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FolderID:

Folder Title:

Assault Weapons Ban [4]

Stack:

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Row:

98

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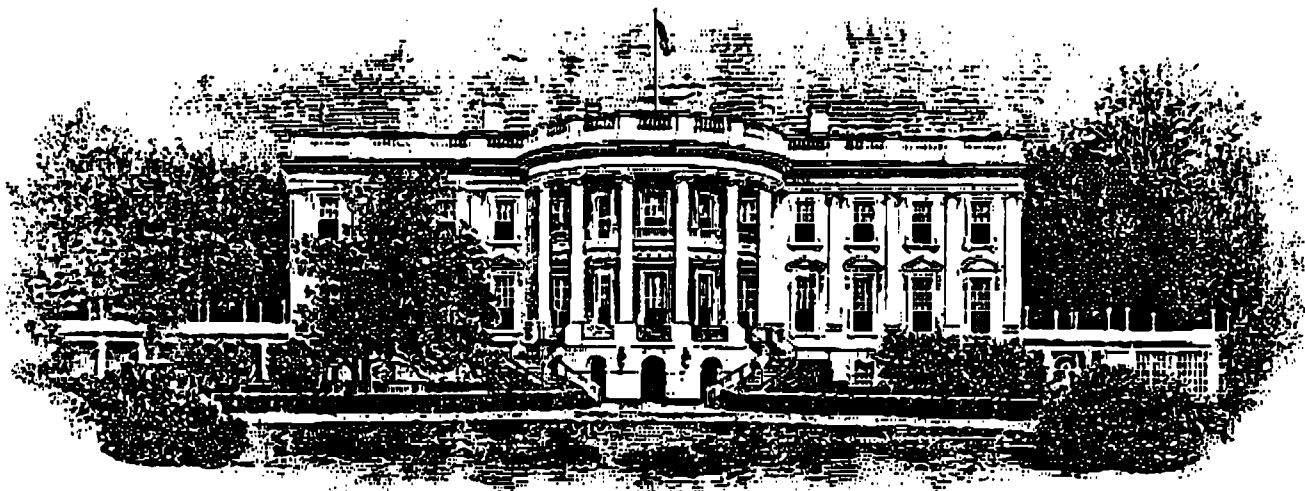
Position:

2



OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
Washington, D.C. 20500

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL COVER SHEET



BUREAU OF STATE AND LOCAL AFFAIRS

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER:..... 3

DATE:..... 05/03/94

TO:..... JOSE CERDA

FAX # 456-7028

OFFICE #:..... 456-5568

COMMENTS:.....

U R G E N T M E S S A G E

Ureka!

Attached two pages contain DEA data re semiautomatic weapons seizures for FY1993. The numbers do not look good for our purposes. However meager the upswing, semiautomatic rifle seizures constitute the only category to increase (+2.4%) in the comparison period.

I am also seeking NYC data. Will keep you posted.

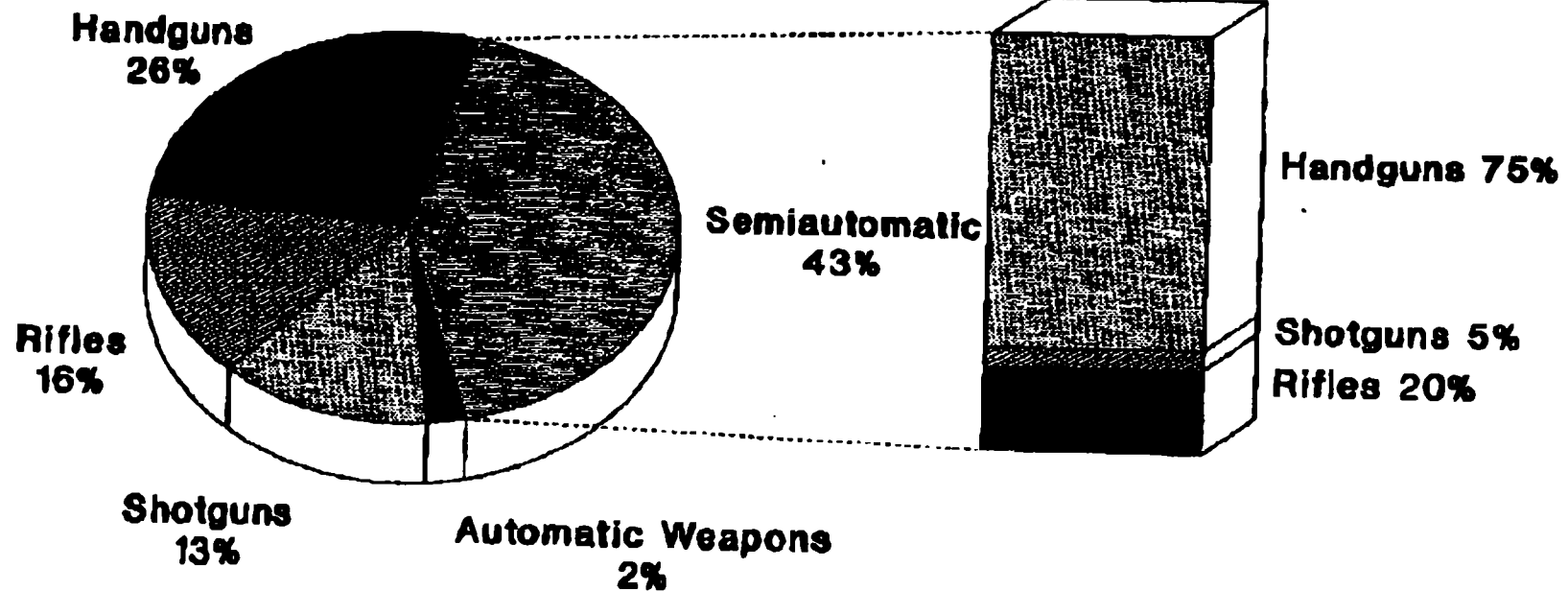
FROM:..... GEORGE A. KOSNIK, SR.
Acting Associate Director

FAX #:..... (202) 395-6744 OFFICE #:..... (202) 395-6752

Drug Enforcement Administration

FY 1993 Domestic Firearms Seizures

Semiautomatic Weapons Breakdown



DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION DOMESTIC FIREARMS SEIZURE REPORT FY 1993

	FY 1989	FY 1990	FY 1991	FY 1992	FY 1993	% Change FY 1992- FY 1993
of Cases						
Involving Firearms	1,504	1,247	1,164	1,304	1,031	-20.9%
of						
Armed Defendants	1,018	902	833	877	717	-26.6%
by Type:						
Automatic Weapons	206	169	141	149	83	-44.3%
Rifles	1,040	833	753	776	556	-28.5%
SemiAutomatic Rifles	574	404	368	298	303	2.4%
Shotguns	794	764	686	640	469	-26.9%
Automatic Shotguns	147	116	101	96	70	-27.1%
Handguns	1,610	1,589	1,169	1,235	946	-23.5%
SemiAutomatic Handguns	1,387	1,200	1,241	1,355	1,148	-15.4%
TOTAL						

"Today, in a free and open society, the presence of...assault weapons drastically tilts the rules of the game against the innocent and the law-abiding and the law enforcing. And it is wrong."

President Bill Clinton, April 24, 1994

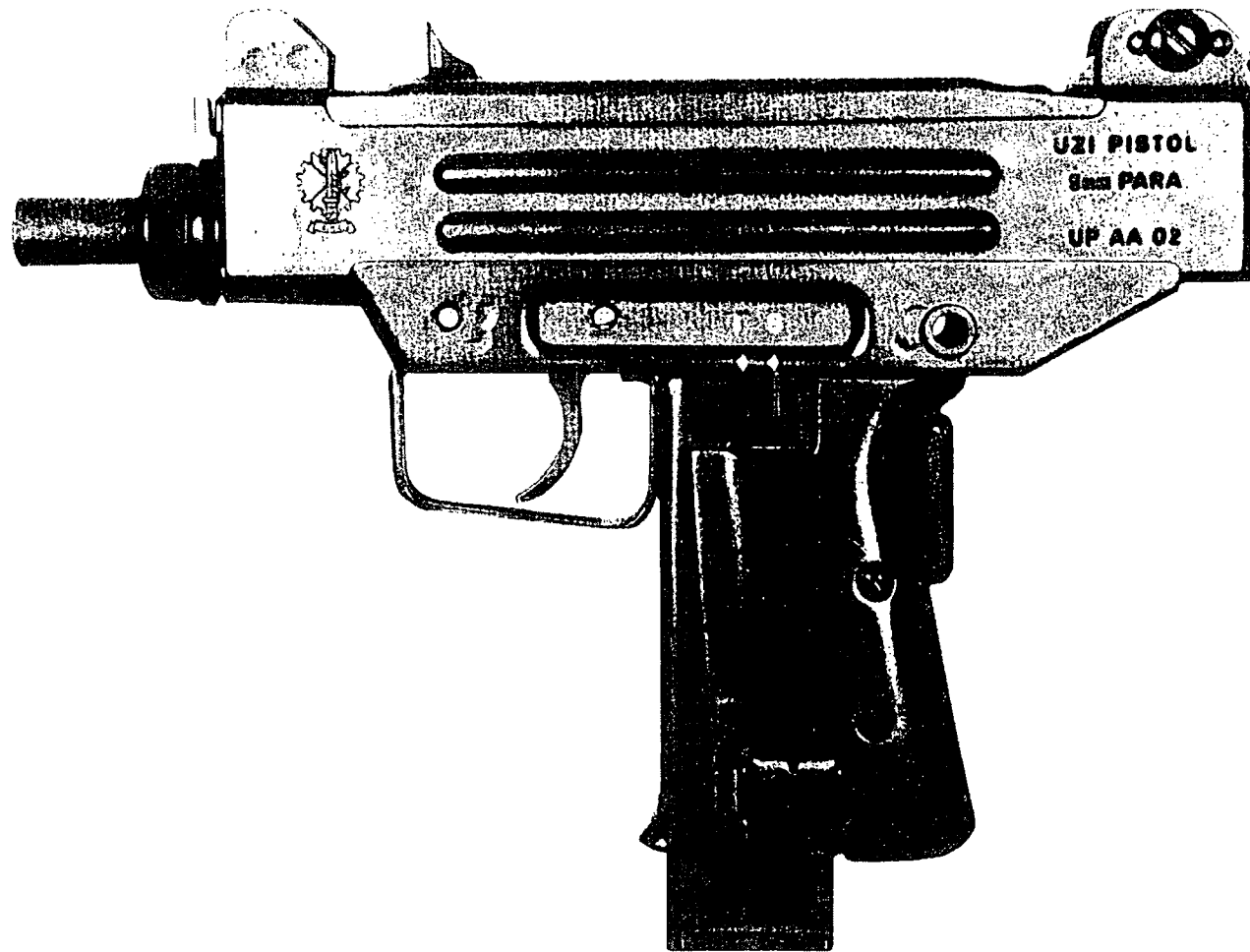
- **TIME TO ACT** – Enactment of a Crime Bill is just weeks away. The House and Senate have both passed comprehensive bills that will put more police on the street, tougher penalties on the books, and better prevention in our communities. But a vital component of the President's crime package is missing -- a ban on the 19 deadliest assault weapons. In the next two weeks, the House of Representatives will consider such a ban. Here's what they should keep in mind before they vote:
- **THE WEAPON OF CHOICE FOR CRIMINALS** – Although assault weapons make up only about 1% of the firearms in circulation, last year more than 8% of the weapons used in crimes and "traced" by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) were assault weapons. Assault weapons are preferred by criminals over law abiding citizens by 8 to 1.
- **DESIGNED TO KILL** – Assault weapons -- like the 2 TEC-DC9s and hundreds of rounds of ammunition that were used to terrorize a San Francisco law firm last year -- are a machine gun's "first cousin." With their pistol grips, folding stocks and large capacity ammunition clips, assault weapons are designed for rapid fire, close-quarter shooting of humans. Guns like the "Street Sweeper" were clearly not designed for precision or for sport. They're designed to indiscriminately spray as many rounds as possible, and that's exactly what makes them the weapon of choice for drug traffickers, gangs and terrorists.
- **OVERWHELMING LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT** – As assault weapons ban is strongly supported by nearly every major law enforcement organization in the country, including -- the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), the International Brotherhood of Police Officers (IBPO), the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the Major Cities Chiefs, the National Sheriffs Association (NSA), the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA), the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) and the Police Foundation.
- **HUNTERS AND SPORTSMEN PROTECTED** – The assault weapons ban specifically bans 19 of the deadliest assault weapons on the market -- and specifically exempts more than 650 types of legitimate hunting and sporting weapons. That means we're exempting more than 30 types of legitimate firearms for every 1 we ban, but it makes sense. Hunters and Sportsmen don't have to take our word for it that we're not banning legitimate hunting and sporting weapons -- we've written it right into the bill. Any "copycat" assault weapons would be banned only if they meet objective, specific criteria on the gun's physical features.

Any decision by the Secretary that a firearm is a copy or duplicate of any firearm enumerated in section 921(a)(30) shall be transmitted to Congress. Such decision shall be effective for a period of days following notification of Congress. If, during such day period, Congress does not enact legislation overturning the Secretary's decision, such decision shall become final on the st day following notification of the Congress.

Any decision by the Secretary that a firearm is a copy or duplicate of any firearm enumerated in section 921(a)(30) shall be transmitted to Congress. Such decision shall be effective unless, within days following the notification, Congress enacts legislation overturning the Secretary's decision.

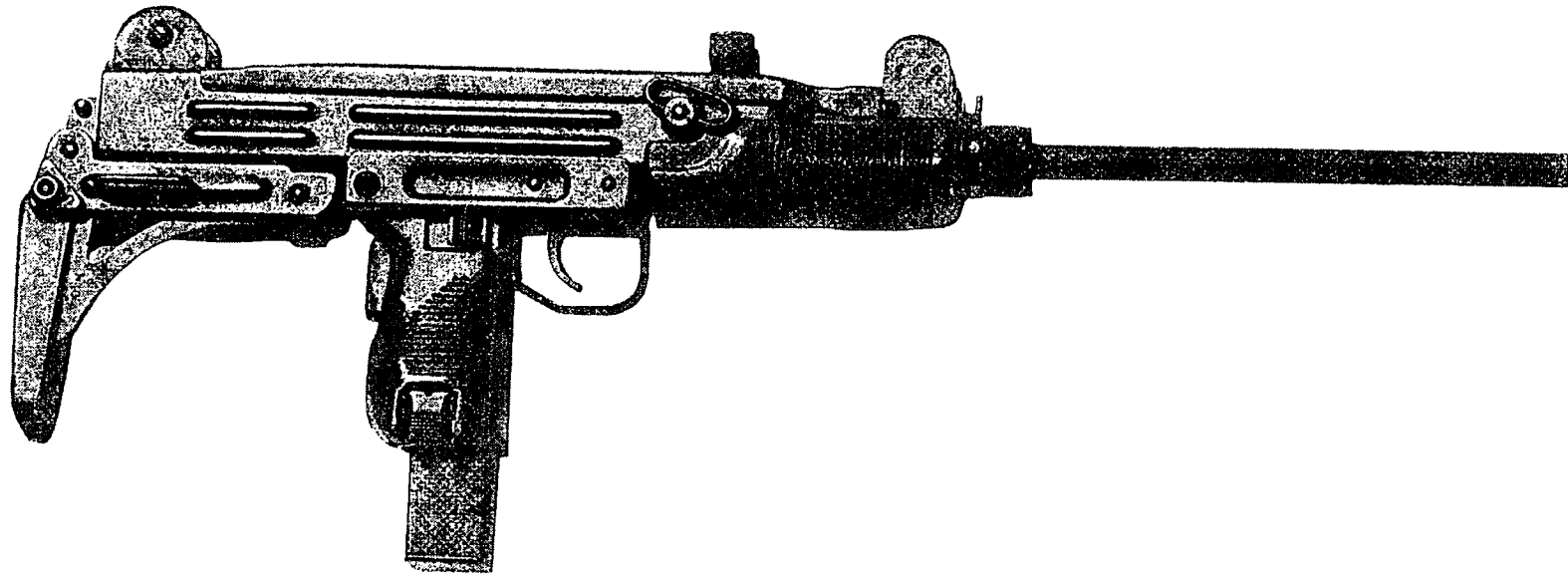
SEMI-AUTOMATIC ASSAULT WEAPONS
LISTED IN H.R. 3371

UZI PISTOL



IMPORTED

UZI CARBINE



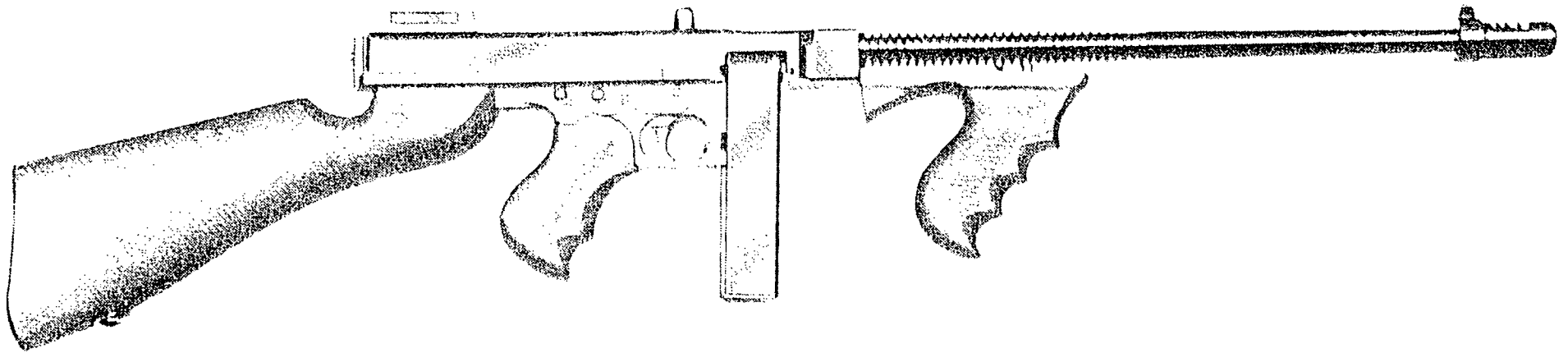
IMPORTED

GALIL



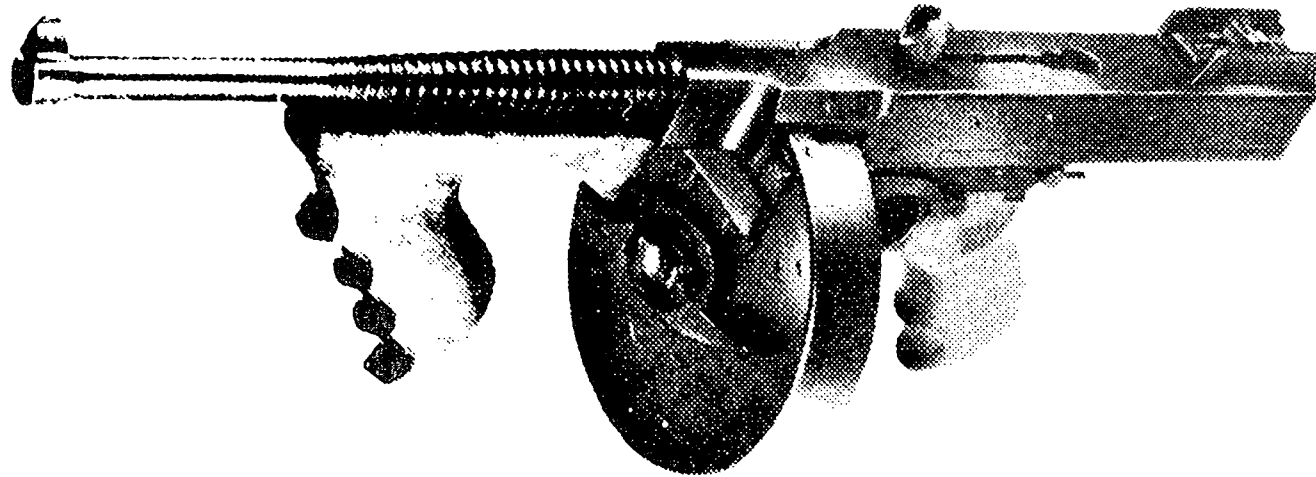
IMPORTED

AUTO ORDNANCE 27A1 THOMPSON



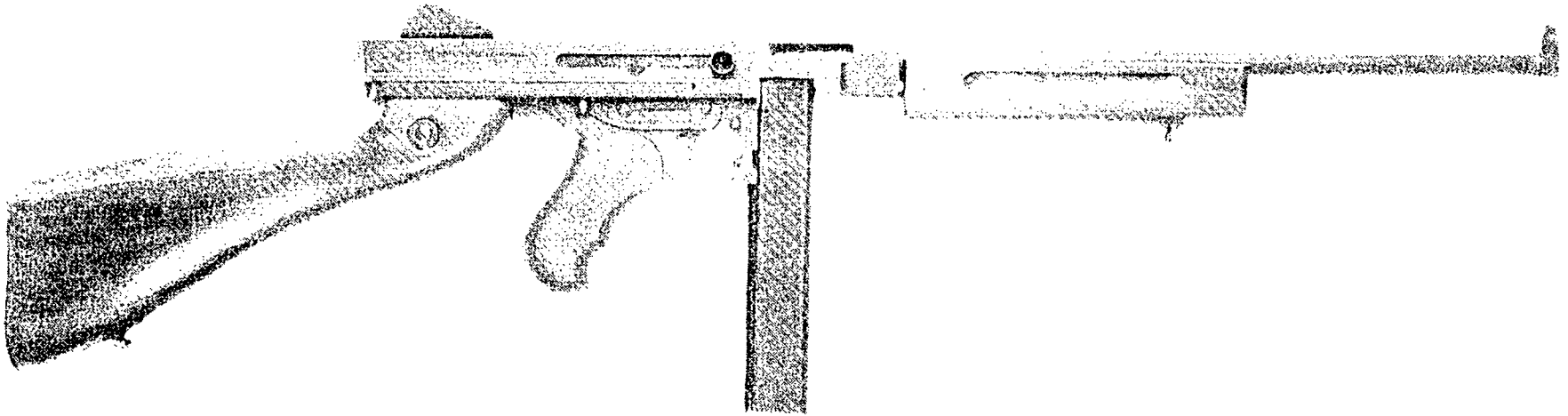
DOMESTIC

AUTO ORDNANCE 27A5 THOMPSON



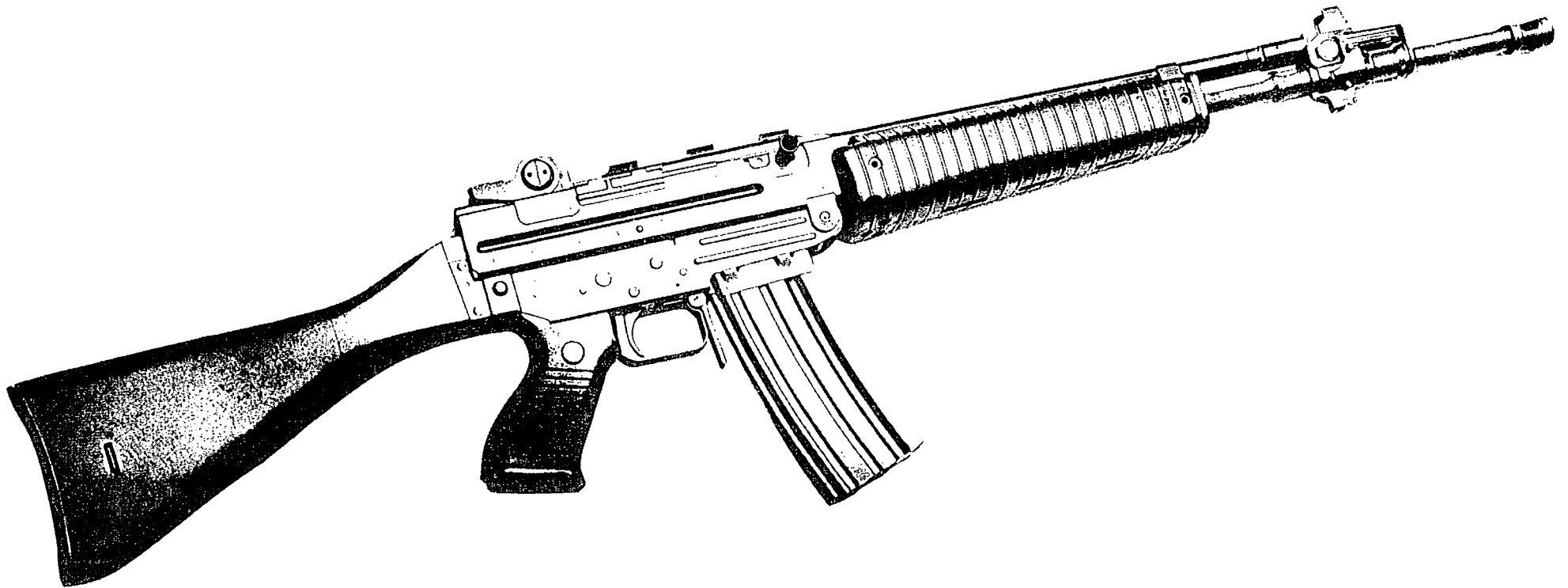
DOMESTIC

AUTO ORDNANCE M1 THOMPSON



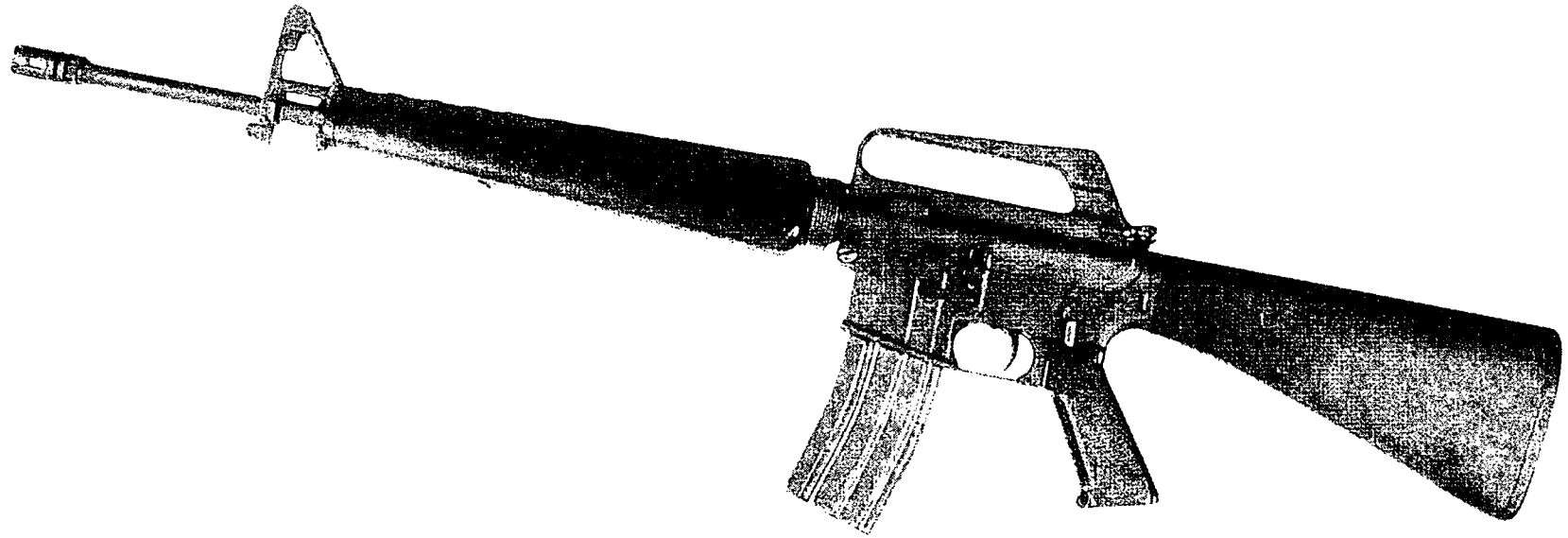
DOMESTIC

BERETTA AR-70 (SC-70)



IMPORTED

COLT AR-15



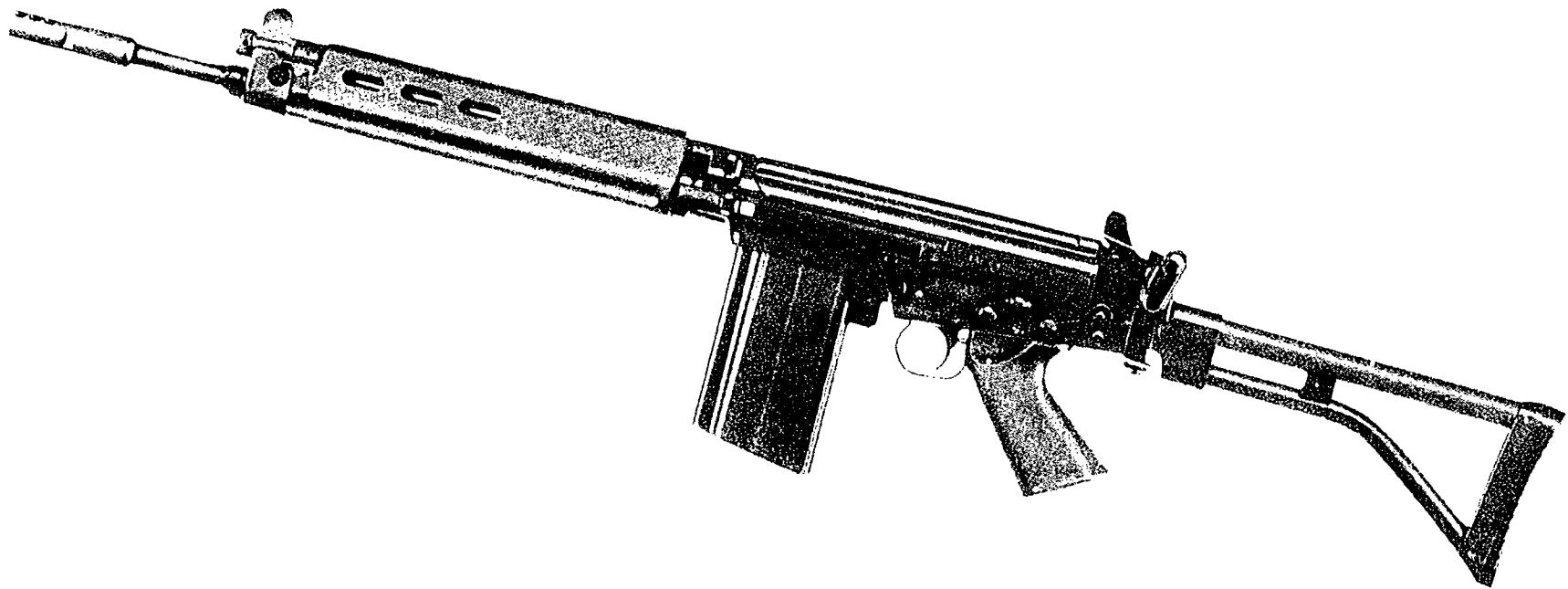
DOMESTIC

COLT CAR-15



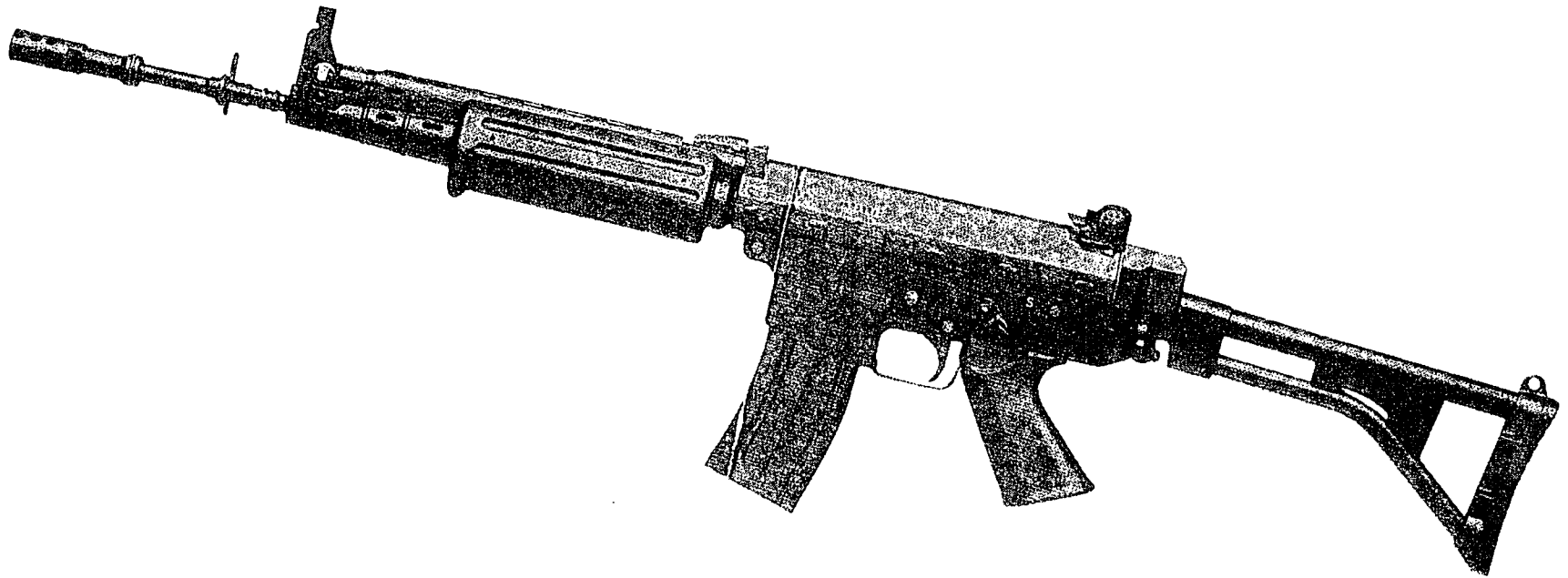
DOMESTIC

FABRIQUE NATIONALE FN-FAL/FN-LAR



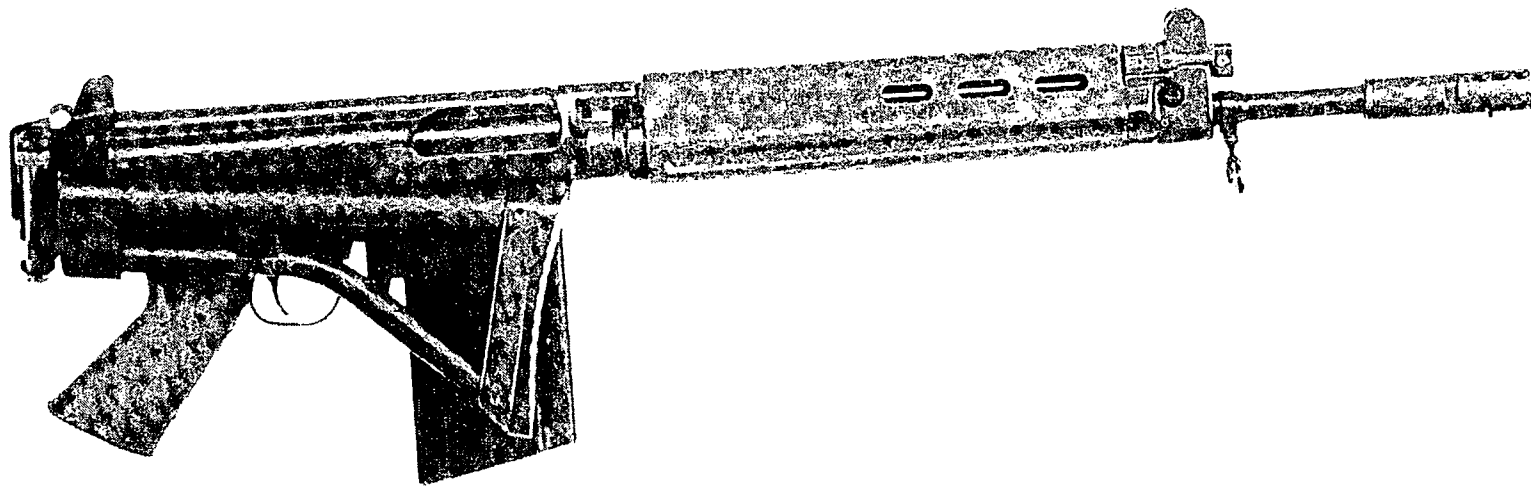
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FABRIQUE NATIONALE FN-FNC



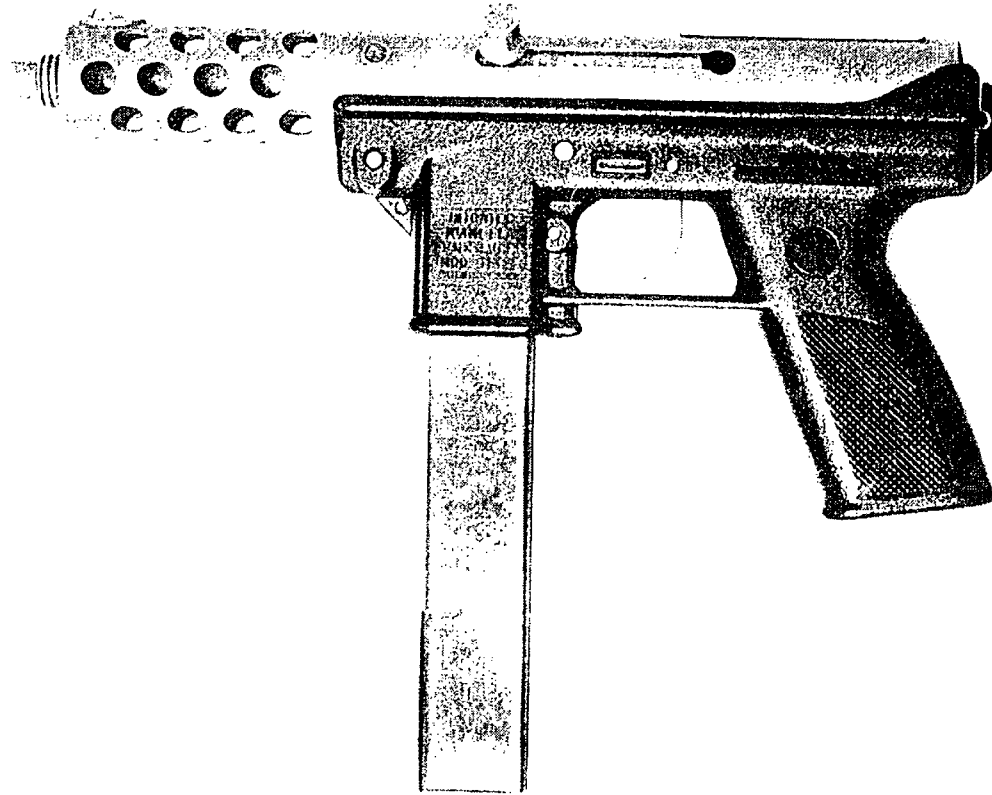
IMPORTED

ARMSCORP FAL



IMPORTED

INTRATEC TEC-9



DOMESTIC

MAC 10



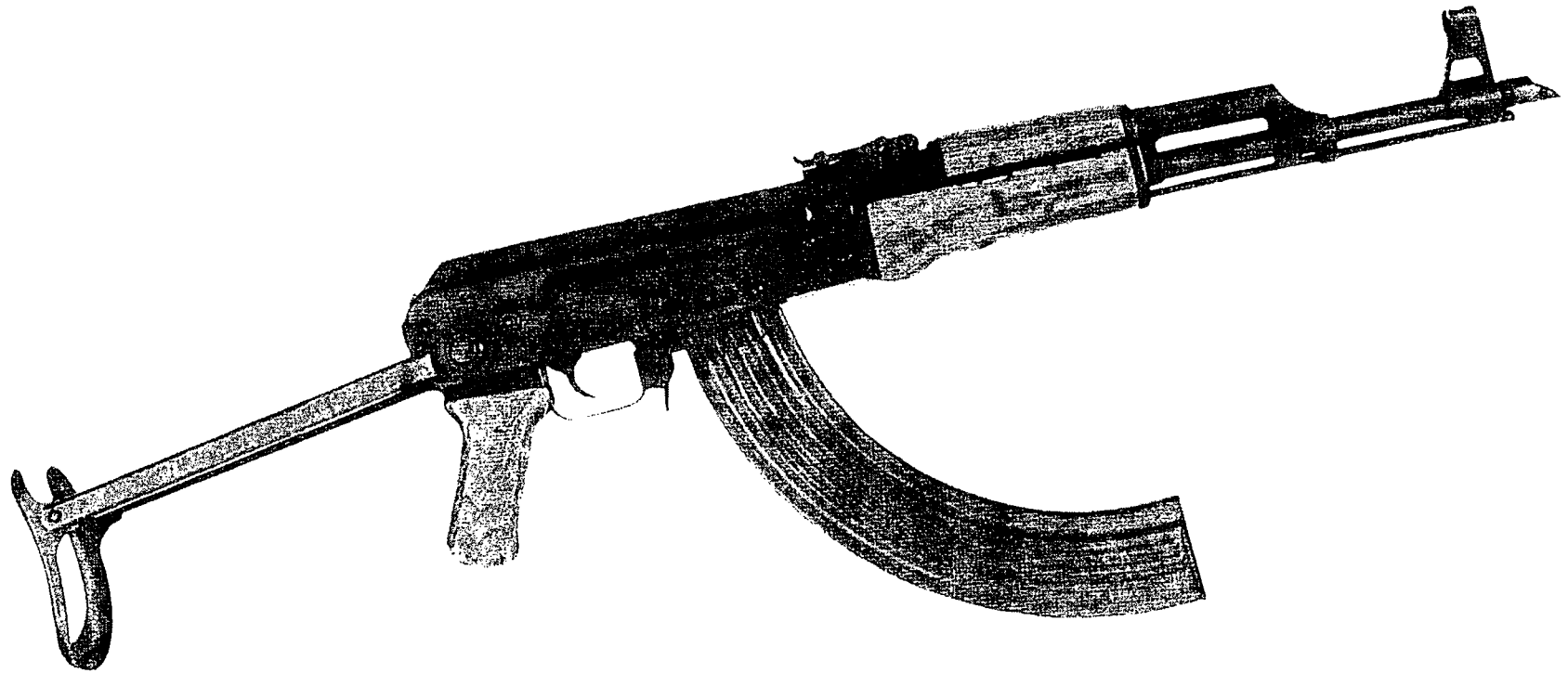
DOMESTIC

MAC II



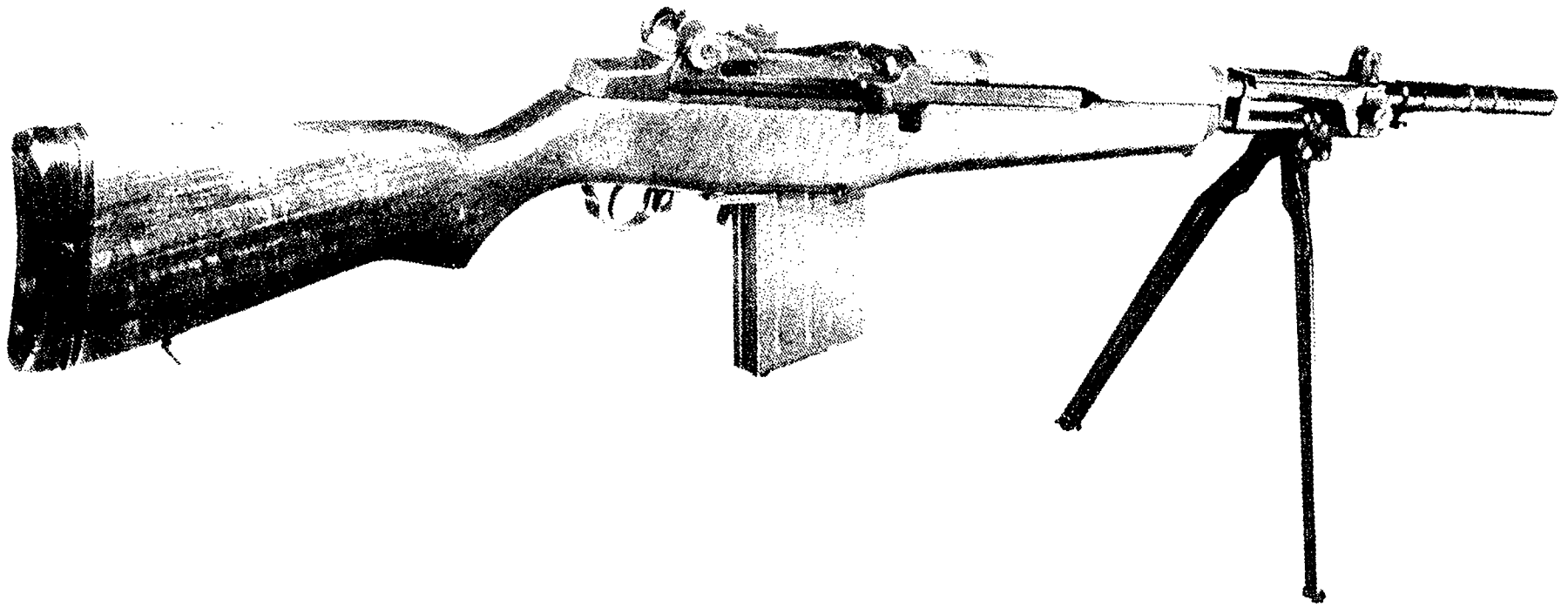
DOMESTIC

AVTOMAT KALASHNIKOVS (AK-47)



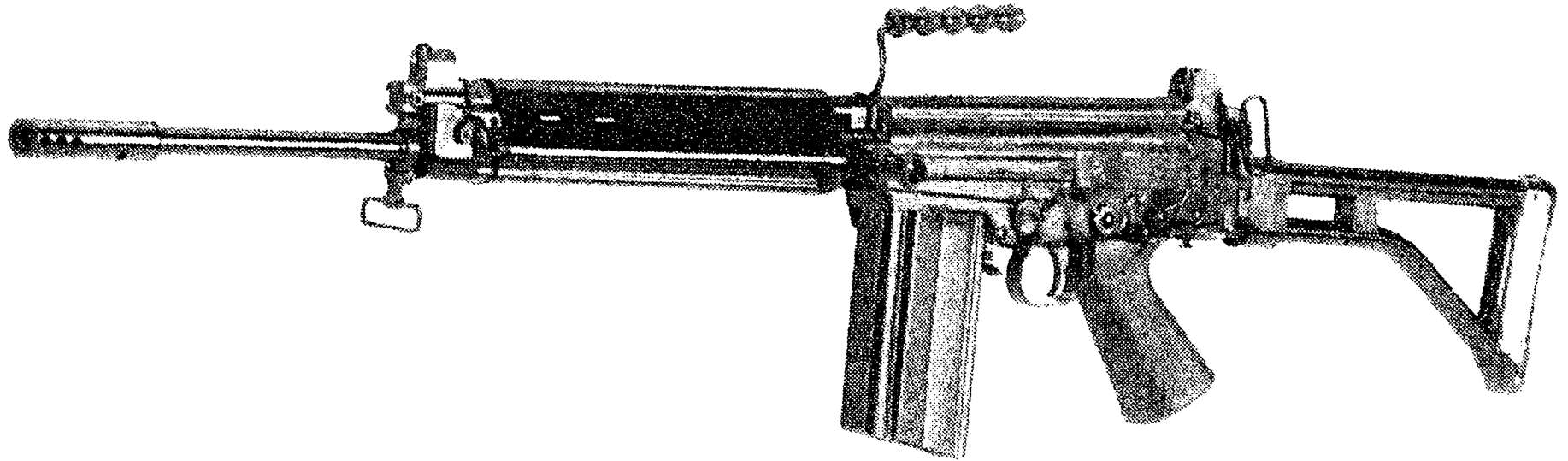
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SPRINGFIELD ARMORY BM-59



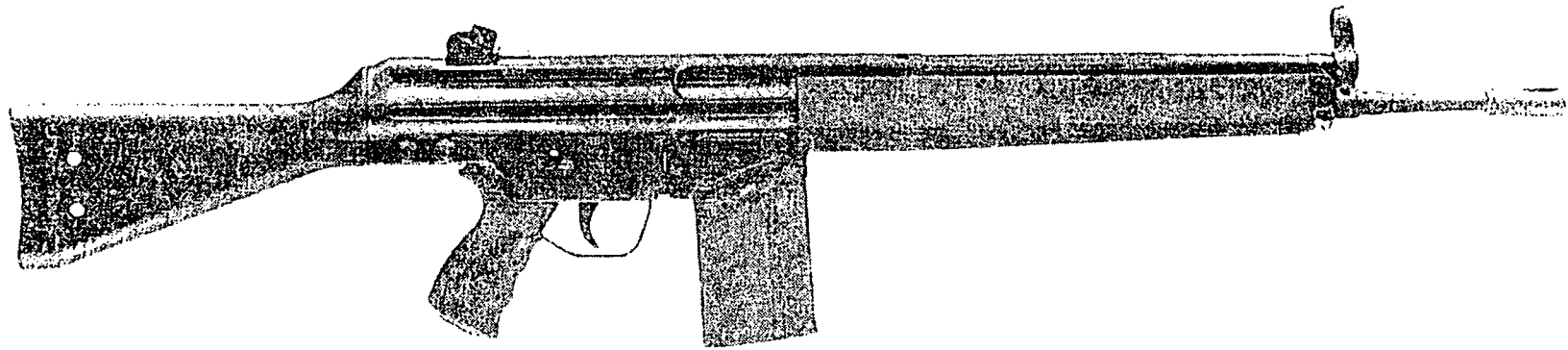
IMPORTED

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY SAR-48



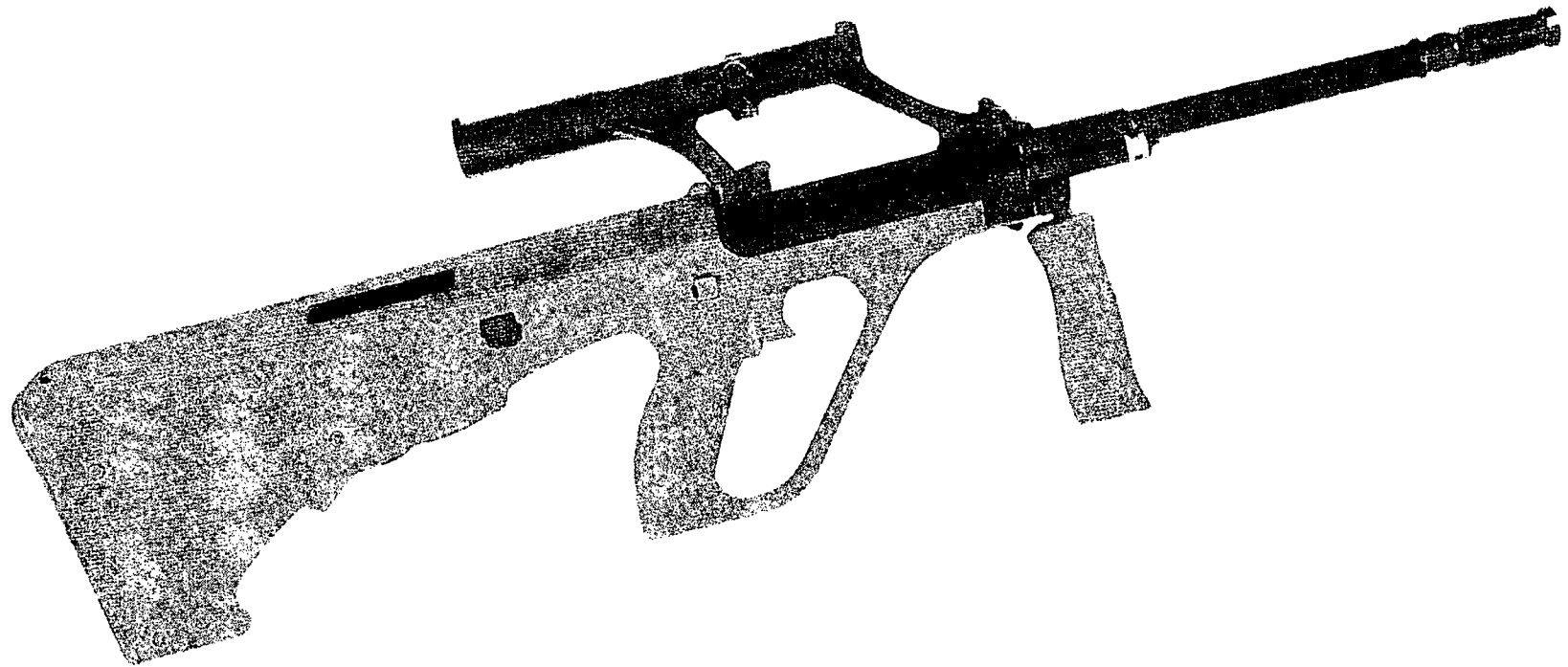
IMPORTED

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY G-3



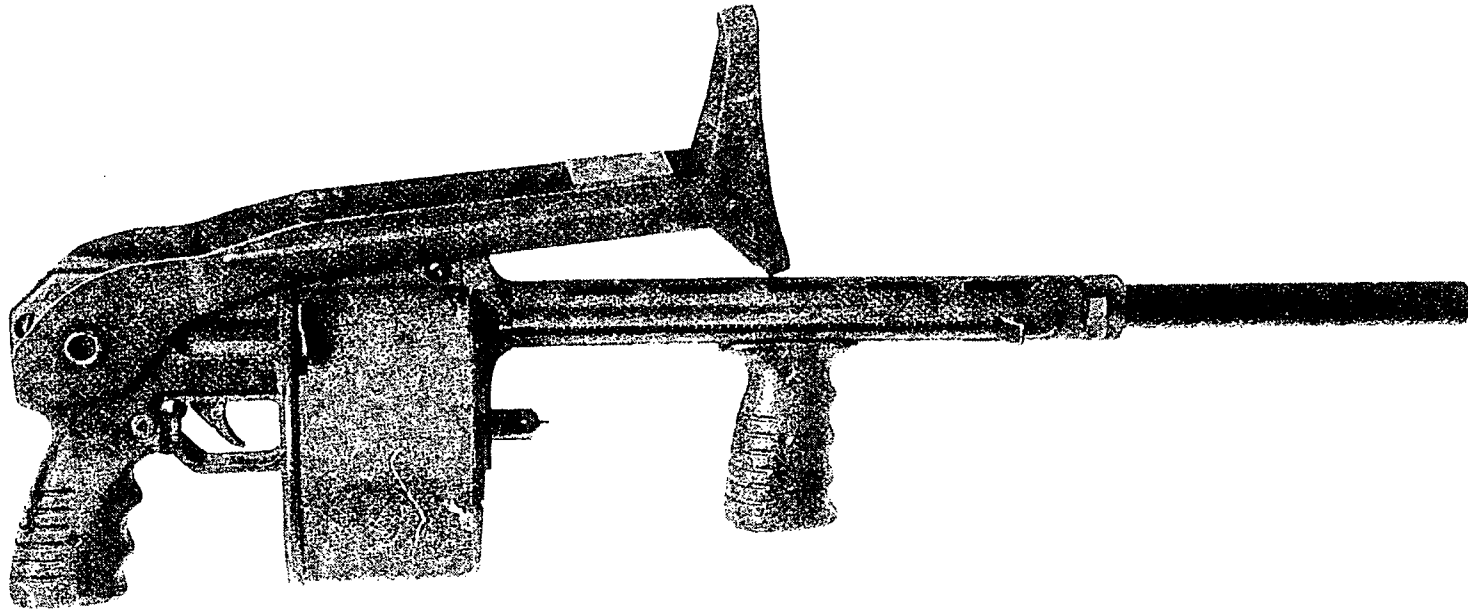
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STEYR AUG



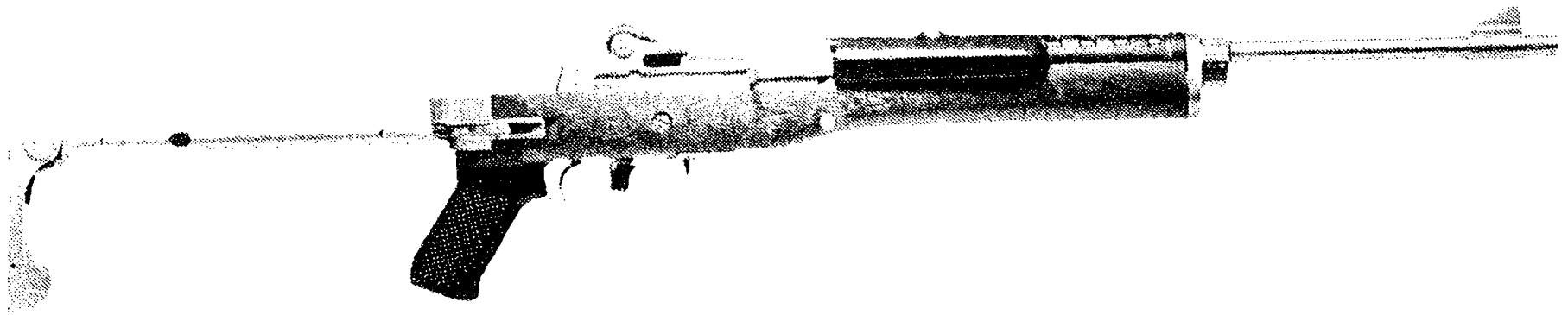
IMPORTED

STREET SWEEPER/STRIKER 12



DOMESTIC

RUGER MINI-14 with folding stock



DOMESTIC

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RESTRICTED WEAPONS ACT OF 1990

JULY 24, 1990.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. BROOKS, from the Committee on the Judiciary,
submitted the following

REPORT

together with

DISSENTING VIEWS

[To accompany H.R. 4225]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 4225) to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the possession, transfer, and certain exports of restricted weapons, the manufacture of firearms capable of accepting a silencer or bayonet without alteration, and the possession and transfer of large capacity ammunition feeding devices, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Restricted Weapons Act of 1990".

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION AGAINST POSSESSION AND TRANSFER OF RESTRICTED WEAPONS.

(a) PROHIBITION.—Section 922 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(q)(1) Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), it shall be unlawful for any person to possess or transfer a restricted weapon.

"(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to any otherwise lawful possession or transfer of a restricted weapon if the weapon was lawfully possessed before the date the weapon was most recently added to the list published pursuant to section 925A.

LEVEL 1 - 7 OF 19 STORIES

Copyright 1989 The Times Mirror Company
Los Angeles Times

March 4, 1989, Saturday, Home Edition

SECTION: Part 1; Page 1; Column 1; Metro Desk

LENGTH: 1695 words

HEADLINE: ECHOES OF 'THE INCIDENT';
STOCKTON STILL HAUNTED BY SCHOOLYARD BLOODBATH

BYLINE: By DAN MORAIN, Times Staff Writer

DATELINE: STOCKTON

BODY:

It's called "The Incident," "The Thing" or "The Event."

"I have to force myself to say 'shooting.' I rarely say 'the Cleveland school killings' because it makes my skin crawl," said Roger Speed, in charge of counseling the survivors.

Six weeks after Patrick Edward Purdy fired more than 100 rounds from an AK-47 into the Cleveland Elementary School playground, killing five children and wounding 29 others and a teacher, some people here say the incident is better not discussed.

But try as it might, Stockton cannot forget.

Just last week, Janet Taylor heard a siren and began crying. Bryan, her first-grader, talks about Jan. 17 often.

Five of his classmates were wounded. One was killed. He saw it all. Bryan started sleeping in his own room only after the family moved two weeks ago and changed schools.

Eric, Taylor's third-grader, still has a bullet fragment embedded near his hip. He doesn't talk much about that morning. But he does spend a lot of time copying the words of songs from the "Bad" tape that entertainer Michael Jackson gave him when he visited the children last month. The visit, Taylor said, "meant a lot."

"Adults seem to think that after two weeks, it should be over," Taylor said, but it's not. "The memories are there, even though the bullet holes are patched."

The checks, the letters and the offers of help from across the nation have stopped. Jackson came and went. For the people of Stockton, however, the healing has barely begun.

The county Mental Health Department has identified 280 of Cleveland's 900 students who will need therapy. Already strapped by a shrunken mental health budget, therapists are finding their task made even more difficult because of language and cultural differences with the children, most of whom are from

Los Angeles Times, March 4, 1989

Southeast Asia. Teachers, so heroic during the attack and since, are reaching their limit and need counseling themselves.

"It's harder now. People think it's six weeks after and it should be back to normal, and it's not. . . ," Cleveland teacher Lori Mackey said. "It's frustrating. You tell them exactly what they want to hear: 'Oh yeah, it's better.' "

In the aftermath of the mass murder, people in Stockton struggle to find some good that came of it all. The tragedy did force the city of 190,000 to reach out to its estimated 30,000 Southeast Asians.

The Stockton Record ran a five-part series on the Southeast Asians. Twelve days after the massacre, more than 3,000 people attended a memorial at the Civic Auditorium.

Civic organizations, business leaders and residents donated everything from cash to a trailer set up at the Cleveland campus for counseling sessions. The year's Cinco de Mayo parade will be dedicated to the school.

"In the past, I don't think they paid attention to us. They maybe didn't know us -- didn't need to know us," said Ky Hoang of the Vietnamese Voluntary Foundation.

Other people take some solace in the knowledge that their City Council, long mired in internal rivalries and challenges from the outside, voted 9 to 0 to ban assault weapons Feb. 6.

"It happened here. We had to do something," said Sidney Turoff, 67, a retired University of the Pacific business finance professor, who first suggested the ban in a letter to the council.

"These were such little kids," he said. "They were babies, really. They were in a schoolyard, which is the most protective environment we can find for our children. "

The impact of the shooting, followed by the Stockton City Council's action, extended far beyond Cleveland Elementary School. Cities throughout California have adopted or proposed bans patterned after Stockton's ordinance.

A survey after the attack by the California Teachers Assn. showed campus security to be the top concern of its 180,000 members, said Edmund Foglia, president of the association. The teachers' organization was also stirred to step up its lobbying on behalf of a gun-control measure in Sacramento.

"Cleveland could be any school in any neighborhood in this state or this country. . . . When you start killing kids, who are innocent, who have nothing to do with drugs or anything else, the line is drawn," Foglia said.

Ban Challenged

However, even in Stockton, the fight is on over the weapons ban. One group was formed to recall Mayor Barbara Fass because she led the effort to ban assault rifles. Commercial real estate broker Dale Thurston formed a second group, Citizens for a Better Stockton, and is gathering signatures to place a

Los Angeles Times, March 4, 1989

local initiative on the ballot to repeal the assault weapon ban.

"When we tamper with the Second Amendment, we tamper with the insurance policy for this country," Thurston declared.

"I did what I thought was right," Fass said, back in her office after a day in Sacramento to lobby on behalf of a statewide ban on the guns. "Doing the right thing was far more important than maintaining my office. If that's the price I have to pay, so be it."

Voices from Stockton have been powerful in hearings on legislation to ban the guns. On Feb. 10, teacher Mackey traveled to Washington and spoke on behalf of federal legislation to ban assault rifles. Purdy had stood just outside her classroom as he fired, she recalled.

"The look on the man's face was that of deep concentration," Mackey told a Senate subcommittee. "He did not look angry or pleased, just determined, determined to hurt innocent children at play. That look is one that I will remember for the rest of my life."

Even after Purdy killed himself, Mackey and her students, thinking that he was still alive, crouched in fear under their desks for 20 minutes until police arrived.

"The children wanted to know what had happened, but all I could tell them was that I didn't know and that we shouldn't look," she said.

Mackey had planned to testify in Sacramento Tuesday for similar state legislation. But she canceled her appearance after the California Teachers Assn. received a threatening letter. The letterhead included a swastika.

"No one is living without fear. We are teaching with one eye out the door," Mackey said in an interview.

Each time a child who was wounded returns to school, the day is relived. Children jump at strange noises. When someone unexpectedly walks up to a classroom, children need reassurance that it is all right.

Mackey, who teaches deaf children, said her students have selected the one who can hear slightly to act as a lookout while they are on the playground.

Mackey reported that some children cannot make it through a reading lesson without crying. Some children will not venture out to the playground during recess. Others will go out but remain by the classroom doors.

"Teachers are feeling really stressed out. You spend every ounce of energy to get through the day. I hear people saying they haven't done laundry or gone grocery shopping for weeks," Mackey said.

Problems extend to other schools too. Stockton school administrator Elena B. Wong told of two children at another elementary school who refused to eat their lunches, fearing the food was poisoned.

Valerie Preston, director of the Stockton Teachers Assn., is urging school administrators to provide additional security at all schools, including higher

Los Angeles Times, March 4, 1989

fences, security guards, intercoms linking the classrooms to the front office and walkie-talkies for yard monitors.

Cleveland teachers want the school painted. Scores of bullet holes in the stucco walls of the school were patched the night of the attack. But the patches are darker than the rest of the faded brown paint, and that is a constant reminder of Purdy. Administrators agree the school ought to be painted but the problem remains: lack of cash.

"You can't make miracles by sweeping a magic wand," Wong said.

Teachers also want additional therapists for themselves and their students. But school therapists have spent six months worth of time at Cleveland, and county therapists logged 1,560 hours in the first month after the shooting.

"There are people who are saying it's best to forget," said Speed, chief of the therapists of the San Joaquin County Mental Health Department. "That is a psychological process called denial.

'Still Happening'

"There are people who were definitely affected. They are children, they are parents, there is a teacher whose leg was almost blown off. They cannot turn it off. It is still happening to them."

The Mental Health Department stationed a therapist at Cleveland full-time, and will send another starting this week. The department is looking for clinic space for the summer. The state Department of Mental Health promises to help pay the costs.

"We are operating as if we're going to get reimbursed. We don't have any choice," Speed said.

The county is bringing outside consultants from a respected treatment center for Southeast Asians in Oakland and from Winnetka, Ill., scene of an attack that left one second-grader dead and five wounded last May.

"We will pay them whatever they're going to charge because we need to have them," Speed said.

Social workers using puppets in their therapy discovered that they needed a puppet of a Buddhist monk to help the Asian children. Some Catholic children said Hail Marys when they went to school restrooms. A Cambodian counselor taught Buddhist children a chant to repeat to ease their fears of being alone in restrooms.

One problem for the therapists is that many people who are close to the survivors believe that the less said, the better it will be, Speed and others say.

"Inside, there may be some fear," said C. Pheng Lo, executive director of the Lao Family Community Inc. "But to complain or talk about it, no. The more they talk, the more they will be frustrated. It's going to be worse."

Los Angeles Times, March 4, 1989

Mental health workers who had to explain the inexplicable to the families of five children are themselves suffering. They have had two tearful group therapy sessions and will have others.

"It sneaks up on you," Speed said. "You find yourself jumping at loud noises. I don't like to see anything about assault rifles."

He even threw away his 9-year-old's squirt gun because it looked something like an AK-47. The son did not complain.

GRAPHIC: Photo, Students pray in front of sign at school where shooting occurred. Los Angeles Times

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LEVEL 1 - 8 OF 19 STORIES

Copyright (c) 1989 The New York Times Company;
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February 11, 1989, Saturday, Late City Final Edition

SECTION: Section 1; Page 6, Column 5; National Desk

LENGTH: 378 words

HEADLINE: Ban on Assault Rifles Urged

BYLINE: AP

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, Feb. 10

BODY:

Declaring that the nation's streets are becoming a combat zone, police officials urged Congress today to ban assault rifles like the one used to kill five children last month in a California playground.

'The police of America are pleading with you,' Police Chief Daryl F. Gates of Los Angeles told a Senate Judiciary subcommittee as it opened hearings on assault rifles.

The session was held to examine a bill introduced by Senator Howard M. Metzenbaum, Democrat of Ohio, that would ban the sale of AK-47's, Uzis and other military-style, semiautomatic rifles as well as round-drum shotguns that fire 12 blasts in three seconds.

In the Jan. 17 incident, a gunman opened fire with an AK-47 on 400 children in the playground outside Cleveland Elementary School in Stockton, Calif. Five children died and 29 were injured as well as one teacher.

The hearing room became silent as Lori Mackey, a teacher at Stockton school, described how she and her pupils huddled on their classroom floor as shots were fired across the schoolyard and the shadow of the gunman, Patrick Edward Purdy, crossed back and forth across their window.

'We hoped that he would not notice that we were there and that he would maybe think that we were at recess too,' she said. Since then, she said, her students have been troubled by nightmares and fear of strangers and she has become distrustful and winces at unexpected sounds.

Gun groups are fighting the bill on the ground that it would outlaw not only assault rifles but wooden-stocked hunting rifles as well. In fact, there is no functional difference between the two, Edward Conroy, acting deputy associate director for law enforcement of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, testified.

But Chief Gates brushed aside the suggestion that legislation banning assault weapons would also prevent hunters from keeping their semiautomatic rifles. 'It seems to me that we're smart enough to do it,' the chief said, adding that law officers could tell the difference. 'I can tell you because I've had two police officers killed with assault weapons.'

(c) 1989 The New York Times, February 11, 1989

'We know of only one instance in which this was used for hunting,' Mr. Metzenbaum said of the AK-47. 'When a psychopath in California went hunting schoolchildren.'

SUBJECT: FIREARMS; LAW AND LEGISLATION; GUN CONTROL; CHILDREN AND YOUTH;
SHOOTINGS; EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS

GEOGRAPHIC: UNITED STATES; STOCKTON (CALIF)

LEVEL 1 - 3 OF 19 STORIES

Copyright 1990 The Chronicle Publishing Co.
The San Francisco Chronicle

JANUARY 12, 1990, FRIDAY, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; A2

LENGTH: 992 words

HEADLINE: Stockton School 'Not the Same' Since Massacre

BYLINE: Fran Bott, Michael McCabe, Chronicle Corresponden

DATELINE: Stockton

BODY:

For a long time after the massacre at his school, 9-year-old Eric Maldonado was afraid to go outside his classroom and play in the school yard.

'He would never finish his schoolwork in class, because if he did it would be time to go outside and play,' said his mother, Ida Maldonado. 'That was the hardest part for us - a little boy's fear of being alone and his fear of strangers.'

Eric is less afraid now, although still skittish of strangers. It is a lingering anxiety shared by many of his fellow students and parents and teachers who survived the horror nearly a year ago when Patrick Purdy methodically machine-gunned the playground of Cleveland Elementary School.

The 26-year-old drifter fired more than 100 rounds from his AK-47 semi-automatic rifle during a school lunch break on Jan. 17, 1989. He left five children dead. Twenty-nine other children and a teacher were wounded.

Then he fatally shot himself in the head.

SOUTHEAST ASIAN COMMUNITY

Most of the 29 students injured in the shooting and all five of those killed were Southeast Asian. Rumors spread quickly that Purdy was part of an organized hate group against Southeast Asians, said An Tran, program assistant for San Joaquin County's Refugee Assistance Program.

But a group representing several Southeast Asian organizations in Stockton did their own investigation and determined that Purdy acted alone, he said.

Some, including Tran, hope the shooting will lead to more awareness and acceptance of the Southeast Asian community in Stockton. Others fear just the opposite is happening, that the shooting heightened tensions.

Stockton Mayor Barbara Fass said, 'At the beginning, there was enormous education of the community.' But as time passed, she said, the spotlight on the Southeast Asian children 'made parents of Anglo children (who were wounded) feel slighted.'

The San Francisco Chronicle, JANUARY 12, 1990

In the year that has passed, the comforting idea that a certain healing is taking place in the community is dismissed by many teachers and counselors.

'LIFE WILL NEVER BE THE SAME'

"We are different people now, closer in many ways," said Patti Doll, a first-grade teacher at Cleveland. "That's why nobody I know of has moved away from the community — where else would we go to find people who understand what we've been through?"

But, Doll said, "Life is never going to be the same for any of us again."

A year after the tragedy, about 110 of the school's 970 students are still getting counseling, down from 220 students who were being treated last spring.

Many teachers meet alone or in groups with therapists.

They and their students still suffer from nightmares, loss of appetite, fright and sometimes even physical ailments which they suspect are related to the shooting.

TEACHERS ON STRIKE

A two-week teachers' strike over pay issues that threatens to continue through the anniversary of the shooting next week has made the atmosphere all the more stressful, said several teachers who were walking the picket line outside Cleveland this week.

"You try to forget the shooting, but you don't," said Melanie Foss, a fifth-grade teacher carrying a placard on the picket line. "In a way I think the shooting has given some of us an inner strength to stay on the picket line. If we can survive the Cleveland tragedy, we can survive a strike."

Foss said classroom behavior of many students during the past year was markedly different. There are more behavior problems, more fights. Children seem to play harder. Some students still are fearful of leaving the classroom, or if they do, they hang out close to the schoolroom door.

NIGHTMARES, ULCERS

"Kids will start crying for no apparent reason," Foss said. "Some will climb under their desks in a fetal position. Some hang onto their teacher's leg and won't let go. And this is very stressful on the teachers, who themselves have had more problems with headaches, ulcers, intestinal problems, recurring nightmares. I have had all of the above myself."

And the children's problems don't end when they get home, said psychologist Marci Massei, executive director of the San Joaquin County Head Start program. She and her staff are interviewing 129 families of Cleveland students for a study coordinated by the Center for Asian Studies at the University of California at Los Angeles.

"Some kids have coped very well, even better than some adults," Massei said. "But I wonder if there's not going to be long-term effects for the kids."

The San Francisco Chronicle, JANUARY 12, 1990

Others will never be the same, no matter how much counseling they receive.

Scottie Barton, whom Purdy shot in the leg, has to wear a brace. Tokla Soy requires crutches.

Janet Geng, the teacher who was wounded, now has one leg 1 inches shorter than the other, and it hurts her to stand up for long periods.

'I used to go around the classroom and talk to the children. Now they have to come to me. Teaching is not what it was,' she says. 'I feel barriers.'

Geng was in Washington, D.C., this week urging legislators to pass more stringent gun controls, according to one of her fellow teachers, Betty Stover.

In May, state legislators in Sacramento passed the nation's first and only statewide ban on the sale of assault weapons similar to the one Purdy used. But California lawmakers in the waning days of the legislative session rejected every other major gun bill still on the floor.

One state bill still alive would impose a 15-day waiting period on all firearms transactions in California. The bill was defeated in the Senate last year, but supporters plan to take it up again on Thursday, the day after the anniversary of the shooting. The vote is too close to predict, but backers of the measure are not optimistic.

Mayor Fass said there will not be any public events to mark the anniversary on Wednesday. Nor is any public commemoration planned by Stockton's Southeast Asian community, said An Tran.

'We want them to go on with their lives,' he said.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO, Striking teachers stood outside Cleveland School in Stockton as children waited for their bus Last January, a gunman killed five students and wounded 29 others and a teacher, BY STEVE RINGMAN, THE CHRONICLE

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LEVEL 1 - 16 OF 19 STORIES

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HEADLINE: School gropes for reason for slaughter

BYLINE: By Bruce Buursma, Chicago Tribune. Tribune reporters Peter Gerner and Eileen Ogintz in Chicago contributed to this report

DATELINE: STOCKTON, Calif.

BODY:

Cleveland Elementary School was open Wednesday, and about a quarter of the children came back.

A U.S. flag flew at half-staff in front of the cheerless brick buildings, and floral bouquets and five red roses had been placed on a granite sign that bears the school's name.

By midday pupils were romping on the blacktop playground where, 24 hours earlier, a disturbed drifter who once attended the school had shot five children to death before killing himself.

The blood had been washed away overnight, and dozens of bullet holes had been patched at a crime scene that is becoming horrifyingly familiar across the country.

The incidence of slayings and other violent assaults against school children - the case here is the sixth and most serious episode in the past year - has prompted one noted expert on psychiatry to call for a national conference to examine the phenomenon.

"This epidemic is so critical it deserves a deep and serious look," asserted Dr. Alvin Poussaint, an associate professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and an official of Boston's Judge Baker Children's Center.

Poussaint suggested that the "copy-cat factor is always there" in such cases, particularly since the shootings of children are given extensive news media attention.

"People who don't have any self-esteem may want to go out with a splash," Poussaint said. "But to pick on children to murder, something more bizarre and disturbing is going on. There has to be a deep, deep rage, and perhaps for the perpetrators, especially if they commit suicide, it's a symbolic way of saying they wished they hadn't been born.

"Perhaps they resent the protection we give to children in our society. Adults who have failed may be very jealous of the innocence of children."

The assailant in the Stockton killings, 27-year-old Patrick Edward Purdy, has been portrayed by relatives as a one-time adolescent alcoholic and drug abuser who developed a fascination with military gear.

That infatuation, Stockton police officials said Wednesday, bordered on the childlike and fanatical. Strewn about the motel room where Purdy lived for the last month of his life, police found about 100 green plastic toy soldiers and tanks.

Experts on violence conceded Wednesday that they still do not understand the key factors behind the recent rampages at schools, nor do they know enough to assess whether the problem will grow worse.

"Schools are especially vulnerable, but you can count on your fingers and toes the number of times this has happened," said Michael Spodak, a University of Maryland forensic psychiatrist. "There is something about killing children that pulls at the most civilized part of our core."

Dr. Stuart Yudofsky, chairman of psychiatry at the University of Chicago Medical School, voiced concern that the Stockton slaughter is probably not simply a "copy-cat" case.

"It's much deeper and complex," he said. "There are all kinds of reasons and explanations and settings that lead to random violence, and this is random violence. The more we understand about the person, the more we can understand why he chose those victims."

The killing of the five Cleveland Elementary pupils, all of them children of Southeast Asian refugees, has stunned this city of 190,000 in California's fertile Central Valley. Twenty-eight other pupils and a 2d grade teacher were wounded.

Late Wednesday, 16 of the youngsters and the teacher remained hospitalized. One youngster was listed in serious condition; the others were listed as stable.

"There is a great, deep sense of sadness," said John Klose, a public information officer for the Stockton Unified School District. "This sort of thing tends to draw a community together."

Dr. Fred Busher, who oversees psychological services in the district, said: "The kids are going to want to know why this happened and why school is no longer safe for them. They are going to want to know why some of their friends got hurt or died. It's going to take a long time to heal."

Busher's wife, Pat, is the principal of Cleveland Elementary.

The school district, with 32,000 students, is an ethnic rainbow - one-third Hispanic, 27 percent Asian, 23 percent white, and 15 percent black. But the 980-student Cleveland campus, located in a neighborhood of modest frame homes, has nearly a 70 percent Hispanic enrollment.

School officials said about a quarter of the students came to class on Wednesday morning. Police and security officers were posted around the grounds and a battery of psychologists and grief counselors were dispatched to handle any questions from the children or parents.

Damien Roland, an 11-year-old 6th grader, allowed that he was nervous.

"I feel kind of scared," he said as he arrived with his parents. "I'm afraid it's going to happen again."

There remained a number of questions surrounding the attacker, despite additional information compiled by authorities, including the discovery that Purdy lived in the neighborhood and was enrolled at the school from kindergarten through 3d grade.

School authorities were hoping to discuss Purdy with teachers who may have come into contact with him, although Police Capt. Dennis Perry held out little hope for finding a motive there.

"All we know is he was advanced from grade to grade, he got all his shots and he appeared to be in normal health," Perry said at a news briefing.

"Hezbollah," the name of a radical Lebanese organization, appeared on both of the weapons Purdy used in the assault, a Chinese-made AK-47 semi-automatic rifle and a 9 mm. automatic pistol. "PLO," "Libya" and "Death to the Great Satan (sic)" were handwritten on his camouflage-style military shirt.

"Some problems came up in this guy," Perry said of the gunman. "He obviously had a military hangup of some kind. But why he did this, we may never know."

GRAPHIC: PHOTO: A man brings two boys back Wednesday morning to the Stockton, Calif., school where a gunman killed five pupils and wounded dozens on Tuesday. Flowers stand atop the school sign. AP Laserphoto.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH