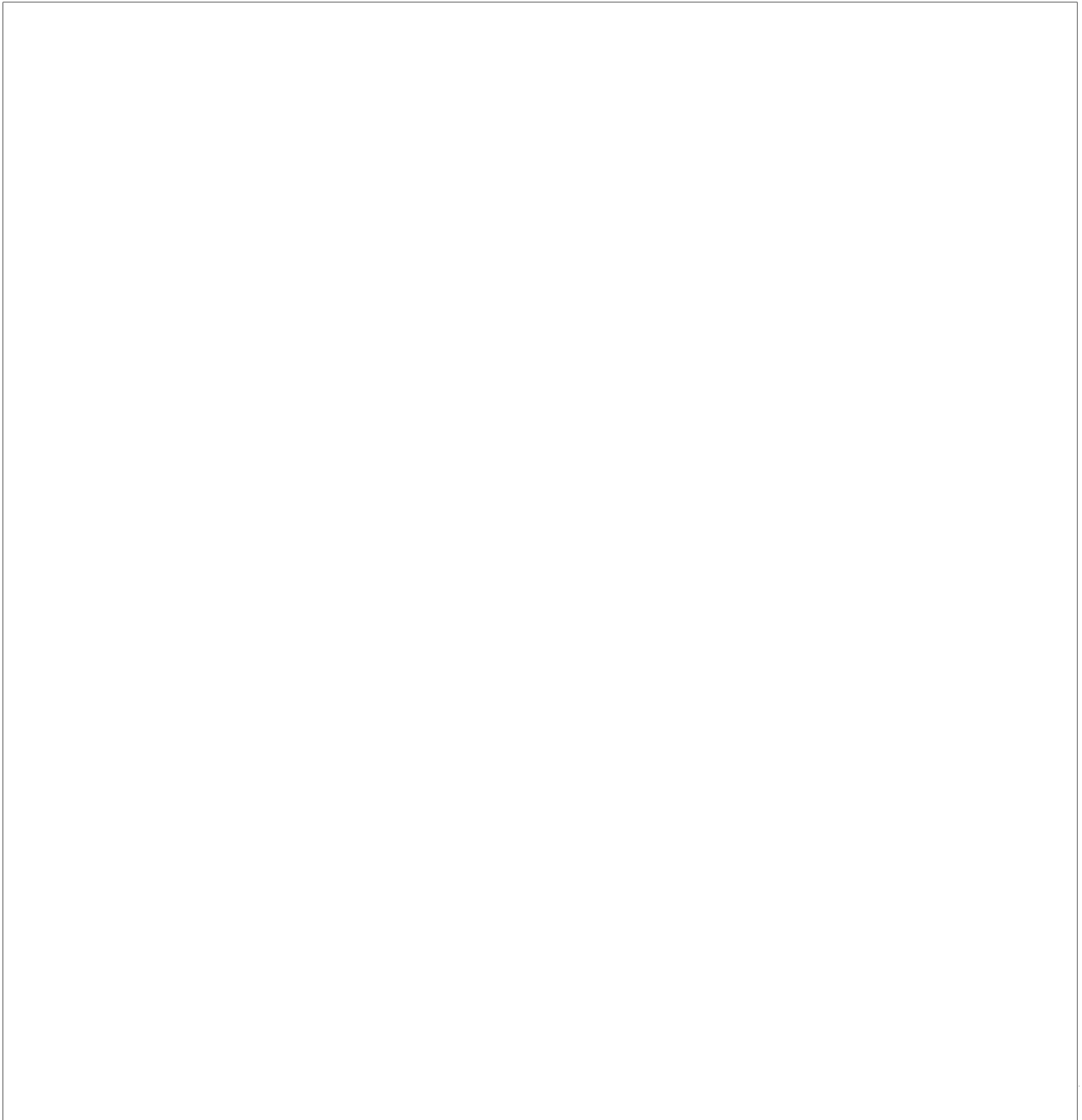
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**The Terrorism Diary for May and June 1998**

*Below is a compendium of May and June dates of known or conceivable significance to terrorists around the world. Inclusion of a date or event does not suggest that we expect or anticipate a commemorative terrorist event.*

- 1 May** *Socialist World.* May Day, to commemorate labor violence in Chicago.
- 1 May 1980** *Peru.* Destruction of electoral material in Chuschi, Cangallo Province, marks beginning of armed struggle by Sendero Luminoso; anniversary is marked by acts of violence throughout May, but especially on 16 May.
- 2 May 1953** *Jordan.* King Husayn assumed constitutional power.
- 4 May 1980** *Yugoslavia.* Death of Josip Broz Tito.
- 5 May 1981** *United Kingdom.* Death of IRA member Bobby Sands, after hunger strike.
- 6 May 1900** *Iran.* Birthday of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.
- 10 May** *Sri Lanka.* Poya Day.
- 10 May 1998** *Paraguay.* General elections scheduled.
- 11 May 1998** *Philippines.* National elections scheduled.
- 14 May 1948** *Middle East.* Beginning of first Arab-Israeli war.
- Israel.* Independence Day (according to Gregorian calendar, date on which Israel declared independence; the Hebrew calendar is lunar and the holiday may occur in April or May)
- 15 May 1948** *Palestinians.* Palestine Day (end of UN mandate); 15 May Organization, founded in 1979 by remnant of Special Operations Group of Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), takes its name from this event.
- 15 May 1988** Abu Nidal organization killed eight persons at Acropole Hotel in Khartoum.
- 17 May 1983** *Lebanon, Israel.* Signing of troop withdrawal accord known as 17 May agreement.
- 21 May 1996** *Algeria.* Seven kidnapped French monks beheaded by the Armed Islamic Group (GIA).
- 21 May** *Sri Lanka.* Poya Day.

- 22 May 1972** *Sri Lanka. Republic Day*
- 28 May 1964** *Colombia.* Anniversary of the founding of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).
- 30 May 1972** *Israel.* Tel Aviv Lod Airport massacre by the Japanese Red Army.
- 31 May 1998** *Colombia.* Presidential elections scheduled.
- 1 June 1976** *Palestinians.* Palestinian renegade Abu Nidal renamed his terrorist group—then based in Iraq—the Black June Organization and began attacking Syrian targets in response to Syria's backing of the Christian Phalange in Lebanon.
- 3 June 1989** *Iran.* Death of Ayatollah Khomeini.
- 4 June 1982** *Israel, Lebanon.* First Israeli bombing of Beirut.
- 5 June 1963** *Iran.* National Day of Mourning; Revolution Day; Day of Uprising, to commemorate the arrest of Ayatollah Khomeini by police under the Shah.
- 5 June 1967** *Middle East.* Beginning of the Six-Day War.
- 6 June 1982** *Israel, Lebanon.* Israeli forces invade Lebanon.
- 6 June 1984** *India.* Army storms the Sikh Golden Temple in Amritsar.
- 8 June 1967** *Palestinians.* Founding of Palestinian terrorist group Sa'iq'a, .a.k.a. Thunderbol.
- 9 June 1984** *Peru.* Launching of guerrilla action by MRTA; the takeover of a radio station in Lima.
- 18 June 1953** *Egypt.* Evacuation Day, which is the anniversary of the proclamation of the republic.
- 25 June 1964** *Mozambique.* Founding of the Front for the Liberation of Mozambique.
- 25 June 1996** *Saudi Arabia.* Truck bombing of al-Khubar Towers facility in Dhahran, in which 19 US servicemen were killed, and hundreds of others were wounded.
- 26 June 1995** *Ethiopia.* Attempted assassination of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.
- Italy.* Arrest of 13 members of the Egyptian al-Gama'at al-Islamiyya in Milan.

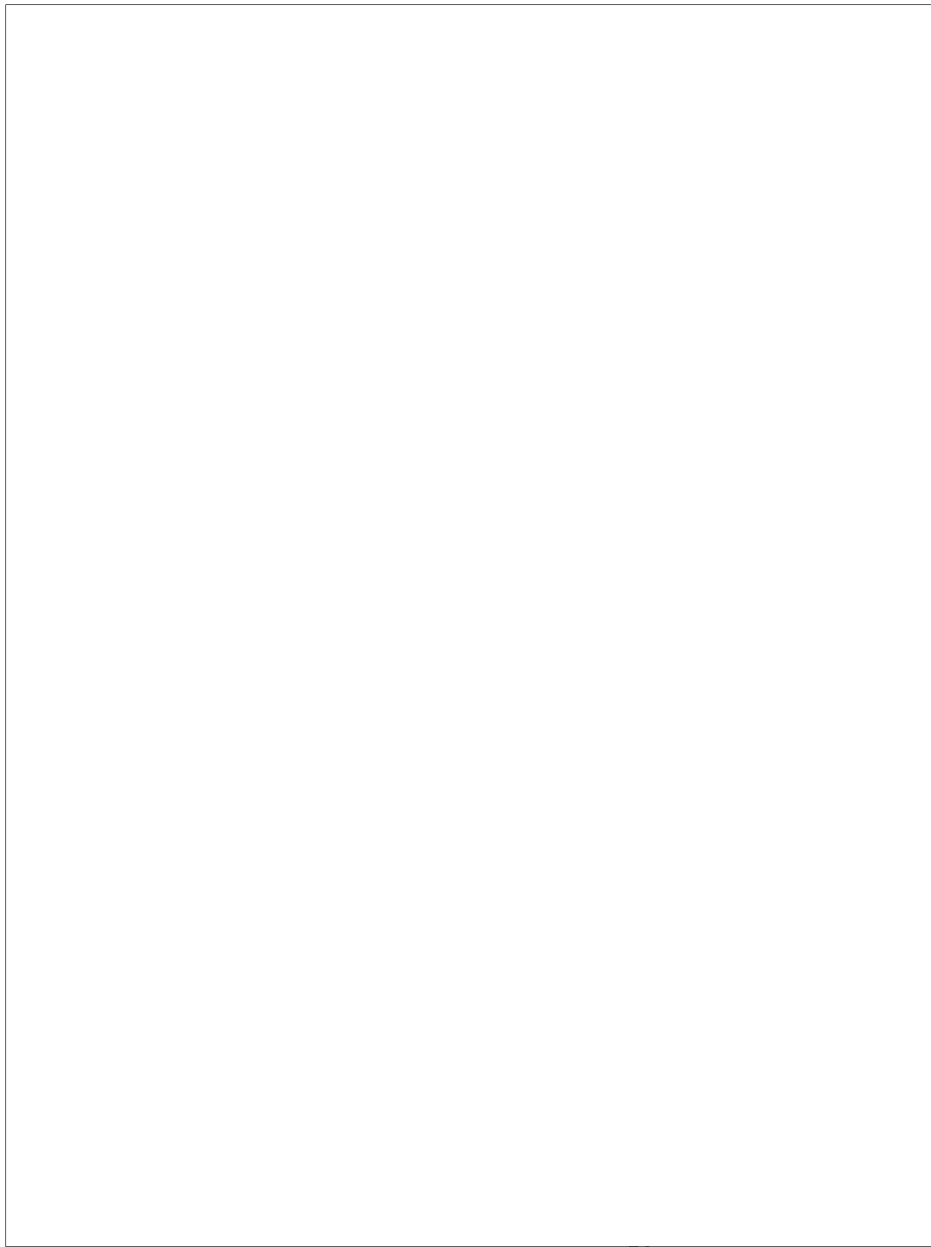




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**Chronology of International Terrorism**

*The following incidents were determined to meet the criteria of 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**

**25 February**

**Ethiopia: An armed group kidnapped an Austrian national traveling from Gode to Denan.** The *Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF)* claimed responsibility. *ONLF's* London office announced in a 16 March interview that the group would not release the hostage because it is being pursued by Ethiopian soldiers. The Austrian Embassy is pressuring the International Red Cross to intervene. [redacted]

**21 March**

**Chad: Gunmen kidnapped six French and two Italian nationals in the Tibesti region.** Chadian forces freed all but one French hostage on 22 March. The *National Front for the Renewal of Chad (FNTR)* claimed responsibility in a statement to the press, saying they would release the remaining hostage on the condition that French troops withdraw from Chad, and Western oil companies halt exploration and exploitation of oil resources in Chad. [redacted]

**Asia**

**21 February**

**Pakistan: Unidentified gunmen shot and killed two Iranian engineers near the Iranian cultural center in Karachi.** The shooting may have been to mark the anniversary of the 20 February 1997 attack on the Iranian cultural center in Multan. [redacted]

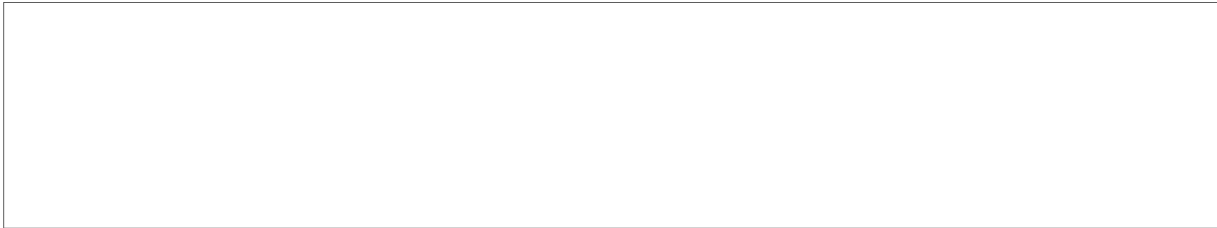
**Europe**

**22 February**

**Ireland: Police discovered a large explosive device hidden near the village of Redhills.** [redacted] the *Irish Republican Army Continuity Council (CIRA)* planned to smuggle the device into Northern Ireland. [redacted]

**2 March**

**Ireland: Bomb disposal experts found and defused a large car bomb outside the town of Hackballscross.** [redacted] suspect the device was to be taken into Northern Ireland by *CIRA* militants. [redacted]



**21 March**

**Ireland: Irish police found a 1,300-pound bomb hidden in a vehicle in Dundalk, a few miles from the Northern Ireland border.** [redacted] suspect disgruntled members of the *Irish Republican Army (IRA)* were planning to detonate the device

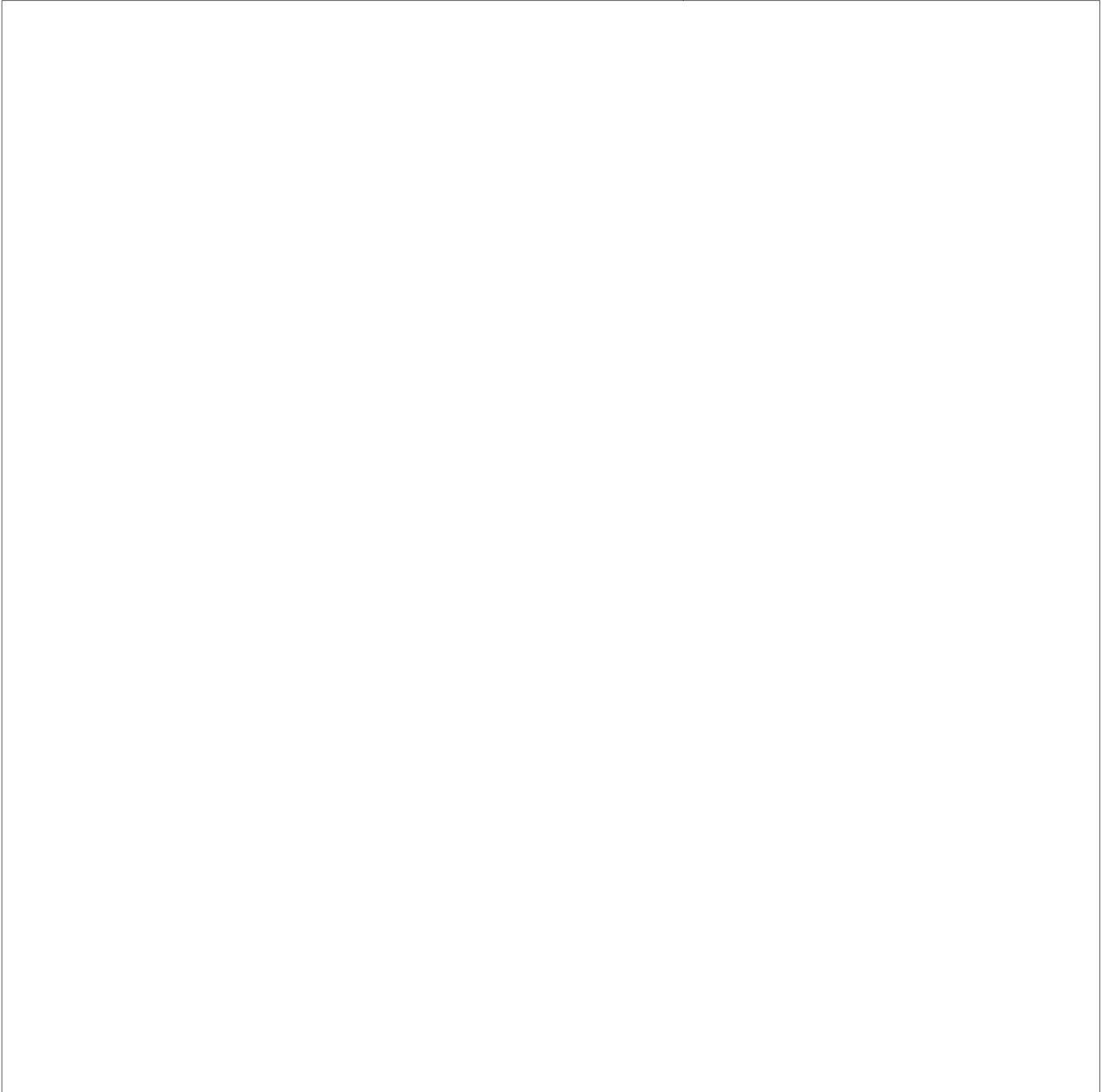
in Northern Ireland to embarrass Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams, who was visiting the United States at the time. [redacted]



**Latin America**

- 9 March** *Colombia: Unidentified guerrillas bombed the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline in Arauquita, causing a 9,000-barrel oil spill.* [redacted]
- 14 March** *Colombia: Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrillas kidnapped two French businessmen in Meta Province.* One victim was released shortly after the abduction with a huge ransom demand by the rebels for his brother's release [redacted]
- 14 March** *Colombia: National Liberation Army (ELN) rebels dynamited the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline, causing 1,000 barrels of oil to spill.* The attack occurred 200 miles northeast of Bogota [redacted]
- 17 March** *Colombia: An army unit in Barranquilla captured two ELN rebels and charged them with plotting to bomb the annual assembly of the Inter-American Development Bank.* The rebels had in their possession plans of the site, a schedule of events for the annual meeting, and a detailed blueprint for where the bombs would be placed. The Army unit also seized two landmines and 25 pounds of explosives. The rebels had intended to travel to the nearby resort of Cartagena and set off a car bomb shortly before the closing ceremony on 18 March of the three-day meeting, which drew bankers, financiers, and other officials from across the Americas. *ELN* guerrillas initially had planned to detonate the device on 15 or 16 March to kill Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori who attended the opening of the assembly together with the Panamanian and Colombian Presidents. [redacted]
- 21 March** *Colombia: FARC guerrillas kidnapped a US citizen near La Vega.* The hostage is a retired Esso Colombia worker who does not have kidnap insurance [redacted]
- 23 March** *Colombia: FARC rebels killed three persons, wounded 14 others, and kidnapped at least 27 at a roadblock near Bogota.* Four US citizens and one Italian were among the civilians who were kidnapped. Two civilians, one soldier, and six guerrillas were killed when armed troops moved in to clear the roadblock. The acting president of the National Electoral Council (CNE) and his wife were also among the victims and were released on 25 March. The rebels released nine of the Colombian hostages on 27 March, and one US hostage escaped his captors on 2 April. [redacted]
- 25 March** *Colombia: At the British Petroleum oil field in Cupiagua, a bomb blast injured one US citizen and two British workers.* At least one bomb had been placed near the oil workers' sleeping trailers and detonated about midnight. A hole in the perimeter fence was found at the oil camp and police are blaming the attack on the *ELN*. [redacted]

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**Summary of Indigenous Terrorism—March 1998**

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

**Africa**

**Somalia**

On 9 March a bomb exploded in Mogadishu, killing at least 12 persons and injuring 17 others.

**Asia**

**Bangladesh**

On 10 March, in Chittagong, Bangladesh, suspected activists abducted two Bangladeshi security workers employed by United Meridian Corporation. The kidnapers freed one hostage and demanded \$10,800 in ransom for the release of the other. Army and police teams are searching for the remaining hostage. United Meridian suspects that activist insurgents opposed to a recent peace treaty are responsible for the kidnapping. The treaty ended two decades of insurgency in the Hill Tracts where the US company is undertaking a seismic survey for oil and gas under a production-sharing contract.

**Japan**

On 20 March in Tokyo, the third anniversary of the Sarin gas attack, three beer cans filled with a white chlorine-like liquid were found in a public toilet in the Kasumigaseki subway station, causing one person to become ill.

**Pakistan**

A bomb explosion on the Lahore to Quetta Chiltan express train on 9 March killed at least five persons and injured 35 others.

On 10 March a bomb exploded on a crowded commuter train at the Walton Railway Station in Lahore, killing at least eight persons and injuring 36 others.

**Sri Lanka**

A massive car bomb exploded in heavy traffic in the Maradana area of Colombo on 5 March, killing 32 persons, injuring at least 257 others, and damaging shops, vehicles, a train station, and a pedestrian bridge. The 26-passenger van was driven by a suspected *Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)* suicide bomber and had been modified to contain the explosives and funnel the blast horizontally.

A time bomb exploded near the Eravur clock tower on 9 March in Batticaloa, killing four civilians and one police officer, wounding 26 bystanders, and damaging shops and at least one vehicle. The bomb, hidden in a tractor trailer loaded with bags of rice, exploded when a convoy of Army and police vehicles passed by. The *LTTE* is probably responsible.

Europe

Spain

Authorities deactivated a bomb placed outside a bank building in Motrico on 10 March. The *Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA)* organization is suspected.

Unknown assailants threw two Molotov cocktails at a military headquarters building in Bilbao on 10 March, causing minor damage.  suspect members or sympathizers of *ETA*.

United Kingdom

On 17 March British Army bomb disposal experts disarmed an explosive device at a social club in Larne, Northern Ireland. The authorities located the bomb after security monitors spotted a man planting the device in a hallway. The *LVF* claimed responsibility.

On 24 March militants launched several mortar rounds at a police station in Forkhill, Northern Ireland. Two devices landed within the station's grounds, but only one detonated, causing minor damage. Police bomb experts defused two additional devices found inside their launch tubes. Authorities suspect breakaway members of the *Irish Republican Army*.

**Latin America**

**Colombia**

On 2 March in Caqueta Department, 1,000 *Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC)* rebels clashed with the Army, killing 70 soldiers and 28 civilians. On 7 March, *FARC* rebels met with several reporters and said their action was to underscore their summons to the people not to vote in the coming election [redacted]

*FARC* guerrillas kidnapped two mayors in Huila Department on 2 March. [redacted]

On 11 March in San Francisco, *National Liberation Army* guerrillas kidnapped the town's mayor and five councilmen. [redacted]

**Peru**

On 8 March in Yarhuilca Province, 20 *Sendero Luminoso (SL)* rebels killed a judge and two other persons, and wounded three others [redacted]

On 21 March in Lima, four *SL* rebels shot and killed the union leader of a shantytown and wounded his daughter. The subversives left a series of messages at the scene, including slogans against the Fujimori government and hailing the *SL's* armed struggle [redacted]

**Middle East**

**Algeria**

A bomb exploded in Douar Bou Ghalboun on 4 March, killing three persons and wounding 44 others. The *Armed Islamic Group (GIA)* is probably responsible [redacted]

Suspected *GIA* militants armed with axes and knives killed 19 civilians on 10 March in Boumedfaa. [redacted]

An armed group opened fire on a market in Tiaret, on 12 March, killing 10 persons and injuring five others. The *GIA* is probably responsible. [redacted]

**Egypt**

Gunmen opened fire on a police vehicle in Al-Minya on 23 March, killing four police officers. *Al-Gama'at al-Islamiyya* is suspected. [redacted]

**Israel**

An device exploded on a road in East Jerusalem on 13 March, injuring four Palestinians. [redacted]

A bomb exploded at a bus station in Afula on 14 March, wounding an Israeli. [redacted]