



Directorate of Intelligence

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C.B.

**Terrorism
Review**



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3 March 1983

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GI TR 83-005
3 March 1983

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**Terrorism
Review** [Redacted]

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Comments and queries regarding this publication may be directed to the Research Director, Instability and Insurgency Center, Office of Global Issues, telephone

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Rightwing Terrorists Responsible for Anti-US Attacks in Germany



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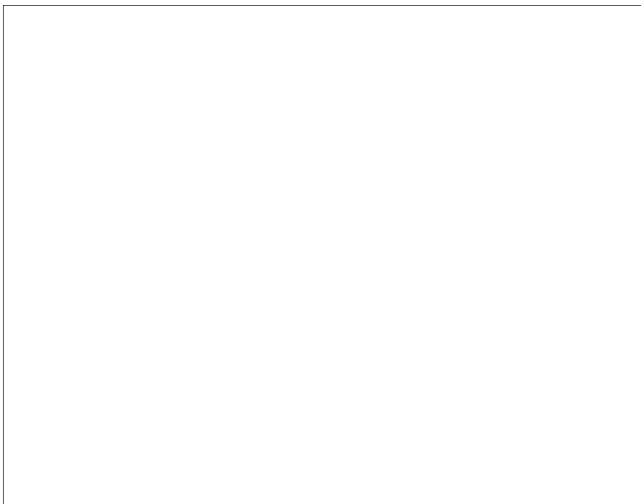
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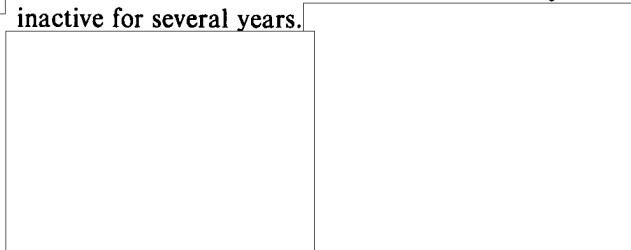
 rightwing terrorists from the so-called Kexel Group have confessed responsibility for bombing attacks in mid-December against US servicemen in the Frankfurt area and may be responsible for other attacks against Americans.

detonation, was one of the most powerful used against US military facilities in West Germany.

The Kexel Group was well equipped. Based on information provided to police, German authorities uncovered a Kexel weapons cache buried in an aluminum container in a wooded area near Frankfurt, not far from the site of the main Red Army Faction cache uncovered last year. The Kexel cache contained several weapons, including sawed-off shotguns, automatic weapons, and pistols. Almost all the weapons are available commercially in Germany. A second cache, as yet unlocated, is said to contain license plates. Police discovered US military uniforms, disguises, and explosives materials in the apartment in which the three terrorists were apprehended.



Members of the Kexel Group appear to be connected with Military Sports Group/Hoffman, which is Germany's most prominent and dangerous rightwing terrorist organization but which has been relatively inactive for several years.



We and German authorities were initially inclined to credit these attacks to radical leftist German terrorist groups, who had conducted several attacks earlier in the year against US military facilities. Unlike the earlier attacks, for which leftist groups claimed credit, no group claimed responsibility for the latter attacks we now believe were conducted by rightwing terrorists.

The Kexel Group, which will be put out of business when Hepp is apprehended, was one of the most dangerous terrorist groups in Western Europe. The bombs planted in US servicemen's cars in Frankfurt were fixed with sophisticated detonators designed to activate when the victim entered or sat in his car. One of the US servicemen escaped unharmed, but two were wounded, one seriously. The bomb in the dependent housing area, which was discovered prior to

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**Spanish Terrorist Group Iraultza
Responsible for Anti-US Attacks** [redacted]

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A Basque Communist group, Iraultza, has recently emerged, in our view, as a potentially serious threat to US interests in Spain. [redacted]

Spanish police describe Iraultza as the armed, clandestine wing of the Basque Communist Movement. It appears to be composed of a handful of extremists but has no identifiable base of support. Using crudely constructed explosive devices, Spanish authorities believe Iraultza is responsible for 25 minor bombings of business and government offices in the Basque provinces, using the names "National Liberation Command," "The Army of Basque Resistance," "The Basque Revolutionary Army," "The Revolutionary Commands," and "The Armed Revolutionary Groups of Workers Resistance." In December 1982 the group expanded its activities to include bombings of three US businesses in the Madrid area, claiming retaliation for US involvement in Central America and support for the antinuclear movement. [redacted]

The attack on the US Embassy in Madrid on 4 February involved a sophisticated weapon, described by Spanish police as an M-28 antitank rocket electrically fired from an improvised launcher. The disparity in the modus operandi and the weapons used appears to rule out Iraultza as the perpetrator of the Embassy attack and to raise the possibility that another, as yet unidentified, terrorist group in Spain is attacking US interests. [redacted]

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Despite its Basque roots, we do not believe Iraultza is linked to the Basque separatist terrorist group Fatherland and Liberty (ETA). Iraultza's attacks against US firms and its distinct Marxist rhetoric are at variance with ETA's main goal of autonomy for the Basque territories. ETA has not attacked US interests in the past. Spanish police suspect Iraultza's periodic use of GOMA-2, a stock-in-trade explosive used by ETA, is coincidence. Spanish police believe Iraultza would have used this substance more extensively if the group had operational links to ETA. The primitive nature of most of Iraultza's devices—bombs composed of chlorite and clock triggering mechanisms—further indicates that Iraultza is an independent group with limited operational capabilities. [redacted]

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**Libyan Hijacking:
Peaceful Outcome—
But Problems for Malta?**

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Hijackers of a Libyan aircraft surrendered to Maltese authorities on 23 February, but conditions of the surrender could have negative international consequences for Malta.

leverage with the hijackers. Undoubtedly wearied after the three-day ordeal and with little prospect of Maltese concessions, the hijackers agreed to surrender in exchange for guarantees that they would not be prosecuted or returned to Libya by Malta and that they would be granted safe passage to a third country willing to receive them.

Two low-ranking Libyan military officers—reportedly lieutenants—seized a Libyan 727 airliner and its 160 passengers on 20 February and ordered the plane to Malta. The hijackers were armed with handguns and a fake plastic grenade and claimed they would “rather die than return to Libya.” The crew and passengers apparently offered no resistance. As many as five other Libyan military personnel—two Army deserters and their three security escorts—decided to join the hijackers after the seizure of the aircraft. There were no Americans on board; most of the passengers were Libyans.

Despite the peaceful resolution of the hijacking, however, the possibility exists of serious international repercussions. In particular, the conditions of surrender, if implemented by Malta, could make Malta liable to Western sanctions under terms of the Bonn Declaration of 1978 signed by the United States, Canada, France, West Germany, the United Kingdom, Italy, and Japan. The declaration pledged the signatory governments to apply air service restrictions to any country harboring air pirates.

The Maltese adopted a cautious but determined response. At first refusing to grant landing rights, the Maltese eventually relented and established a tight security cordon around the aircraft, preventing it from taking off. The government took early steps to control the situation on the ground, including the pace of the negotiations.

According to some diplomatic sources, sanctions may not be automatic since Malta is not a signatory to The Hague Convention, which requires the extradition or prosecution of hijackers. This was one of the main points—in addition to the suggestion that European signatories might not be willing to apply the Declaration in Malta’s case—apparently made by the Maltese Foreign Minister in discussions with US Embassy officials on 25 February. Publicly, Maltese officials have sought to head off criticism by emphasizing that lives may have been saved, that the hijackers are in Maltese custody pending their departure to a third country, and that Mintoff had handled negotiations with hijackers similarly on three previous occasions in the past. Mintoff has also stated publicly that two countries—one reportedly being Sudan—have agreed to take the Libyans, a statement probably intended to signal that the hijackers would remain only temporarily in Malta. At least one unconfirmed press report has indicated that Malta may already have returned to Libya the five personnel who joined in the hijacking.

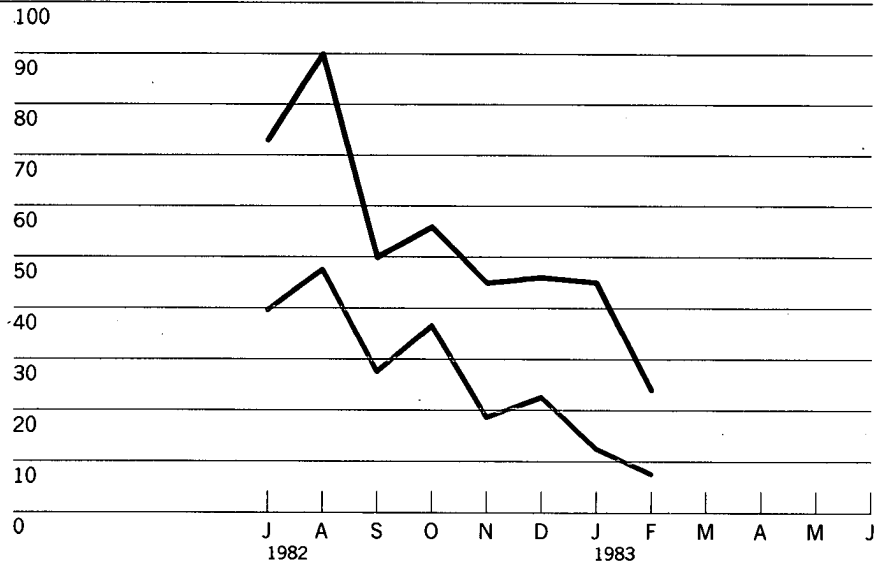
Prime Minister Mintoff played the central role in direct negotiations with the hijackers. The Maltese concluded that the hijackers were amateurs primarily concerned with obtaining asylum and with no inclination to harm the passengers, despite vague threats. Repeated requests for food, fuel, and sanctuary were turned aside. At one point, Mintoff reportedly told the hijackers he would forward a message to them from the Moroccan Government only when the passengers were freed. In anticipation of a hijacker request to speak with US representatives, Malta requested and received an official US refusal to talk to the Libyans “until and unless” all the hostages were released. Though not intended as a possible offer of negotiations, the communique was, however, used as further

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Statistical Overview

International Terrorist Incidents, 1982-83^a

— Total, 429
 — Of which: US targets, 216



Category of International Terrorist Incidents, 1982-83, by Month

	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	Total
Total	73	90	50	56	45	46	45	24					429
Kidnaping	3			3	3	1	2						12
Barricade, hostage	1	1	7	1	6	2	1	1					20
Bombing	42	31	13	16	18	23	14	14					171
Armed attack			2	1				1					4
Hijacking	3	4	1	3	3	1	4	2					21
Assassination	3	4	5			1	4						17
Threats, hoax	19	45	16	22	11	14	16	5					148
Sniping	1	2	3	2	1		1						10
Other ^b	1	3	3	8	3	4	3	1					26

^a Figures for the most recent months are subject to change as additional data are received.

^b Break-ins, conspiracy, shoot-out, etc.

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Chronology

This chronology includes significant events, incidents, and trends in international terrorism. It provides commentary on their background, importance, and wider implications. [redacted]

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December 1982**The Netherlands: Dutch Antimilitary Group Reorganizes**

Radical elements of the Dutch group "Onkruit" (which has been dissolved by the majority of its members) have reorganized under the name "Buskruit" and plan to continue activities. Onkruit had previously been involved in violent demonstrations in opposition to NATO, the Warsaw Pact, and nuclear missiles. [redacted]

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Late January 1983**Peru: Journalists Killed by Villagers**

Eight Peruvian journalists were killed in the Huanta Province of Ayacucho by local villagers who mistook the journalists for Sendero Luminoso terrorists. The villagers reportedly had been told by government counterinsurgency troops to attack strangers approaching their land, as they would undoubtedly be terrorists. President Belaunde has ordered an investigation into the incident. [redacted]

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1 February 1983**Spain: Cable Link Destroyed**

Basque Fatherland and Liberty/Military Wing (ETA/M) terrorists claimed responsibility for the bombing of a communications post which heavily damaged a submarine cable linking Spain and Britain. [redacted]

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3 February 1983**ASALA Alive and Well**

In a communique released to *Armenian Reporter*, the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA) claimed to be actively training commandos in an unidentified location. The communique also claimed that Monte Melkonian had taken part and been injured in the 7 August Esenboga airport attack but had escaped and returned to "home base." The communique, which was postmarked in Greece, also contained photographs of ASALA commandos carrying weapons including the M-28 antitank rocket. [redacted]

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11 February 1983**Chile: Police Thwart Possible Terrorist Attack**

Following a shootout with two members of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) north of Vina del Mar, police discovered 40 kilograms of explosives placed in a special shell around the gas tank of their car. One of the terrorists, who was killed by police, had a valid pass to the International Song Festival in Vina del Mar. Detonation of the bomb on the festival grounds would have resulted in a large number of civilian casualties, a departure from past MIR operations. [redacted]

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14 February 1983**Turkey: Labor Official Slain**

The Turkish leftwing terrorist group "Revolutionary Way" (Dev Sol) claimed responsibility for the assassination of the president of a Turkish labor union in Istanbul. Police have arrested six Dev Sol members and confiscated the suspected murder weapon. [redacted]

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15 February 1983 **Guatemala: Violence May Mar Papal Visit** 25X1
 [redacted] 25X1
 [redacted] ORPA planned spectacular terrorist acts to coincide with 25X1
 the visit of the Pope to Guatemala City on 8 March. [redacted] 25X1
 [redacted] We believe the attacks are 25X1
 meant to take advantage of media attention during the papal visit. [redacted]

Turkey: Terrorist Roundup

Leads from previous arrests have enabled Turkish police to continue their arrests of members of Revolutionary Way, Revolutionary Left, and the Marxist-Leninist Armed Propaganda Union/Revolutionary Salvation in Kars, Artvin, Adana, and Izmir. Large caches of arms and explosives have been seized. [redacted] 25X1

United Kingdom: Animal Rights Militia Attacks Continue

The Animal Rights Militia (ARM) claimed responsibility for a series of letter bombs in London, Cambridge, Bristol, and Manchester, protesting the slaughter of the baby seals in Canada. No one was injured by the letter bombs, which were sent to the Canadian Embassy, Agricultural Ministry, a veterinary school, a surgeon, and a furrier. [redacted] 25X1

16 February 1983 **United Kingdom: More ARM Letter Bombs**

In Hull and Manchester, furriers were the targets of Animal Rights Militia letter bombs in the second day of continued protest against the Canadian baby seal hunting. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] 25X6

18 February 1983 **South Africa: ANC Attacks Civilians**

A bomb in Bloemfontein killed one person and wounded 85 civilians in the first deliberate, large-scale attack involving injury to civilians since the 1960s. Although no one has claimed responsibility, the South African Government has blamed the African National Congress (ANC). [redacted] 25X1

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Israel: Threats Against US Facilities

In calls to the US Embassy and Israeli police, unidentified individuals threatened to carry out attacks against the Embassy and the residence of the US Ambassador in Tel Aviv. Embassy security evacuated both locations in order to search for possible explosives. Thus far, no group has claimed credit for the threats, although, in at least one case, the caller's Israeli-accented English and his accusation that the United States was responsible for former Defense Minister Sharon's political demise suggest that an Israeli extremist—possibly acting on his own—may have been responsible. The Embassy is taking the threat seriously and has enhanced security. [redacted]

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18-22 February 1983

Spain: Bomb Threats Against US Mission

Official US diplomatic installations have been the target of three bomb threats within one week. No bombs were located, and we have no information on the identity or motivation of the group involved. (c)

19 February 1983

Honduras: Terrorists Coordinate Efforts

[redacted] in mid-January Honduran revolutionaries met in Mexico City to create a mechanism to promote solidarity, to coordinate propaganda efforts, and to obtain support from Mexican and other radical groups. Representatives attending included members of the Communist Party of Honduras, the Communist Party of Honduras/Marxist-Leninist, the Cinchoneros, the Central American Revolutionary Workers Party, Lorenzo Zelaya, and the Revolutionary Armed Movement. [redacted]

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Pakistan: French Facility Bombed

Bombings in Karachi caused extensive damage to the French Consulate, the French Cultural Center, and Air France's administrative and cargo offices. The home of the Honorary French Consul in Lahore was also bombed. The police have detained five Iranian students and believe the bombings were due to France's support for Iraq in its war with Iran. [redacted]

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Spain: Spanish Arrest Basque Terrorists

Spanish police arrested four members of ETA/M in Llodio and seized a large arms cache that included submachineguns, grenades, and explosives. Suspects are accused of plotting to kill several police and Civil Guards as well as individuals identified by ETA/M as informers. [redacted]

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20 February 1983

Malta: Deserters Hijack Libyan Aircraft

Claiming they would "rather die than return to Libya," two low-ranking Libyan Army officers armed with handguns hijacked a domestic Libyan flight with some 160 passengers on board and forced the aircraft to fly to Malta. At least one press report also said that as many as five other Libyan military personnel on board the plane may have aided the original hijackers subsequent to the seizure of the aircraft. Despite their repeated warnings about the health and safety of the passengers, the hijackers apparently showed no real inclination to harm their hostages and were consequently frustrated in their demands for food and fuel by the Maltese policy of refusing to negotiate until all hostages were released. The hijackers surrendered on 23 February in exchange for guarantee of no prosecution and safe passage from Malta, an agreement that might make Malta liable to Western sanction under terms of the Bonn Declaration. [redacted]

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22 February 1983

Spain: Basque Terrorist Arson Attack

The Basque extremist splinter Autonomous Anti-Capitalist Command (CAA) claimed responsibility for an \$8 million arson attack that destroyed the Michelin Tire Company in Oyarzun. Although CAA gave no motive for the attack, labor disputes and a planned strike at the plant may have provoked the arson, since CAA is violently antibusiness. CAA also planted an 18-pound bomb in an office adjacent to the plant, but police defused it. [redacted]

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France: Basque Leader Arrested in France

In St. Jean-de-Luz, French police arrested the second in command of ETA Political-Military Wing (ETA/PM), Pedro Astorkitza-Ikazurriaga, carrying extortion letters demanding \$300,000 in "revolutionary taxes" from Spanish industrialists. This case may indicate the extent of French willingness to assist Spanish efforts against Basque terrorists. [redacted]

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El Salvador: Soviet Device Captured

A Soviet-manufactured measuring device with an engraved personal message in Russian was taken from a captured Salvadoran guerrilla in December 1982, the first such find in El Salvador. [redacted]

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