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Bombings in Kuwait; 12 December 1983
Information as of 1400, 13 December 1983

Casualties and Damage

- o All Americans alive; minor injuries to some.
- o Four killed at US Embassy; three were Foreign Service Nationals or contract employees; fourth (unidentified) presumably was truck driver.
- o At least one killed in five other bombings around Kuwait City.
- o "Before and after" photos (attached) illustrate damage at US Embassy; approximately one-half of administrative annex has collapsed since "after" photo taken, due to structural damage caused by blast.

Responsibility

- o "Islamic Jihad" claims responsibility for Kuwaiti bombings. Little is known about group; may be cover name for Iranian agents or Lebanese Shias connected with Iran.
 - Same group claimed responsibility for previous attacks on US, French, and Israeli targets in Lebanon, including US Embassy (April) and US and French MNF headquarters (October).
- o State Department believes suicide truck driver at US Embassy acted alone; unidentified injured male earlier thought to be an accomplice now believed to be innocent workman.
 - Kuwaiti officials reportedly have arrested seven suspects, all Shias.
- o Syrians, Iranians, and extremist Palestinians have been linked to previous threats against US Embassy in Kuwait and each would have reasons to attack US, French, and Kuwaiti interests.
- o [redacted] Syrians and Iranians often work together in planning or conducting terrorist actions in region.

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New Threats

- o [redacted] Syrians and Iranians may target US interests in Europe, specifically Athens, Paris, or London.
- o Sophistication of the closely timed bombings in Kuwait and apparent ease with which they were carried out underscore vulnerability of other moderate Arab governments in the Gulf and Western facilities there.

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Related Developments

- o All Arab Gulf states have condemned Kuwait bombings and offered increased security to US Embassy facilities.
- o US Embassies in Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates, and ARAMCO have received bomb threats in past 24 hours; no bombs found.

NESAS M 83-10347

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