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*Weekly Situation Report
on
International Terrorism*

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12 October 1976

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WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

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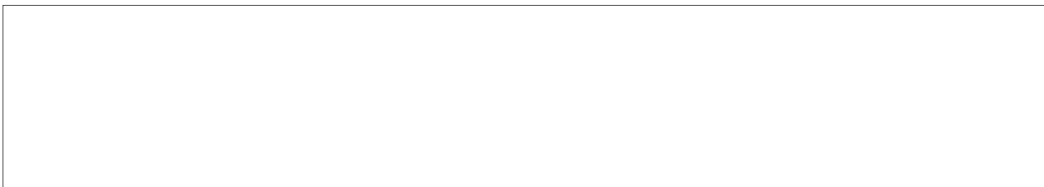
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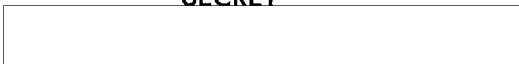


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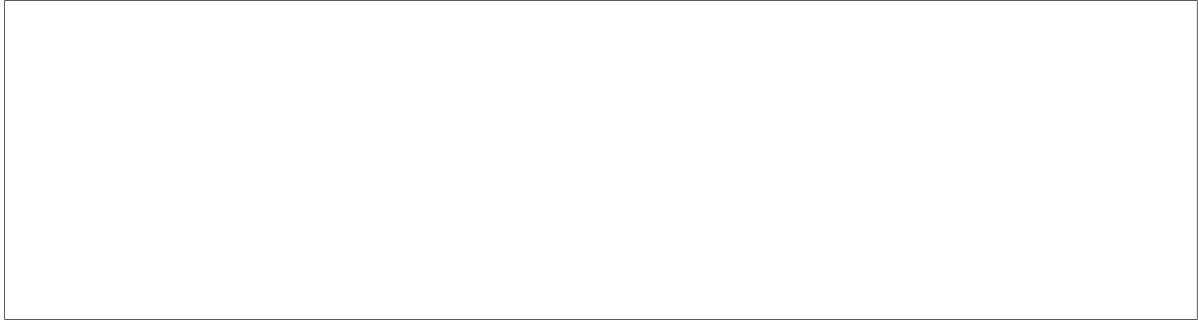
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FAB A - Chronology of Significant International Terrorist Acts



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V. Far East

VI. Worldwide



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12 October 1976

ARTICLES

Sabotage Suspected in Downing of Cubana Passenger Plane

According to press reports, a DC-8 passenger plane leased from Air Canada by Cubana Airlines crashed into the Caribbean sea, killing all 78 passengers and crew, after takeoff from Bridgetown, Barbados on 6 October. Press items indicated that shortly after takeoff the Cuban pilot radioed that he had heard an explosion in the aft section of the plane and was returning to the airport for an emergency landing. A few seconds later the plane careened into the sea. An official of Cubana airlines said that the jet was in perfect condition when it was checked in Montreal, Canada, on 3 October, and therefore, based on the plane's condition and the pilot's report, it was "quite possible" that the plane was sabotaged.

According to information from the U.S. embassy in Bridgetown, local aviation authorities have not confirmed the Cubana spokesman's statements that there had been an on-board explosion before the crash. The flight log, which was recovered at the site of the crash, indicated a power failure on one of the four engines but did not note any explosion. The log was given to Barbadian authorities for the investigation.

Meanwhile, on 8 October a woman phoned the Miami Herald and stated that CORU was responsible for the bombing and was taking full credit. On 10 October the Trinidad Morning Express received a call from Miami claiming that an anti-Castro group named El Condor was responsible for the plane's destruction. On the same day the Miami Herald received a call from a person who said he represented El Condor. He directed a member of the Herald's staff to the newspaper racks in front of the Miami Herald building where two communiques from El Condor were found. One described in detail how the plane had been destroyed and the other attacked CORU for claiming credit for the bombing.

Press accounts indicate that the Trinidadian authorities are questioning two Venezuelans, identified as Freddie Lugo and Jose Garcia, in connection with the case; however, no formal charges have yet been filed against them. [REDACTED]

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Curtis Kidnappers Contact Victim's Company with Ransom Demand

On 6 October James Raisbeck, attorney for the company of kidnapped American businessman Gustavo Curtis, received an envelope containing two letters, one from Curtis to his wife, the other from the kidnappers to Curtis' company, Industrias Gran Colombia, demanding a ransom of five million dollars. According to the U.S. embassy in Colombia, the ransom letter stated that the money should be in used bills of low denomination and not in a numerical series. The letter also indicated that to establish contact with the kidnappers, the company should place a certain commercial advertisement through a local radio station, to be transmitted on Mondays and Tuesdays. The letter closed with the statement that Curtis' welfare depends on the seriousness of the company in the negotiations and its willingness to refrain from informing the Colombian authorities of the negotiations. (See the 5 October issue for background on the Curtis kidnapping.)

Mrs. Curtis reported to embassy officials that she had received a telephone call late on the evening of 5 October from a man claiming to be one of the kidnappers. The man told Mrs. Curtis that her husband had a fever, but was otherwise in good condition. On 8 October Colombian authorities advised embassy officials that they had detained a man who had called Mrs. Curtis with ransom demands. The authorities said this man, a former police official, had telephoned Mrs. Curtis solely to extort money from her; he in fact did not have any connection with the kidnapping. As of 12 October, the investigation was continuing.

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Palestinian Terrorists' Trial Opens in Istanbul

The two Palestinian terrorists who attacked El Al passengers at Istanbul international airport last August went on trial 5 October. They were charged with illegally importing arms and explosives into Turkey, and the court rejected the defense lawyer's plea that the other charges against the defendants be combined in the same trial. A heavy security contingent of gendarmes and military police was on hand as the trial opened. Both local and foreign journalists were present, and Turkish newspapers reported extensively on the trial's opening session.

The U.S. embassy considered that the press coverage was straightforward, but noted that the news stories repeated some of the terrorists' propaganda. The terrorists made several points supporting the Palestinian cause, such as: that Palestinians are involved in a struggle for national survival and that weapons are as much a part of the people as their arms and eyes; that they considered Turkey a country friendly to the Palestinian cause; that they intended no hijacking, but solely the killing of Israeli passengers; that they did not know why Istanbul was selected for their attack but as good soldiers obeyed their orders; that Palestinian suffering at Israeli hands included the deaths of 250 school children.

A Turkish foreign ministry official told an embassy officer that the illegal importation of arms was the easiest charge to prepare. The official noted that although the matter was now in judicial rather than foreign ministry hands, it was his understanding that charges of murder and illegal use of firearms were still being prepared, and that under Turkish law trials on these charges could be conducted separately. (According to press accounts in late August, the two terrorists were charged with murder by a public prosecutor under section 450 of the Turkish criminal code. See issue of 31 August.)

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NOTES

Grenade Launchers Aimed at Buenos Aires Hotel

On the morning of 4 October, Argentine police discovered six hidden grenade launchers across the street from the Sheraton Hotel in Buenos Aires. They were in a park, on top of a utility company tool box and covered with burlap. The police called a bomb squad which deactivated the grenades only a few minutes before they were timed to be launched at the hotel. They were to be launched simultaneously by a clock and battery device which would ignite a potassium chlorate fuse which would then ignite a black powder charge beneath each grenade. The charge also was to ignite a slower-burning fuse connected to each grenade which would cause the grenade to explode. The grenades were angled to travel about 70 meters and were capable of penetrating a window but not a concrete wall.

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American Student Deported from Argentina

Patricia Ann Erb, the 19-year-old daughter of a U.S. Mennonite missionary who was abducted and jailed in Buenos Aires, was deported to the United States on 6 October. (See the issues of 5 October, page 9, and 21 September, page A-1.) She was taken from prison to the international airport under police escort and placed aboard a commercial flight to Miami. 50X1-HUM

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Recovery of Jordanian Pilot's Documents

On 6 May 1976 the uniform, pilot's license and briefcase of an Alia (Jordanian) Airlines captain were stolen in Paris. (See the 11 May issue.) An alert was issued concerning their possible use in a terrorist operation. The U.S. Air Force recently reported that these items were stolen by a man whom the Alia pilot (a U.S. citizen) met in the hotel bar. This man, possibly a German national, claimed to be an Air Canada copilot. He accompanied the Alia pilot, who was inebriated, to his hotel room on the pretext of aiding him, and the theft apparently occurred at that time.

Investigators tracked the self-styled Air Canada copilot to Ontario, Canada, where he was arrested and the Alia pilot's documents recovered. He had no previous criminal record in Canada, France or Germany, and the motive for the theft remains unclear. The Air Force report does not indicate whether the uniform also was recovered. [REDACTED]

Hijacker Returned to the U.S.

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Swedish authorities returned Allen Creighton Sheffield to the United States, where he will face prosecution for the January 1969 hijacking to Cuba of a National Airlines jet with approximately 60 passengers aboard. Sheffield was charged with air piracy in connection with the hijacking over Houston of a California-to-Florida flight. He had remained in Cuba until April 1975, when he left for Yugo-

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slavia. The Yugoslavian government held him for traveling on an invalid (expired) passport and on 5 October 1976 decided to expel him. Sheffield requested to go to Sweden. On his arrival in Stockholm, Swedish authorities placed him in custody and ordered him returned to the U.S.

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CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST ACTS

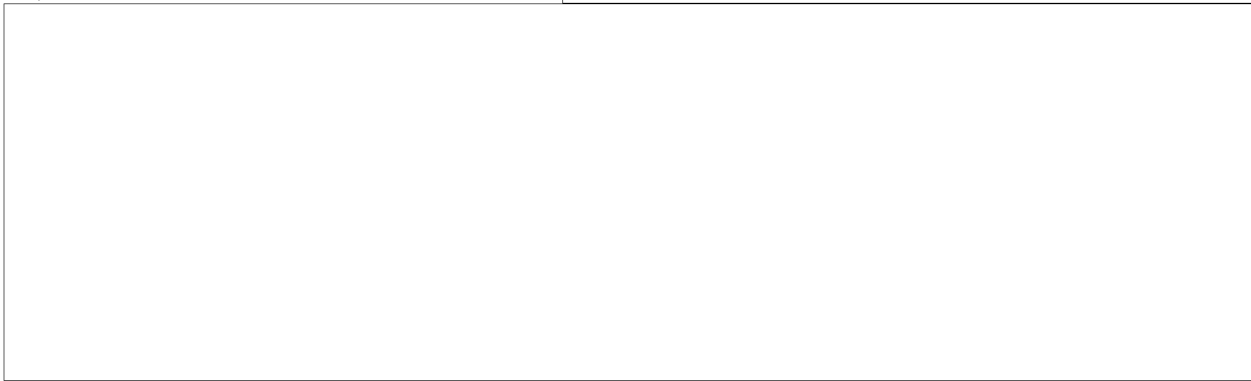
Date: 27 September 1976 Argentine Counsellor Injured in Quito Bombing
Place: Ecuador, Quito A counsellor of the Argentine embassy in Quito was slightly wounded when a bomb exploded at his residence. The explosion also caused some property damage. The persons responsible are not known.

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Date: 29 September 1976 Spanish Facilities in France Bombed
Place: France, Paris, Saint Denis Two bombs were detonated at Spanish facilities in France to commemorate the first anniversary of the execution of five Basque terrorists in Spain. Hit were the Banque Pastor in central Paris and a Spanish consular office in suburban Saint Denis. The blasts caused extensive property damage but no injuries.

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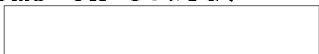
12 October 1976

Date: 6 October 1976

Cubana Airlines Plane Crashes
After Mid-Air Explosion

Place: Caribbean Sea,
near Barbados

A Cubana Airlines aircraft en route from Barbados to Jamaica crashed into the Caribbean Sea, reportedly after a mid-air explosion. All 78 persons on board were killed. Anti-Castro Cuban exiles are believed to have placed a bomb on board. (See Articles.)



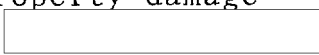
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Date: 7-8 October 1976

Foreign Businesses in Buenos
Aires Bombed

Place: Argentina,
Buenos Aires

Argentine terrorists bombed several foreign businesses during the night of 7-8 October in commemoration of the capture and death of Argentine-born Cuban guerrilla leader Ernesto "Che" Guevara. Primary targets were the showrooms of foreign-controlled automobile companies including the Ford Motor Company. A branch of the Bank of Boston was also hit. There were no injuries and property damage was moderate.



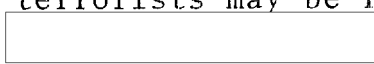
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Date: 8 October 1976

Cuban Embassy in Caracas Fired
Upon

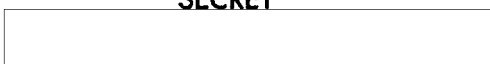
Place: Venezuela, Caracas

The Cuban embassy in Caracas was hit by eight bullets from a passing station wagon during the early morning hours. There were no injuries. The attackers are unknown, but police believe anti-Castro terrorists may be responsible.



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Date: 10 October 1976

Place: Argentina,
Cordoba

Renault Executive Killed in
Argentina

The Argentinian manager of the French-owned Renault plant in Cordoba was killed by gunmen on 10 October. The gunmen approached the manager, Domingo Lozano, after he left church services, shot him and fled. (See this issue, Section B.)

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Date: 11 October 1976

Place: Italy, Rome
Pakistan,
Islamabad

Syrian Embassies in Rome and
Islamabad Attacked by
Palestinians

Three Palestinians seized the Syrian embassy in Rome, taking five hostages, but surrendered after two hours. One hostage was seriously wounded. The attackers, claiming to be members of the "Black June" movement, said they were protesting Syria's intervention in Lebanon. A similar attack was attempted against the Syrian embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan, but the three Palestinian terrorists were intercepted by police. One terrorist was reportedly killed and the other two wounded. The attackers also threw a grenade into the Syrian ambassador's house, but no one was injured. The PLO has denied responsibility for the attacks. (See Articles.)

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TAB B—Terrorists Threats
and Plans

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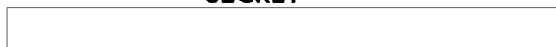
12 October 1976

No significant terrorist threats were reported during the period 6-12 October 1976 for the following areas:

- V. Far East
- VI. Worldwide

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TAB C—Potential Terrorist
Targets

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Department of Defense

Mr. James F. Barie
Assistant Chief, International Affairs
Office of Management and Budget

Mr. Daniel J. Mozeleski
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Mr. Richard D. Parsons
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United States Mission to the United Nations

Mr. J. Robert McBrien
Special Assistant for Special Legislation
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Mr. Thomas W. Leavitt
Assistant Director, Intelligence Division
Federal Bureau of Investigation

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Central Intelligence Agency

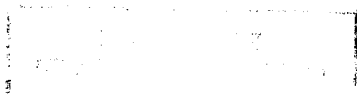
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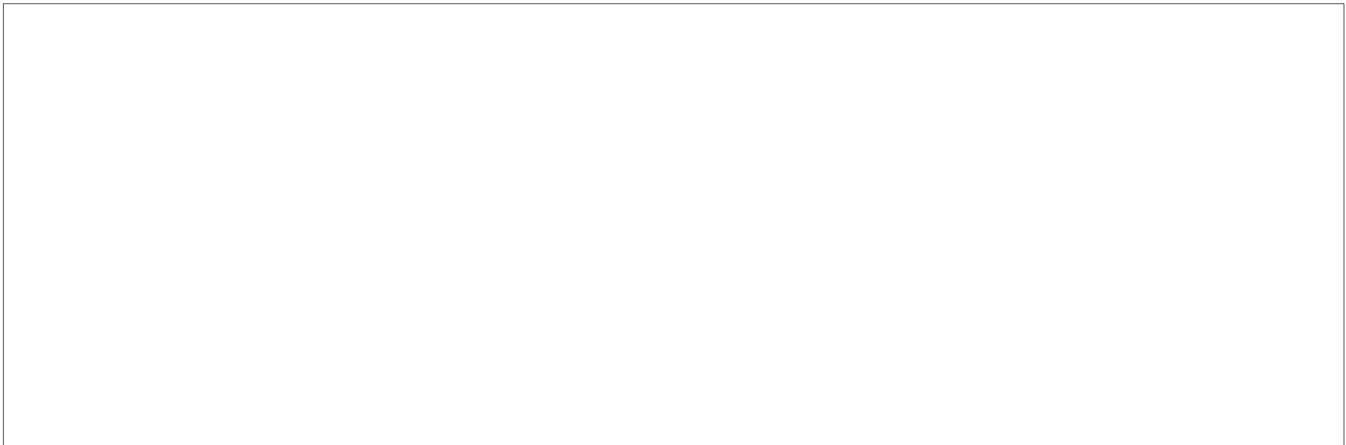
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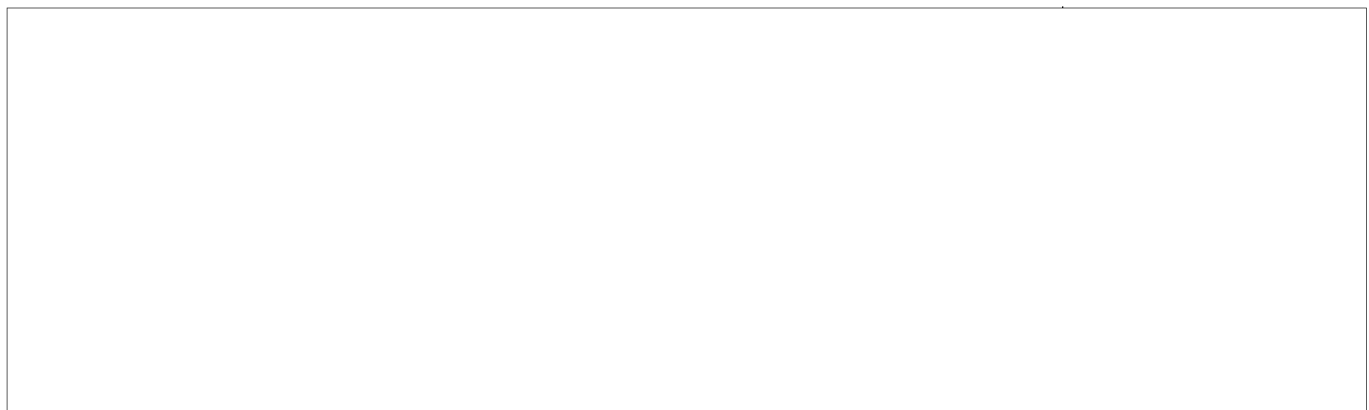
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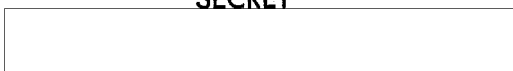
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Supreme Court Turns Down TWA Appeal (Page 7)

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V. Far East

VI. Worldwide



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NOTES

Supreme Court Turns Down TWA Appeal

The Supreme Court turned down an appeal by Trans World Airlines in a major test case over legal liability for terrorist incidents.

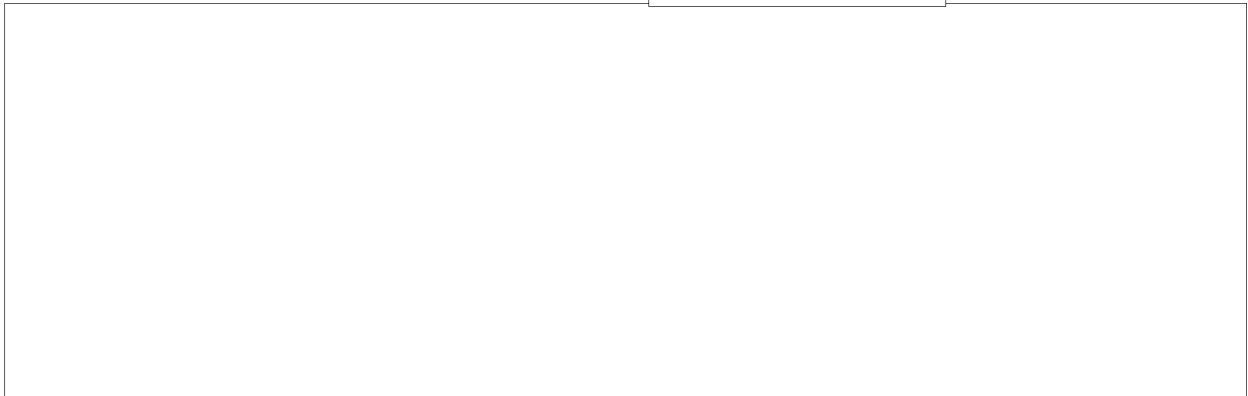
The 2nd U.S. Court of Appeals in New York ruled in December 1975 that U.S. airlines have an absolute duty to pay for injuries or deaths that occur to passengers inside air terminals awaiting flights on those airlines. Its decision came in a test case arising out of a Palestinian terrorist attack on a group of passengers waiting to board a TWA flight in Athens in 1973. (See the issue of 8 August 1973.) Three persons died and more than 40 were injured.

Under the so-called "Warsaw Convention," airlines are presumed to be liable for aircraft accidents. The airline may be liable up to a maximum of \$75,000 for each passenger injured or killed in an incident.

The airlines' liability applies where the injury or death occurred in the crash of an airliner or in the course of "embarking." TWA argued that liability should apply only when an incident occurs outside a terminal building as the passengers are on the way to the aircraft itself. However, the appeals court in its decision last year said that the liability applies whenever an incident occurs during the entire process of embarking, whether it occurs inside or outside the terminal building.



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CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST ACTS

Date: 10 October 1976

Place: Taiwan, Taipei

Governor of Taiwan Injured by
Letter Bomb

Governor of Taiwan Hsieh Tung-
min injured his left hand on
10 October when a bomb exploded
in a parcel he was opening. It
is not known who is responsible
for sending the bomb. (See
Notes.)

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IA B—Terrorists Threats
and Plans

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19 October 1976

No significant terrorist threats were reported during the period 13-19 October 1976 for the following areas:

V. Far East

VI. Worldwide

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Central Intelligence Agency

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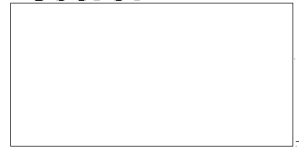
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Militant Jewish Organization Sets Fire at Tunisian Mission to the United Nations (Page 5)

U.S. to Request Three Soviets to Testify at Trial of Jewish Defense League Members (Page 5)

Brazil Releases Terrorist Charged with Kidnapping U.S. Ambassador (Page 5)

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TAB A - Chronology of Significant International Terrorist Acts

TAB B - Terrorist Threats and Plans

I. Western Hemisphere, Including United States

II. Europe

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IV. Africa

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VI. Worldwide

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Prosecutor Asks Life Imprisonment for Istanbul Airport Terrorists

In an unexpected development, the public prosecutor has asked for life imprisonment and not the death penalty for the two Palestinian guerrillas accused of killing four people, including an American, and injuring 22 others during an armed raid against Israeli passengers at Istanbul's Yesilkoy Airport last August. Two Americans were among those injured. (See the 17, 24 and 31 August, 28 September and 12 October issues.) The prosecutor, who had previously said that he would demand the death penalty, told the court that although their crime, multiple murder, usually carried the death penalty there were mitigating circumstances in the Palestinians' case. He asked the court to exercise discretion under Article 59 of the Turkish penal code (which provides for reduced penalties for extenuating circumstances) and to impose life imprisonment rather than the death penalty. He said that the violence perpetrated by the two had been random, they had given themselves up to the police and had openly confessed their guilt. In addition, he did not, as had been anticipated, find that premeditation had been present (premeditated murder also carries the death penalty), arguing that although the murders were intentionally committed they were not specifically directed against individual victims since those killed were unknown to the terrorists.

The position of the public prosecutor contrasts markedly with the position of the local prosecutor who prepared the initial investigation and recommended the death penalty. The opinion of local lawyers is that the public prosecutor has considerably stretched applicable statutes to avoid asking for the death penalty. The basis for the prosecutor's asking the court to consider extenuating circumstances under Article 59 is unclear and seems to raise questions both as to whether the case was the object of political pressure and/or whether the defendants' culpability is being reduced by categorizing the crime as a political act.

It is most unusual for the prosecutor to introduce extenuating circumstances since this is normally the prerogative of the court; however, the motion is not binding and the court can render an independent verdict which is not tied to the prosecutor's recommendation. [REDACTED]

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U.S. Requests Extradition of Four American Hijackers from France

A Paris court has announced it would give its decision by mid-November on the United States' request for extradition from France of four Americans who hijacked a Delta Airlines jet over Florida in July 1972. The hijackers, who said they were Black Panther Party sympathizers, forced a Delta DC-8 with 101 persons aboard to fly to Algeria, after collecting \$1 million in ransom from the airlines. Upon their arrival, the Algerian authorities impounded the ransom money and took the hijackers into custody. The hijackers were released on 4 August 1972 and the ransom money--less \$5,000 for expenses--was returned to Delta. Subsequently, the hijackers were ordered out of Algeria and they illegally entered France about two years ago. In May they were arrested in France and are currently serving jail sentences for possessing false identity papers.

The four--two men and two women--told the court in Paris that though they freely admit hijacking the plane they are contesting their extradition on the basis the hijacking was a political protest against racial discrimination and the U.S. involvement in Vietnam. They maintain that they were forced to live underground in the U.S. fearing for their lives and, thus, wanted to join members of the militant Black Panthers organization who were at the time in exile in Algeria. They claim that hijacking the plane was their only way out of the United States.

The state prosecutor called on the three-man tribunal to grant the extradition request though he told the court: "It is impossible not to be moved by accounts of adolescence spent in terrible conditions." Continuing, he said that 50X1-HUM although no one had been injured in the hijacking, "When a crew is menaced with guns, it is never very funny."

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NOTES

Militant Jewish Organization Sets Fire at Tunisian Mission to the United Nations

A fire was set at the Tunisian mission to the United Nations on 24 October causing minor damage. A male caller told Reuter news service that the "Save Our Israel Land" (SOIL) militant Jewish group had set the fire because of Tunisia's anti-Israel stance. SOIL also wanted to dramatize its condemnation of major American Jewish organization leaders for what the caller termed their "cowardly silence as the U.S. withholds arms promised to Israel."

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U.S. to Request Three Soviets to Testify at Trial of Jewish Defense League Members

U.S. attorneys preparing to prosecute Jewish Defense League members indicted for attacks against Soviet installations in the U.S. have requested State Department assistance in securing the testimony of three Soviet witnesses involved in the incidents. The U.S. Attorney's office believes the testimony of the three Soviets at the JDL trial, scheduled to begin 1 November, is extremely important in the efforts to obtain a conviction. Included in the charges against the JDL members are shooting into the Soviet residential complex in Riverdale, New York on 27 February, the 25 March attempt to bomb the Soviet trading corporation in New York City, and shooting into the Soviet mission to the U.N. on 2 April. (See the issues of 13 January, 2 March, 30 March, 6 April and 24 August.) The U.S. mission to the U.N. has requested the State Department to ask the Soviet embassy in Washington to produce the three Soviets for testimony at the trial.

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Brazil Releases Terrorist Charged with Kidnapping U.S. Ambassador

The Brazilian government recently released Claudio Torres da Silva, who had been serving a thirty-year sentence

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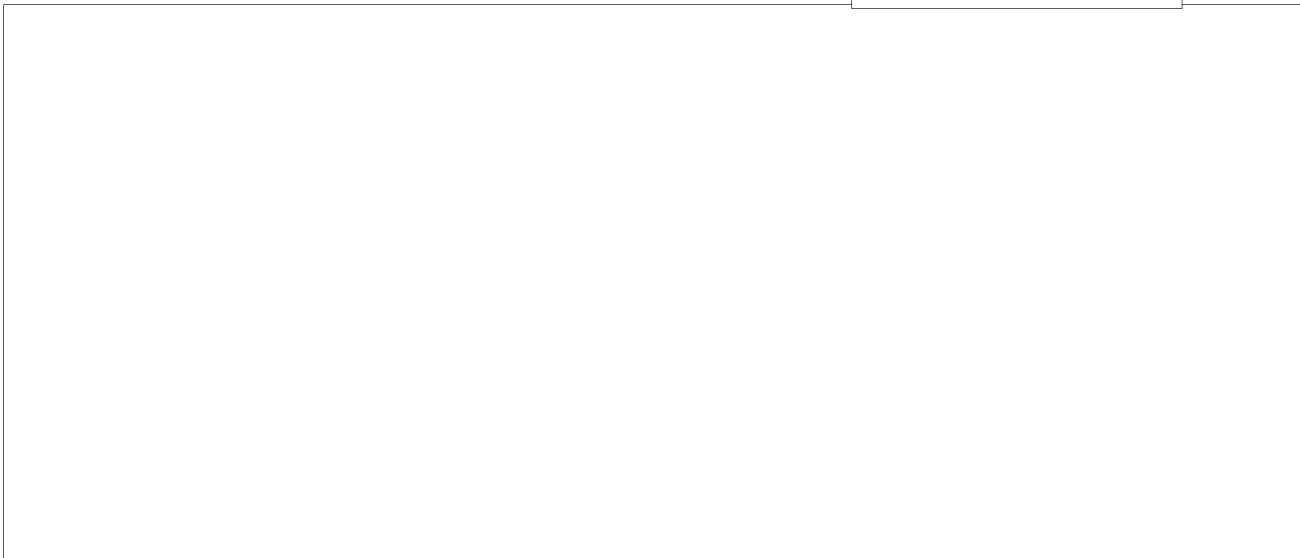
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26 October 1976

for participating in the kidnapping of U.S. Ambassador to Brazil C. Burke Elbrick, according to the U.S. consulate in Rio de Janeiro. Silva was released by order of a Navy court in Rio de Janeiro. Silva's lawyers, in appeals to the Supreme Military Court and the Supreme Court, had obtained 50X1-HUM decisions reducing his sentence. The reasons for the shortening of Silva's sentence are not known.



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26 October 1976

CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST ACTS

Date: 24 October 1976

Place: United States,
New York

Fire Set at Tunisian Mission
to UN by Militant Jewish Group

A fire was set at the Tunisian mission to the United Nations causing minor damage. The militant Jewish organization "Save Our Israel Land" claimed responsibility. (See Notes.)



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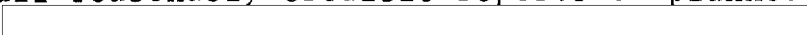
SECRET




50X1-HUM

26 October 1976

TERRORIST THREATS AND PLANS

Tab B includes all reasonably credible reports of planned terrorist activity. 

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 the threats listed are considered sufficiently plausible to warrant alertness and the use of protective security measures. However, terrorist groups often discuss general intentions or make tentative plans for violent acts that they never succeed in carrying out. In nearly all the cases listed, the intended target and appropriate governments have been informed of the threat.

** Indicates a new threat reported for the first time.

* Indicates a revision of a threat reported in previous issues.

I. Western Hemisphere, Including the United States

<p><u>Target:</u> U.S. EMBASSY</p> <p><u>Place:</u> Guyana, Georgetown</p> <p><u>Date:</u> Current</p>	<p>** The U.S. embassy in Georgetown received two bomb threats by telephone on 25 October. The first caller, identifying himself as a member of the Guyana-Cuba Counterattack Group, said a bomb was in the embassy and would explode in two hours. The caller said the purpose of the attack was to eliminate U.S. influence and rid Guyana of American personnel. Fifteen minutes later, a second caller identified himself as a member of the same group and repeated the purpose for setting the bomb. A thorough search of the embassy produced no explosive material. On 14 October the embassy received two anonymous phone threats and a</p>
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bomb threat was made against the residence of an embassy officer. Anti-U.S. sentiment is running high in Guyana in the wake of the loss of 11 Guyanese lives in the 6 October Cubana airplane crash and Guyanese belief that anti-Castro Cuban exiles, with U.S. support, are responsible.



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Target: BRANIFF AIRLINES AIRCRAFT and U.S. EMPLOYEES

Place: Bolivia, La Paz

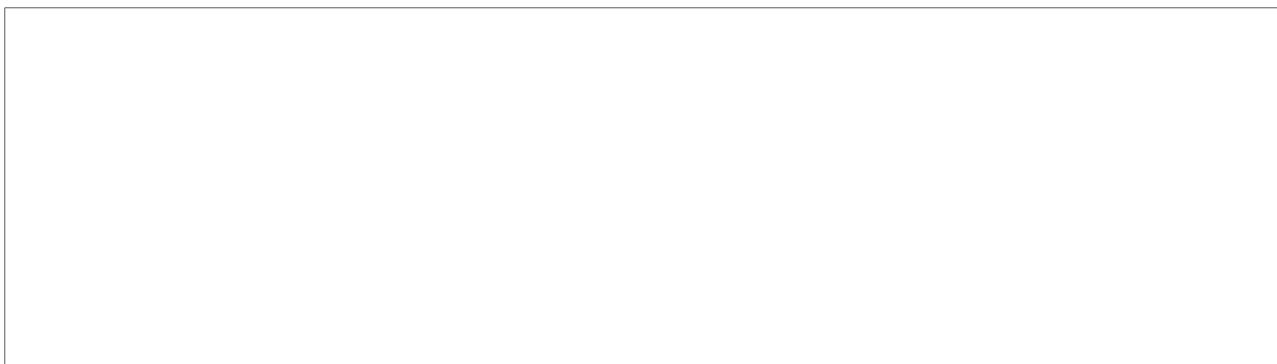
Date: Current

** The Braniff Airlines office in La Paz has received a letter threatening sabotage of Braniff aircraft and the kidnapping, torture and death of Braniff's American employees if a demand for \$100,000 is not met. The letter states that Braniff is responsible for the 13 October crash in Santa Cruz of an empty Boeing cargo aircraft leased to Lloyd Aero Boliviana. The plane crashed in a populated area, reportedly killing 106 people. Bolivian authorities, while treating the threat seriously, downplayed the ability of the terrorists to carry out the threats.



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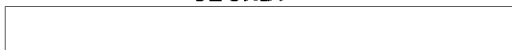
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26 October 1976

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No significant terrorist threats were reported during the period 20-26 October 1976 for the following areas:

IV. Africa

VI. Worldwide

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TAB C—Potential Terrorist
Targets

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Distribution: Ambassador L. Douglas Heck
Director of the Office for Combatting
Terrorism (M/CT)
Department of State

Mr. Dwayne S. Anderson
Deputy Director for International
Negotiations and Arms Control
International Security Affairs
Department of Defense

Mr. James F. Barie
Assistant Chief, International Affairs
Office of Management and Budget

Mr. Daniel J. Mozeleski
National Security Council Staff

Mr. Herbert H. Kaiser, Jr.
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environment,
Safety and Consumer Affairs
Department of Transportation

Mr. James Robinson
Criminal Division
Department of Justice

Mr. Richard D. Parsons
Associate Director of the Domestic Council

Mr. Herbert K. Reis
Legal Advisor
United States Mission to the United Nations

Mr. William B. Butler
Director, Office of Law Enforcement
Department of Treasury

Mr. Thomas W. Leavitt
Assistant Director, Intelligence Division
Federal Bureau of Investigation

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[REDACTED]
Central Intelligence Agency

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Secret



Secret

