

Secret 50X1-HUM



*Weekly Situation Report
on
International Terrorism*

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1 March 1978



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1 March 1978

NOTES

Precaution Thwarts Bombing Attempt in Turkey

On 17 February in Izmir, Turkey, police deactivated a time bomb set to go off in the Turkish American Association (TAA) building at 7 p.m. At that time almost eight hundred people were to be in the building for English language classes. The device, consisting of an aerosol can packed with an explosive, was left on top of the water tank in one of the toilets. It was found by a local USIS employee detailed to check the building (a TAA/USIS complex). His duty hours had been advanced because of concern over just such an incident--the same facilities were bombed on the same date in 1977. Observers believe that both incidents commemorate 18 February 1972, when a terrorist leader in Turkey was killed in a shootout with the police.

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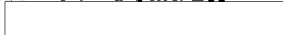
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1 March 1978

CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST ACTS

Date: 17 February 1978 Italian Industrialist Kid-
Place: Colombia, Medellin naped in Colombia
 On 17 February Jose Bartolini, an Italian industrialist, was kidnaped by several men who were riding in a taxi. Bartolini was released by an anti-kidnaping squad on 22 February; three of the kidnapers were arrested in the raid. He was unharmed and plans to remain in the country. 

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Date 21 February 1978 Bolivian Kidnaped in San
Place: San Salvador, Salvador
 El Salvador
 On 21 February two armed men kidnaped a Bolivian national who is employed by the United Nations in El Salvador. The victim was forced into a car at gun point and driven through the city. As the car passed in front of National Police Headquarters the hostage seized the wheel and caused the car to crash. The police, who arrived immediately on the scene, arrested one of the pair but the other escaped in the crowd. There were no injuries. No reason for the kidnap incident has been given. 

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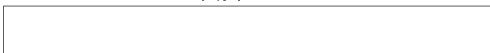


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1 March 1978

Date: 26 February 1978

French Official Kidnaped by
Muslim Rebels

Place: Philippines,
Zamboanga

On 26 February Muslim rebels kidnaped an official of the French Finance Ministry, Pierre Huguet. The victim was taken aboard a boat which escaped under fire from pursuing Philippine soldiers. The kidnapers are thought to be members of the Muslim group, the Moro National Liberation Front.



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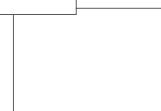


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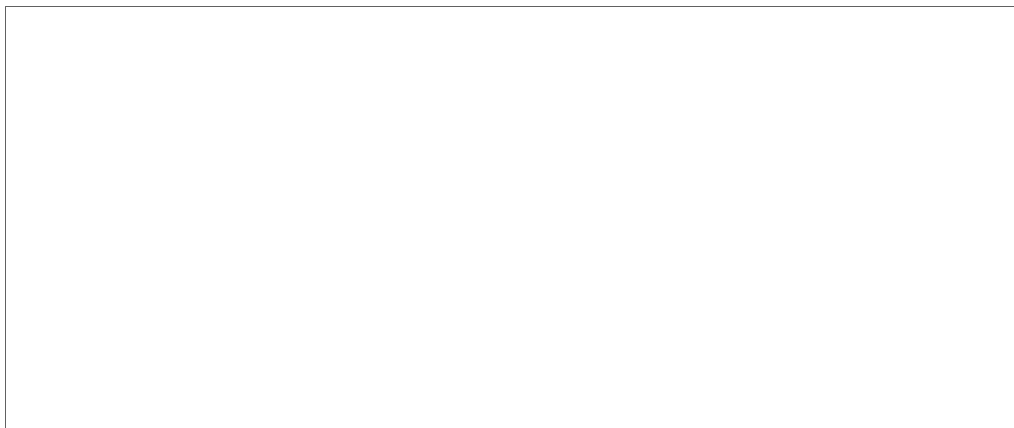


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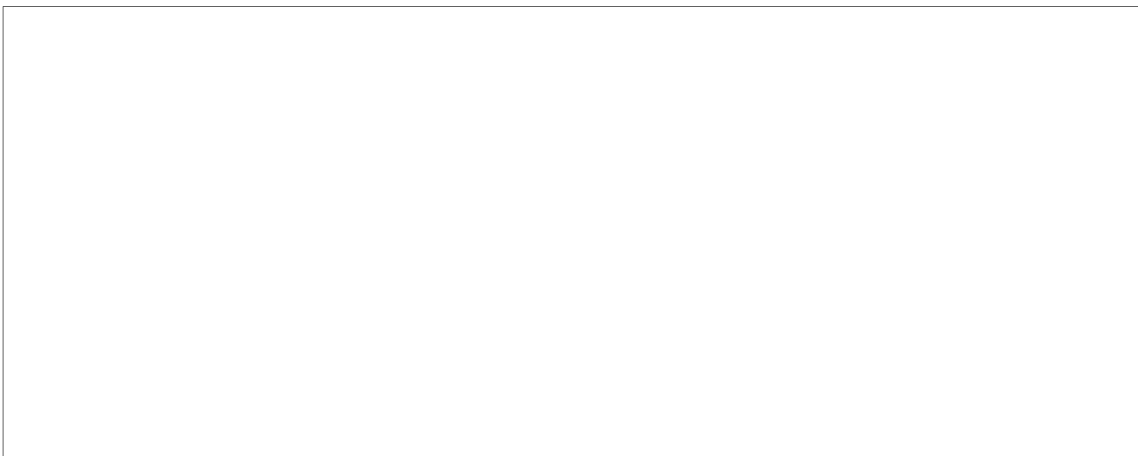
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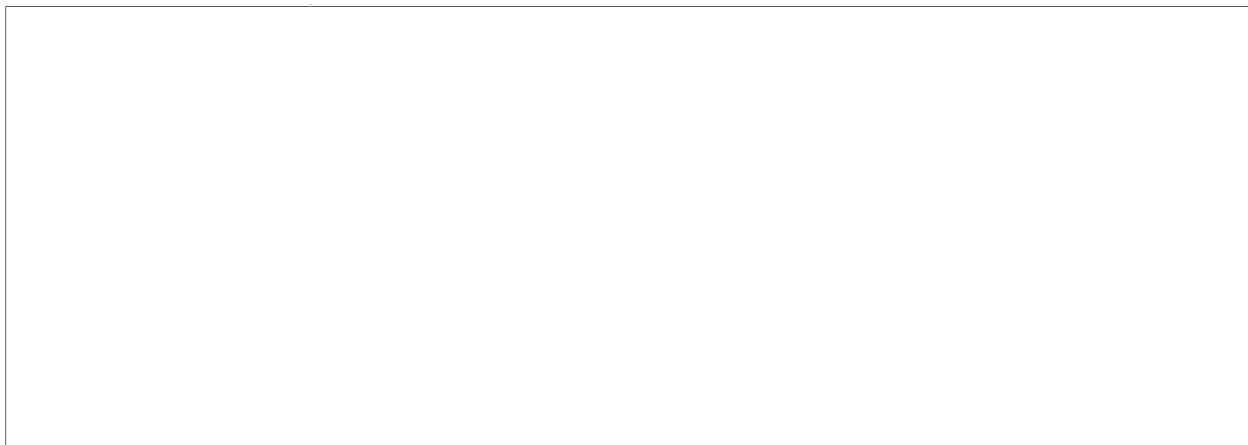
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CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST ACTS

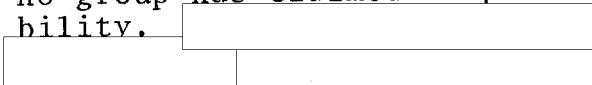


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Date: 4 March 1978

Place: United States,
San Francisco

Firebombing of the Yugoslav
Consulate in San Francisco
On 4 March the Yugoslav con-
sulate in San Francisco was
firebombed. There was damage
to the exterior of the building
and to neighboring buildings.
No injuries were reported and
no group has claimed responsi-
bility.



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Date: 4 March 1978

Place: Belgium, Brussels
France, Paris

Bombing of Iraqi Embassies in
Paris and Brussels
On 4 March bombs were detonated
in the vicinity of the Iraqi
embassies in Paris and Brussels.
In Brussels the explosion dam-
aged the entrance of the embassy
and shattered windows in nearby
apartments. In Paris the blast
destroyed a car parked near
the embassy. There were no
injuries reported in either
incident and no claim of re-
sponsibility has been received.



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15 March 1978

ARTICLES

Fatah Commando Raid in Israel

On 11 March guerrillas from Al Fatah, the largest of the Palestinian organizations, mounted an armed raid into Israel that resulted in the killing of 32 Israelis and the wounding of 76 others. Nine of the terrorists were killed and two captured.

The raid began at 1545 when eleven Palestinians traveling in two rubber boats came ashore at a point close to a seaside kibbutz about 20 miles south of Haifa. They almost immediately killed their first victim there, a young woman later identified as an American immigrant to Israel. The guerrillas then made their way to the Haifa-Tel Aviv highway, where they stopped a taxi and killed its passengers. At 1615 they stopped a tourist bus that was taking bus company employees back to Haifa from an outing near Jerusalem and forced its driver to turn around in the direction of Tel Aviv. As the bus proceeded the terrorists fired their weapons from the windows at passing vehicles.

On the way to Tel Aviv the terrorists saw a second bus on the road ahead and forced the driver to overtake it, at which point the guerrillas fired at the second bus, killing and wounding some of its passengers. When it stopped they forced the passengers aboard the first bus and continued toward Tel Aviv. They later met a taxi and forced its passengers to join their hostages.

Israeli authorities set up a road block on the outskirts of Tel Aviv, where the captured bus arrived at 1730. Police and troops opened fire on it, and the guerrillas returned the fire. After fifteen minutes the bus was in flames and finally blew up, apparently from explosives carried by the terrorists.

Israeli officials said that the terrorists' mission had been to seize a luxury hotel and hold tourists as hostages to be bartered for guerrillas imprisoned in Israel. Leaflets carried by the commandos spelled out their demands, including

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one that the British and Rumanian ambassadors and the United Nations representative surrender themselves as hostages to guarantee the safe passage of the terrorists and freed prisoners to Damascus aboard a United Nations aircraft.

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Dutch Marines Break South Moluccan Seige

Dutch Marines stormed a provincial office building in the town of Assen shortly after 1430 on 14 March and within twenty minutes secured the release of 70 hostages held by three armed South Moluccans who had seized the building some 29 hours earlier. The assault force, which had moved into position under cover of darkness overnight, stormed the building while sharpshooters provided covering fire. The attack came after gunfire was heard inside the building and the South Moluccan occupiers announced that one of the hostages had been executed. When the marines made their way to the top of the four-story building they found the victim seriously wounded but alive. Four other hostages were wounded during the brief skirmish.

The South Moluccans had seized control of the office building midmorning on 13 March, taking 71 hostages and wounding several persons when shooting erupted as an estimated 180 civil servants and others fled the building. Police moved in to seal off the area, while the Moluccan occupiers shot at anything that moved within their field of fire. A boy on a bicycle was wounded, and efforts to aid casualties lying on the ground outside the building halted when a rescue ambulance was fired on by the terrorists.

As the Dutch government set up a "crisis center" to deal with the attack, the Justice Ministry stated it had received a letter signed by the "South Moluccan Suicide Command" that contained demands similar to those made in the Moluccan terrorist attacks last year and in 1975. The letter threatened that the terrorists would start killing hostages at 1400 on 14 March unless the government met their demands for the release of 21 comrades jailed in the earlier attacks, a plane out of the country for the released prisoners and some of the hostages, and a ransom of \$13 million.

Two leaders of the Moluccan community in Assen entered the building during the morning of 14 March to talk to the terrorists. When they emerged they brought no new statement from the terrorists but they were accompanied by one of the hostages who was released without explanation. The deadline

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laid down passed uneventfully but half an hour later the gunfire, and the announcement by the terrorists that they had executed one of the hostages, triggered the Dutch government decision to send in the marines.

There were no casualties among the marines or the three terrorists. Among the hostages there were six wounded, and one man was killed and his body thrown from the building in the initial Moluccan assault. The justice minister had told a press conference during the episode that the government had no intention of letting the terrorists out of the country. After the hostages were released, the prime minister urged the Dutch populace not to judge the entire Moluccan community by the actions of the three young terrorists.

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Possible Hijacking Attempt Over Hong Kong

China Airlines flight 831 from Kaoshuing, Republic of China (ROC), to Hong Kong was the target of a possible hijack attempt on 9 March. The aircraft, carrying 101 passengers, including one American, was on final approach to Hong Kong's Kai Tak airport when it veered from its approach course. Several random radio transmissions were heard from the aircraft which then returned to its course and landed safely. About 6 miles from Hong Kong, the flight engineer, an ROC citizen, attacked the pilot and co-pilot with a pair of scissors, wounding both of them. Security personnel on the plane reportedly shot and killed the engineer. The two wounded pilots were taken to the hospital and are reported to be in satisfactory condition. Passengers indicated that they were not fully aware of what had happened and claimed not to have heard any shots. The motive for the attack remains unclear; it could have been a demented act or a personal quarrel with the pilots. A hijack to the Peoples Republic of China (PRC) remains a possibility, as the PRC recently made radio broadcasts offering large rewards to ROC military personnel who defect with their aircraft.

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Muslim Rebels in the Philippines Release French Hostage

Philippine authorities reported the release, on 12 March, of a French tourist who had been kidnaped on 26 February by Muslim rebels. (A-4.) Pierre Huguet, an official of the French Finance Ministry, was abducted from a tour group. He was taken by boat to an island where he was held captive for two weeks. The original ransom demand of U.S. \$150,000 was not paid. However, it was agreed the Moro National Liberation Front rebels would be "reimbursed for expenses" incurred while holding their hostage. Huguet was exhausted from his ordeal and required treatment for an arm injury suffered when he was seized.

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Swiss Policeman Killed by Terrorists?

On 3 March a Swiss police corporal was shot to death under mysterious circumstances in an empty house near the small town of Porrentruy, Switzerland. Investigating authorities believe he was checking something suspicious in the building when he was killed.

Porrentruy is near Delemont; both of these towns figured in the attempted escape and subsequent roadblock capture of West German Red Army Faction terrorists Gabriele Kroecher-Tiedemann and Christian Moeller on 20 December 1977, after they had shot two Swiss border guards. [redacted] 50X1-HUM

[redacted] Swiss authorities believe the murder of the corporal was a terrorist action. Phone calls to Swiss newspapers have indicated the purpose of the killing and of future terrorist acts (unspecified) is to force the release of Kroecher-Tiedemann and Moeller. Both are being held in pretrial confinement in Switzerland. [redacted] 50X1-HUM

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15 March 1978

CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST ACTS

Date: 12 March 1978

Place: Turkey, Adana

Bombing at the Tarsus American School in Turkey

On 12 March a bomb exploded under the car belonging to the principal of the Tarsus American School in Adana. The fender of the car was blown off and windows of a nearby building were shattered. There were no injuries. A typewritten letter, signed "TIP," was received the same day, saying other explosives had been placed about the campus of the school. A police search for other bombs was negative.

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22 March 1978

CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST ACTS

Date: 27 February 1978

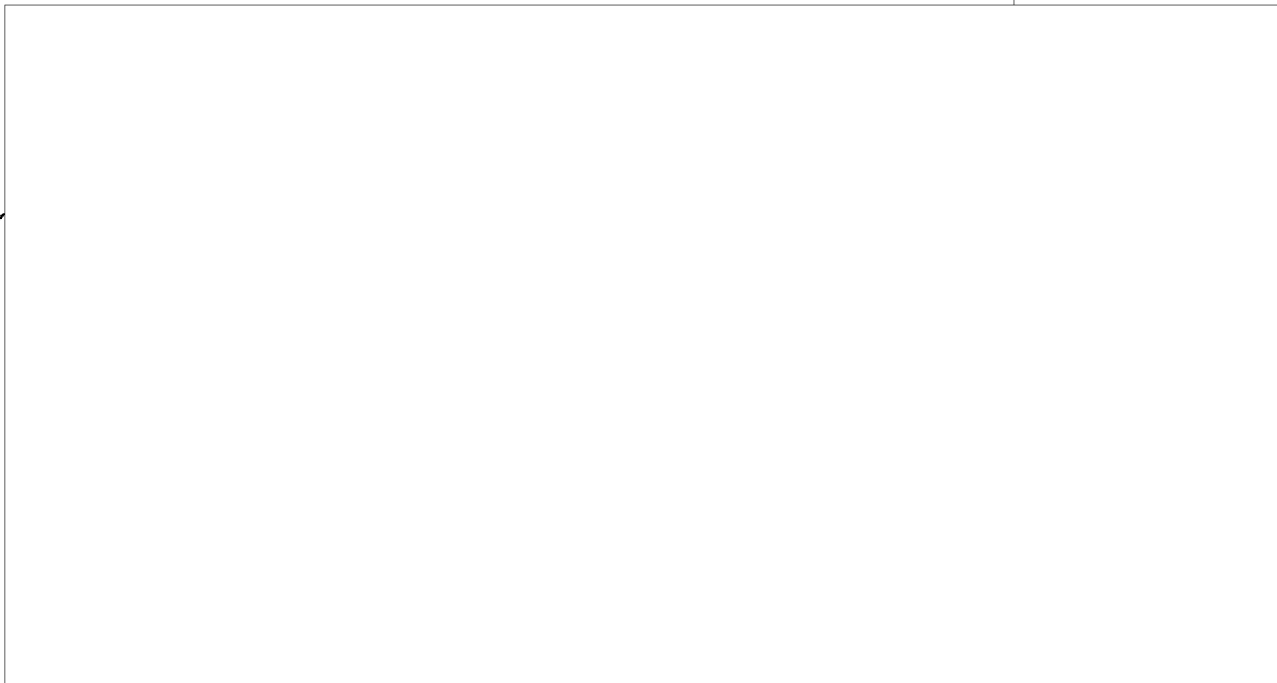
Iran Air Office in Milan
Firebombed

Place: Italy, Milan

On 27 February the Milan office of Iran Air airline was the target of a firebomb attack. The windows were smashed and several incendiary bottles were thrown into the office. The resulting fire routed a lone employee and completely destroyed the airline office area. No injuries were reported; no group has claimed responsibility.



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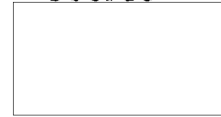
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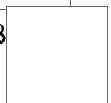


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Kidnapers Free Belgian Baron in Paris (Page 1)



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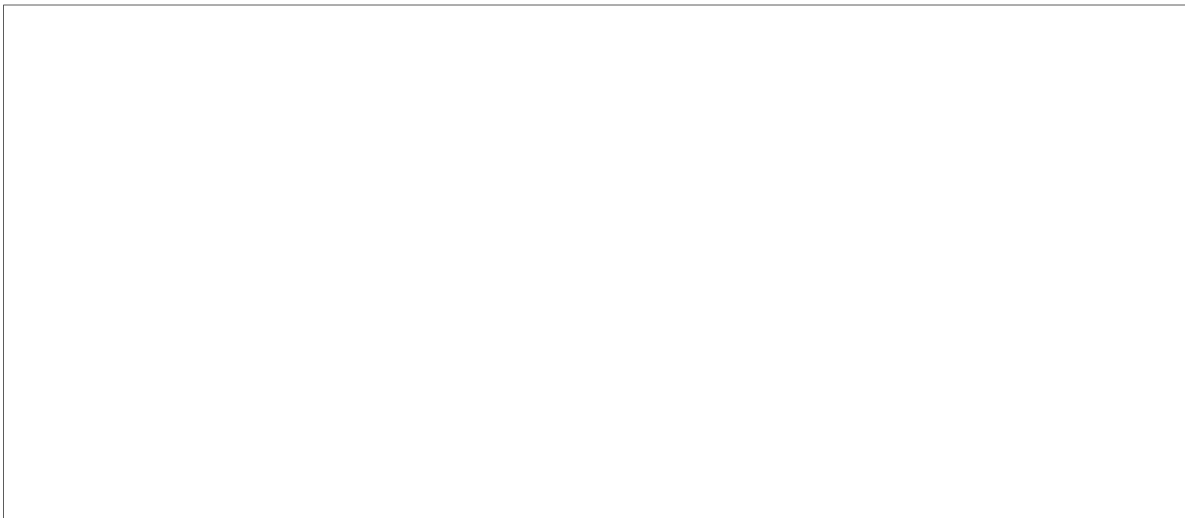
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ARTICLES

Kidnapers Free Belgian Baron in Paris

According to French officials Baron Edouard-Jean Empain, who had been kidnaped on 23 January, was released by his captors in the center of Paris on the evening of 26 March. Empain, a Belgian, is the chairman of the Empain-Schneider conglomerate, one of Europe's largest industrial complexes, and is the only foreign member of Le Patronat, the French equivalent of the National Association of Manufacturers. The kidnapers had demanded U.S. \$10 million for the release of Empain when they seized him from his chauffeur-driven car near his home in Paris [redacted]

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Two days before Empain's release, the French police had set a trap for the kidnapers near a phone booth on a highway outside Paris. The booth had been designated as the pick-up point for the ransom, finally negotiated at U.S. \$8.6 million. A member of the baron's family was to deliver the money. Five members of the gang arrived at the rendezvous, and were ambushed by the police just as the money was about to change hands. In the ensuing shootout one kidnaper was killed, one wounded and captured, and two policemen wounded. Three members of the gang escaped. The ransom money was retrieved intact.

According to the police commissioner of Paris, the decisive factor in the subsequent release of Empain was the telephone call made by the captured kidnaper to his accomplices, advising them that the game was over and no ransom would be available. The baron was not injured as a result of the fiasco; the criminals had removed the tip of one finger and sent it to his family shortly after he was taken hostage.

Shortly after Empain's abduction, a French terrorist organization, the "Armed Cell for Popular Autonomy," had claimed responsibility for the crime, and threatened to kill

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Empain if two West German Red Army Faction terrorists and a French criminal were not released from prisons in West Germany and France. Nothing further was heard from this group. The police now feel that no political motives were involved; the dead and captured kidnapers both have long police records.

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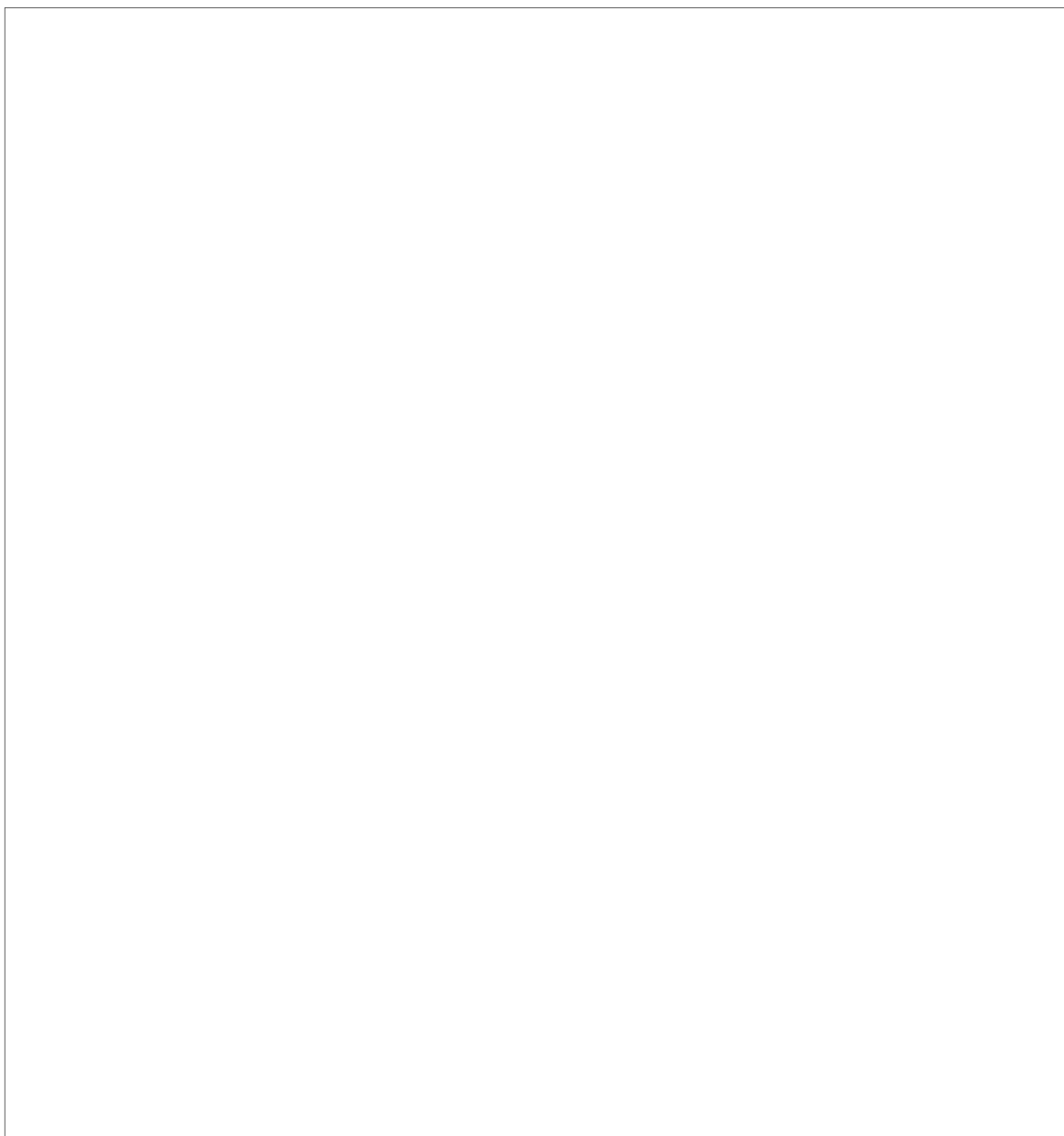
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Time Bomb Discovered at the Canberra Home of the Indian Envoy

On 25 March a time bomb was found under a hedge on the grounds of the home of acting Indian Ambassador Ajmani. The bomb was spotted on a routine security patrol of an area of Canberra where several governments maintain embassies. Police indicated the bomb had apparently been thrown into the yard by persons unknown. The time bomb had been set to explode about six hours before it was found, but had failed to detonate. The Ajmani family and two staff members were in the house at the time. No group has claimed responsibility for the bomb, the latest in a series of incidents with Indian targets. Ajmani said he believed the Ananda Marg was responsible for the attempted bombing, but a spokesman for that group denied the organization's responsibility.

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29 March 1978

CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST ACTS

Date: 25 March 1978

Place: Australia, Canberra

Bomb Found at the Home of the
Indian Envoy in Canberra

On 25 March a time bomb was discovered under a hedge on the grounds of the home of the acting Indian ambassador to Australia. The bomb was spotted during a routine security patrol of the area. The bomb had been set to explode six hours before it was located but had failed to detonate. Local police said no group had claimed responsibility.

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