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SUBJECT: CENTRAL AMERICAN MONTHLY REPORT NUMBER 28

1. FOLLOWING BETWEEN TEAR LINES IS THE [redacted] CENTRAL AMERICAN MONTHLY REPORT COVERING OCTOBER 1985. IT MAY BE SHARED [redacted] ON A BACKGROUND USE ONLY BASIS. THE MONTHLY DRAWS ON [redacted] INTELLIGENCE AND IS COORDINATED WITH [redacted] BUT NOT WITH THE COMMUNITY, AND IS NOT FINISHED INTELLIGENCE PER SE.

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CENTRAL AMERICAN MONTHLY REPORT NO. 28 (U)

NOVEMBER 1985

PERSPECTIVE

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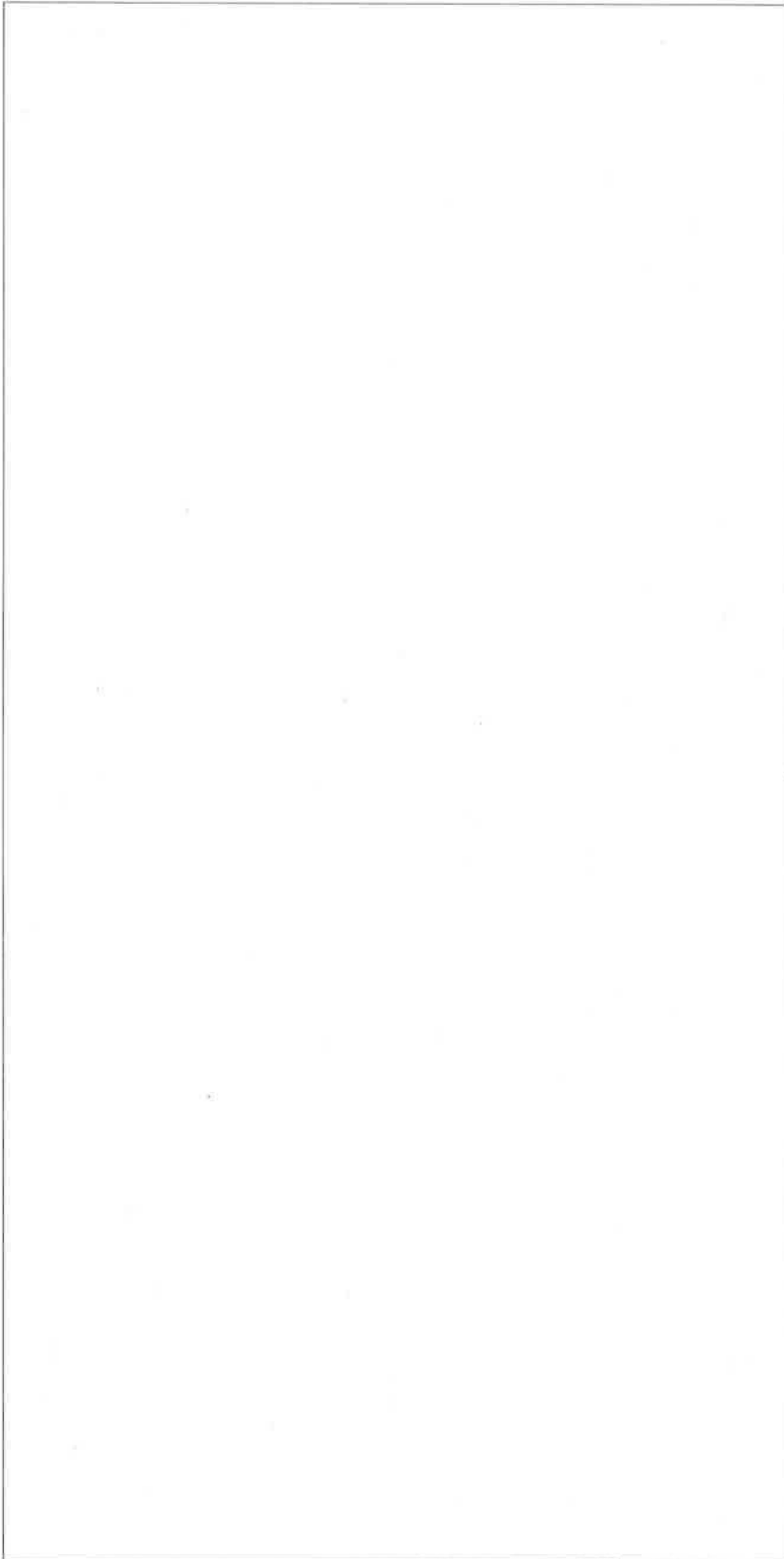
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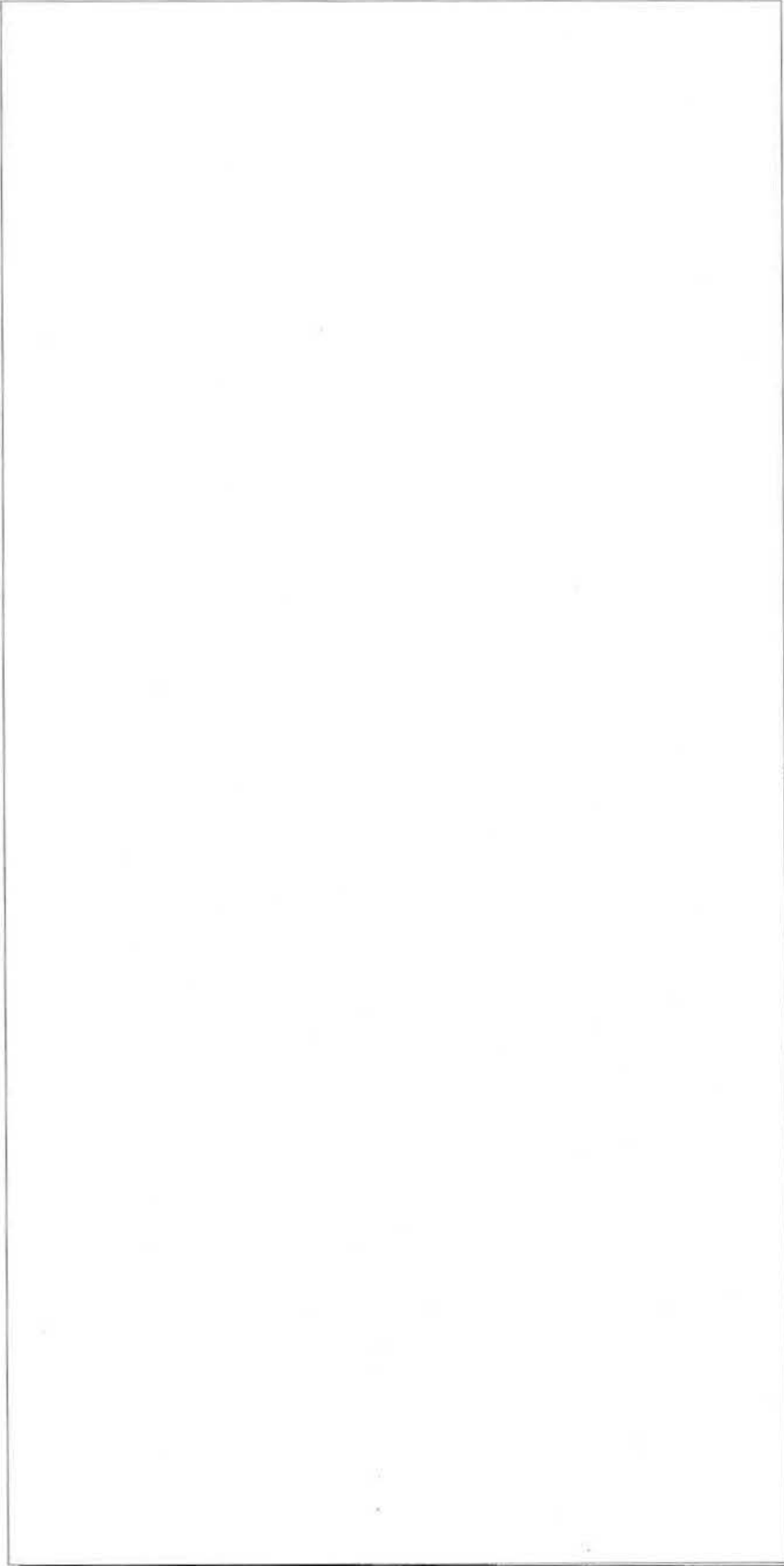
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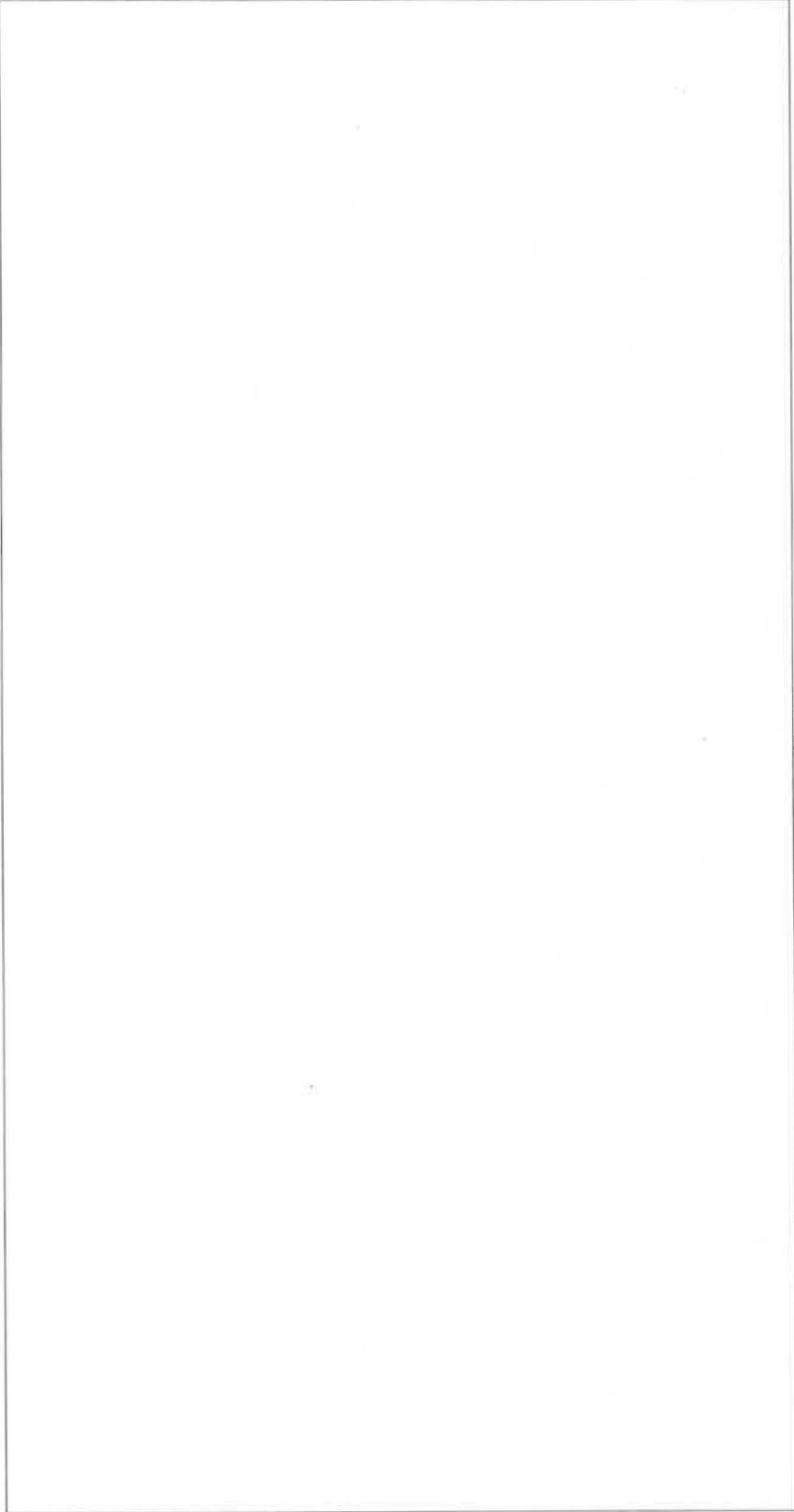


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WITH HIS DAUGHTER'S KIDNAPING BEHIND HIM, PRESIDENT DUARTE TURNED HIS ATTENTION TO RESTORING HIS POLITICAL CREDIBILITY AND MENDING FENCES WITH THE MILITARY. POLITICALLY, THE PRESIDENT'S MOST SERIOUS CHALLENGE CAME FROM A NUMBER OF PUBLIC SECTOR STRIKES THAT WERE NOT RESOLVED UNTIL MONTH'S END. MILITARY ACTIVITY REMAINED RELATIVELY LIGHT, BUT THE ARMED FORCES DID MOUNT A NUMBER OF ACTIONS, INCLUDING A MAJOR AIRSTRIKE AGAINST REBEL STRONGHOLDS IN THE GUAZAPA VOLCANO AREA WHERE DUARTE'S DAUGHTER HAD BEEN HELD. AMID SIGNS OF A NEW WAVE OF KIDNAPING AND URBAN TERRORISM, [REDACTED] HAVE REPORTED THAT INSURGENT EFFORTS FOCUSED LARGELY ON FOMENTING LABOR UNREST AND MOBILIZING SUPPORT FOR THE CREATION BY YEAR END OF THE "NATIONAL FORUM," A BROADBASED LEFTIST UMBRELLA GROUP. (S NF [REDACTED]) (b)(1) (b)(3) NatSecAct

THE OUTBREAK OF STRIKES THAT INCLUDED WORKERS IN THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS, AGRICULTURE, PUBLIC WORKS, AND TOURISM MINISTRIES WERE IN PART THE RESULT OF INSURGENT AGITATION AIMED AT CHALLENGING DUARTE'S LEADERSHIP AS WELL AS WINNING ECONOMIC BENEFITS, [REDACTED] UNIÓN DEMANDS INCLUDED THE DISMISSAL OF GOVERNMENT MANAGERS, WAGE INCREASES, AND THE RELEASE OF JAILED LEFTIST ACTIVISTS. [REDACTED] INDICATED THAT PREPARATIONS FOR THE "NATIONAL FORUM" TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON POLITICAL DIALOGUE WERE WELL UNDER WAY AMONG VARIOUS FRONT ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THOSE IN THE UNIVERSITIES. (S NF [REDACTED]) (b)(1) (b)(3) NatSecAct (b)(1) (b)(3) NatSecAct (b)(1) (b)(3) NatSecAct

A [REDACTED] REPORTED THAT THE DUARTE ADMINISTRATION IS WELL AWARE OF THE THREAT THAT LABOR UNREST POSES, AND WE BELIEVE THE ADMINISTRATION MAY BE RETHINKING PREVIOUSLY REPORTED AUSTERITY PLANS. IN A LATE NOVEMBER NATIONWIDE SPEECH, THE PRESIDENT AVOIDED MENTION OF FUTURE AUSTERITY MEASURES EVEN THOUGH HE HAD ADDRESSED THE ISSUE IN GENERAL TERMS IN A SPEECH ONLY THE DAY BEFORE. INSTEAD, HE BLAMED THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC ILLS ON THE INSURGENTS WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT MANY OF LABOR'S DEMANDS WERE JUST. HE ALSO ANNOUNCED A SALARY INCREASE FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYEES AND THE MILITARY AND A CHRISTMAS BONUS FOR ALL PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES; ACCORDING TO DUARTE; THIS PACKAGE WILL COST THE GOVERNMENT ABOUT \$53 MILLION. AT THE SAME TIME, HE INDICATED THAT HE WOULD NOT HESITATE TO USE THE SECURITY FORCES TO MAINTAIN ORDER AND END WHAT HE BELIEVES TO BE ILLEGAL STRIKES. (S NF [REDACTED]) (b)(1) (b)(3) NatSecAct

THE MILITARY HIGH COMMAND CONTINUED TO PROMISE REFORMS AND NEW PROCEDURES TO IMPROVE ARMED FORCES' PERFORMANCE AND BETTER INTEGRATE CIVILIAN AND MILITARY COUNTERINSURGENCY STRATEGIES. AN OFFICIAL SERVICE REPORTED THAT CHIEF OF STAFF BLANDON--IN ADDITION TO CALLING FOR INCREASED EMPHASIS ON CIVIC ACTION--HAS RECOMMENDED THE DEVELOPMENT AND MORE EXTENSIVE USE OF MOBILE RESERVES, RECONNAISSANCE UNITS, INFORMANT NETWORKS, AND SMALL PATROL-TYPE UNITS IN IMMEDIATE REACTION BATTALIONS. THE HIGH COMMAND ALSO REPORTEDLY IS PLANNING TO REASSIGN SEVERAL SENIOR COMMANDERS--INCLUDING THE CONTROVERSIAL COLONEL OCHOA--BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. A [REDACTED] REPORTED THAT THESE REASSIGNMENTS ARE BEING MADE TO REMOVE SOME OFFICERS WHO HAD QUESTIONED THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE KIDNAPING AND TRANSFER OTHERS WHO HAVE FAILED TO CONDUCT THE WAR MORE AGGRESSIVELY. (S NF [REDACTED]) (b)(1) (b)(3) NatSecAct (b)(3) NatSecAct

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OVERALL, MILITARY ACTIVITY REMAINED GENERALLY LIGHT LAST MONTH, BUT THE SALVADORAN ARMED FORCES DID MOUNT SEVERAL RELATIVELY LARGE AIR OPERATIONS. MOST NOTABLY, THE AIR FORCE LAUNCHED AN AIRSTRIKE--FOLLOWED A DAY LATER BY THE DEPLOYMENT OF 80 AIRBORNE TROOPS--AGAINST GUERRILLA STRONGHOLDS IN THE GUAZAPA AREA NORTH OF SAN SALVADOR. A SALVADORAN SERVICE REPORTED THAT IN THE FIRST TWO DAYS OF THE ATTACK AT LEAST 11 INSURGENTS WERE KILLED, SEVERAL CAMPS WERE PARTIALLY DESTROYED, AND NUMEROUS INSURGENT DOCUMENTS WERE CAPTURED. ALTHOUGH THE AIR FORCE IS CLAIMING THE ACTION A SUCCESS, SOME OFFICERS COMPLAINED THAT THE DELAY IN DEPLOYING GROUND TROOPS--A PERSISTENT PROBLEM--ALLOWED THE REBELS TO AVOID MORE SIGNIFICANT CASUALTIES AND REDUCED CHANCES OF CAPTURING THE LOCAL GUERRILLA HEADQUARTERS. (S NF [redacted])

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IN ANOTHER OPERATION IN EARLY NOVEMBER, THE U.S.-TRAINED ATONAL BATTALION AND THE SIXTH BRIGADE ATTACKED AND OVERRAN FIVE INSURGENT BASE CAMPS IN USULUTAN. ALTHOUGH THE OPERATION ITSELF FAILED TO CAPTURE OR KILL ANY INSURGENT LEADERS OR TRAP THE MAIN INSURGENT FORCE IN AN AMBUSH, THE MILITARY BELIEVES THE ACTION WAS A SUCCESS, [redacted]

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[redacted] IN PART BECAUSE IT EMPLOYED INFORMATION GAINED FROM A THREE-MONTH COLLECTION AND ANALYTIC EFFORT. [redacted]

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[redacted] THAT GOVERNMENT FORCES SUFFERED 26 CASUALTIES, LARGELY AS A RESULT OF GUERRILLA MINES. [redacted]

[redacted] INDICATES THAT REBEL MINES CONTINUE TO CAUSE CASUALTIES FOR THE ARMED FORCES, AND TO AFFECT MORALE SERIOUSLY IN SOME UNITS. (S NF [redacted])

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NO PROGRESS WAS MADE IN RESOLVING THE LATE OCTOBER KIDNAPING OF AIR FORCE COLONEL AVALOS, ALTHOUGH THE INSURGENTS PUBLICLY TOOK CREDIT FOR HIS ABDUCTION; CLAIMING THAT IT WAS A LEGITIMATE ACT OF WAR. [redacted]

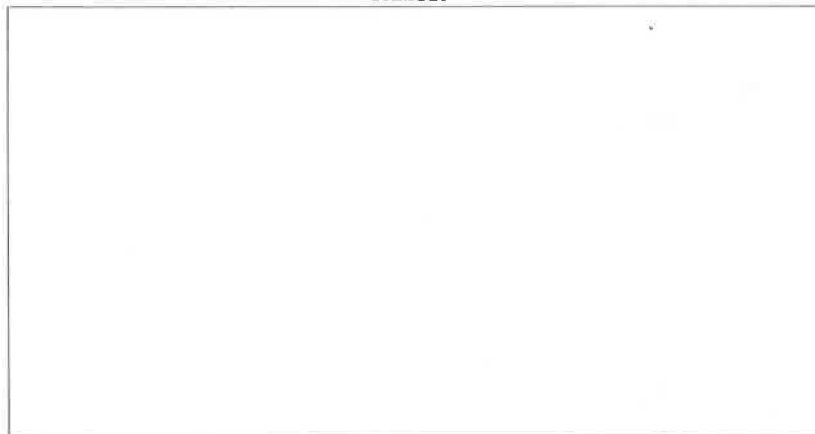
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[redacted] RECENT EVIDENCE SUGGESTS THAT THE INSURGENTS ARE PLANNING FURTHER KIDNAPINGS AND URBAN TERRORISM. A CAPTURED COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBER REVEALED REBEL PLANS TO ASSASSINATE ARMED FORCES' COLLABORATORS, ESTABLISH NEW TERRORIST SUPPORT UNITS IN POOR NEIGHBORHOODS IN THE CAPITAL, AND KIDNAP RELATIVES OF GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION PARTY MEMBERS, DESPITE AN EARLIER AGREEMENT WITH DUARTE NOT TO ABDUCT FAMILY MEMBERS. ANOTHER DISAFFECTED COMMUNIST PARTY COMBATANT STATED THAT SEVERAL SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, ALREADY HAVE BEEN TARGETED FOR KIDNAPING. (S NF [redacted])

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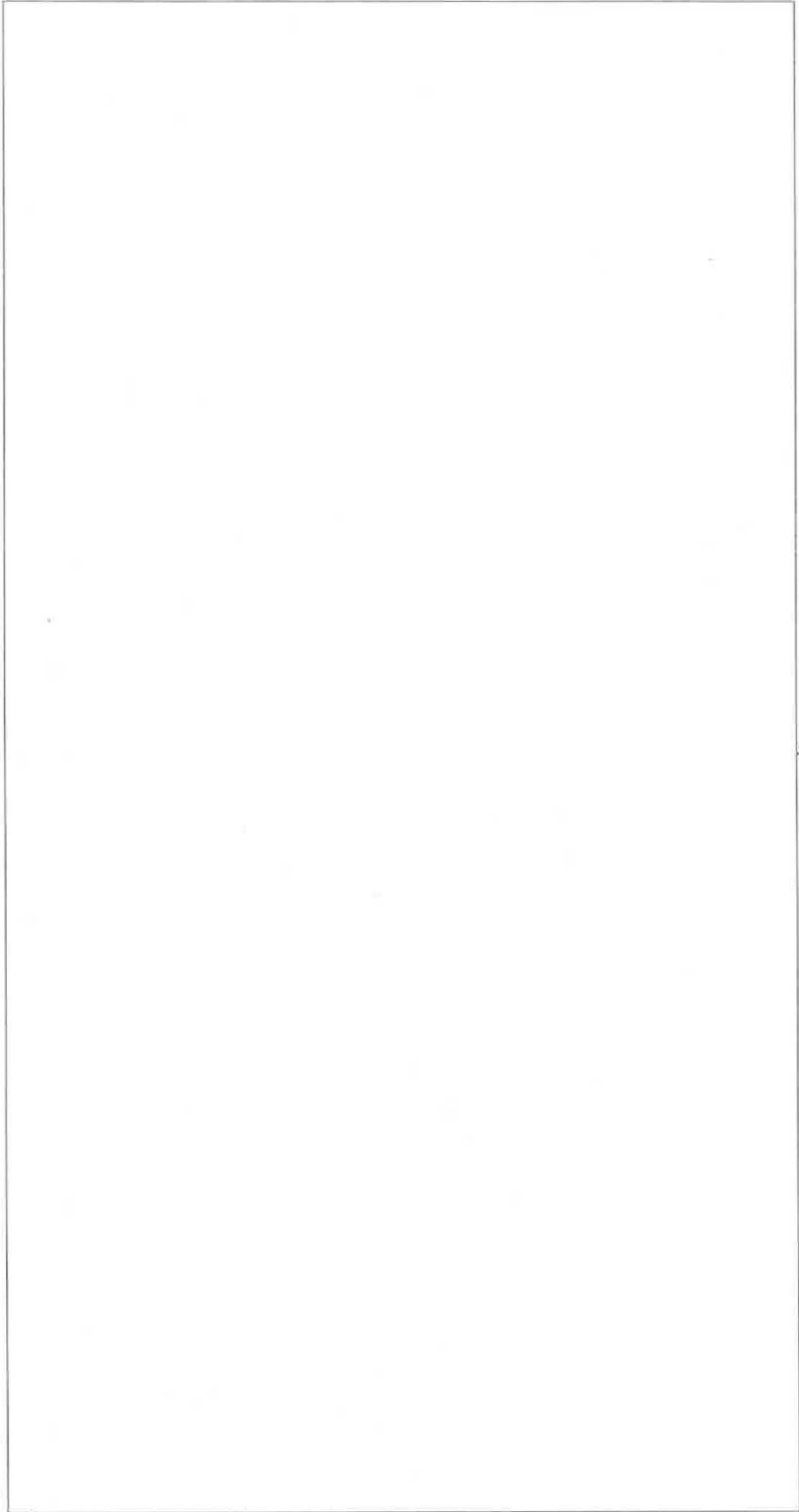
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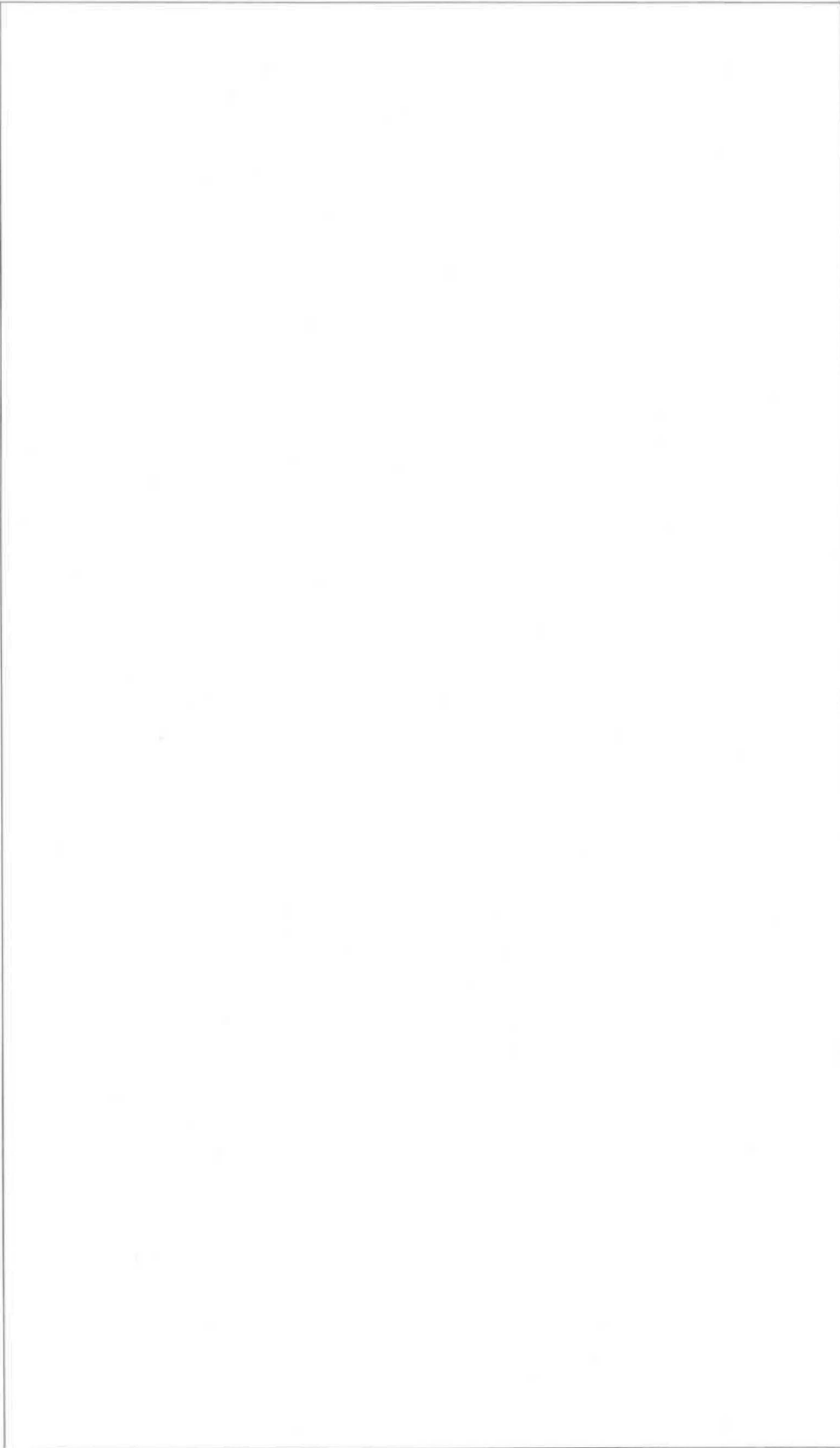
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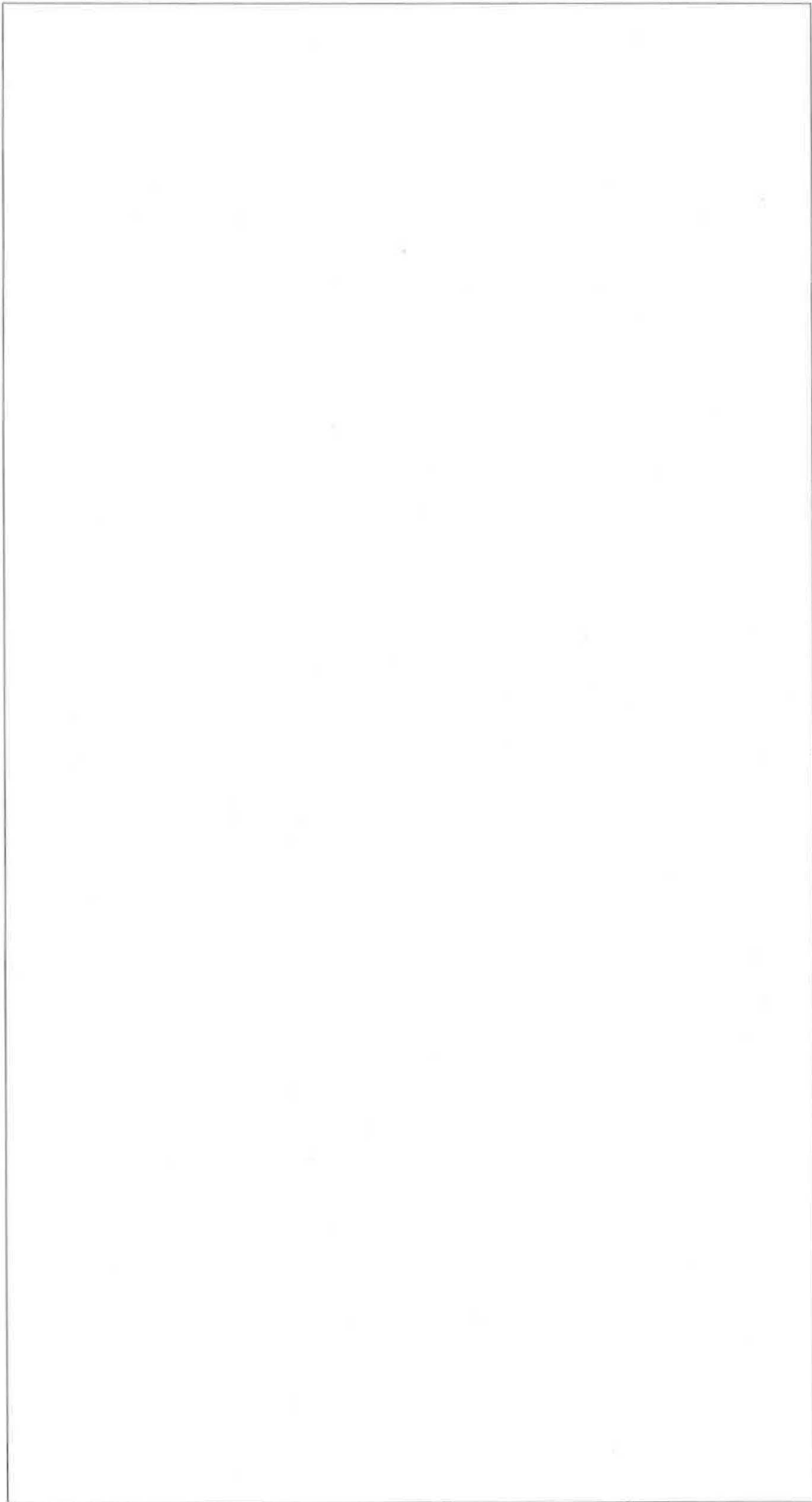
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