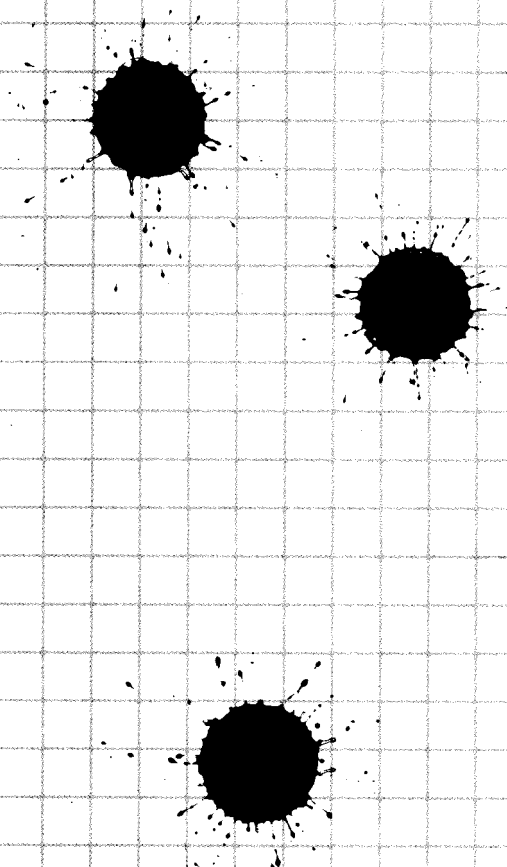


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Weekly Situation Report

**INTERNATIONAL
TERRORISM**



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2 December 1981

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Warning Notice
Intelligence Sources and Methods Involved
(WNINTEL)

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PREPARED FOR THE INTERDEPARTMENTAL
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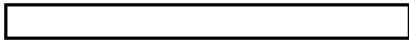
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WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

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ARTICLES

Another Car Bomb Explodes in Damascus

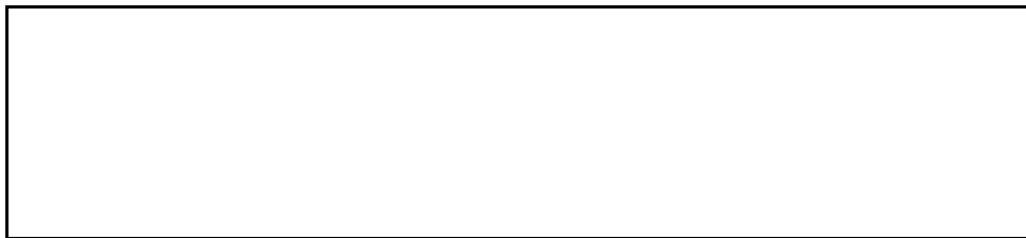
About 150 people have died so far as a result of the 29 November car bomb attack at a military building in Damascus. The 1130 hours attack was the fourth car bombing in Damascus in as many months and has been the most devastating in the number of lives lost, injuries and property damage. The blast was reported to have demolished three five-story buildings and badly damaged 10 others. Syrian authorities have blamed the Muslim Brotherhood for the incident, although the semi-phantom Front for the Liberation of Lebanon from Foreigners (FLLF) has claimed credit.

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The bombing took place at one of Damascus' major intersections and was directed at a building housing a military police post and an army recruitment center. In addition to the damage to the buildings, the force of the blast scattered dismembered bodies around the area. Among the innocent pedestrian casualties was a bus load of school children and a number of people who happened to be driving through the area in their automobiles. Syrian authorities have circulated a picture of an individual who they claimed drove the vehicle—reportedly laden with more than 200 pounds of explosives—to the target site but who was shot and killed just before the car exploded. Syrian officials have appealed to the local populace to provide information on the bomber.

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The 17 August bombing of the Prime Minister's office, the 3 September bombing of the Air Force headquarters and the 5 October bombing of a building housing Soviet advisors did not cause many casualties among the local civilian population. Whether or not these latest attackers desired to cause a large number of civilian casualties or simply miscalculated the final results is not clear at this time. The selection of a target at a major intersection in the middle of the day would suggest no concern for the local population.

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U.S. Marine Target of Attack in El Salvador

Unknown gunmen attacked a Marine sergeant attached to the Marine Security Guard Detachment at the U.S. Embassy in San Salvador on 1 December. Sergeant Dana Lau was en route to the Embassy about 0700 when he approached a vehicle which he thought was about to make a left-hand turn. As Lau passed the car on the right, he noticed that the two occupants were young men. Instead of turning left the vehicle began to follow Lau. About 15 to 30 feet after he had passed the vehicle, one of the men fired approximately 10 rounds from an Uzi submachinegun. As Lau increased his speed the assailant fired again, and the vehicle followed him for two blocks. Ten spent 9mm cartridges were recovered at the scene.

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The Farabundo Marti Popular Liberation Forces (FPL) called local radio and television stations at 1100 and claimed credit for the attack. The FPL indicated the location on El Progreso Street as the location at which the "attempted kidnapping took place against a U.S. military advisor". The terrorist mentioned a name similar to Sergeant Lau's.

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U.S. Embassy officials are not discounting the FPL's claim of an attempted kidnapping, although there are no indications at present that the attackers were aware of Lau's affiliation with the Embassy. The incident may have been a target of opportunity or a scare tactic. Lau took this route only by chance as he intended to stop at a dry cleaners, and the attackers had every opportunity to kill him when he passed them at the time he assumed they were making the turn. None of the rounds they fired hit the vehicle.

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Coup Attempt and Hijacking in Seychelles

On 25 November a group of 44 mercenaries led by professional soldier Colonel Mike Hoare arrived in Victoria, the capital of the Republic of Seychelles, aboard a Royal Swazi airliner and seized about 100 hostages, the passenger terminal, the control tower and the cargo area. The mercenaries were carrying passports issued by South Africa, Italy, United Kingdom, Zimbabwe, Australia, India and West Germany and were intending to topple the government of President Albert Rene. After 20 hours of heavy fighting in which six or seven mercenaries were killed, Seychelles Government forces were able to gain control of the situation. (U)

When the mercenaries realized the coup attempt was failing, they hijacked an Air India jetliner carrying 79 persons to Durban, South Africa. The Air India flight was on a scheduled stop between Salisbury, Zimbabwe, and Bombay, India, and arrived in the midst of the coup attempt. By noon on 27 November, all of the passengers and crew of the Air India flight had been freed unharmed, and the hijackers were under arrest in Durban. There reportedly was one dead and two wounded mercenaries on the Air India flight at the time it landed in Durban. (U)

An exiled Seychelles journalist living in London, Paul Chow, claimed responsibility for the bungled coup attempt to oust his country's Marxist government. According to news reports, Chow has vowed to try another coup attempt in Seychelles when the circumstances are right. (U)

Few details on the fate of the mercenaries are available, but they are under the control of the South African police and face possible prison terms of up to 30 years. (U)

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**CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL
TERRORIST INCIDENTS**

20 November 1981 Explosion Outside the Turkish Consulate in the United States

**United States,
Los Angeles** A bomb exploded at the entrance to the Turkish Consulate in Los Angeles. No injuries were reported, but there was property damage. The Justice Commando Group (an Armenian group) claimed responsibility for the bombing.

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25 November 1981 Explosion at British Army Barracks in West Germany

**West Germany,
Herford** A bomb exploded outside a British Army barracks in Herford. The small explosive device damaged the wall of an apartment building, but no injuries were reported. Local police have no clues to the perpetrators but said the Irish Republican Army may be responsible.

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26 November 1981 Air India Plane Hijacked to South Africa

Seychelles An Air India plane was hijacked by mercenaries following a coup attempt in the Seychelles. The plane was forced to fly to Durban, South Africa, where the hijackers surrendered to local authorities. No injuries were reported among the approximately 80 passengers and crew on the Air India plane.

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1 December 1981 U.S. Citizen Attacked in El Salvador

**El Salvador,
San Salvador** A U.S. military advisor assigned to the U.S. Embassy in San Salvador was the target of machinegun fire by unidentified gunmen. He was driving his car to work when the gunmen opened fire from a passing vehicle. The intended victim was unhurt.

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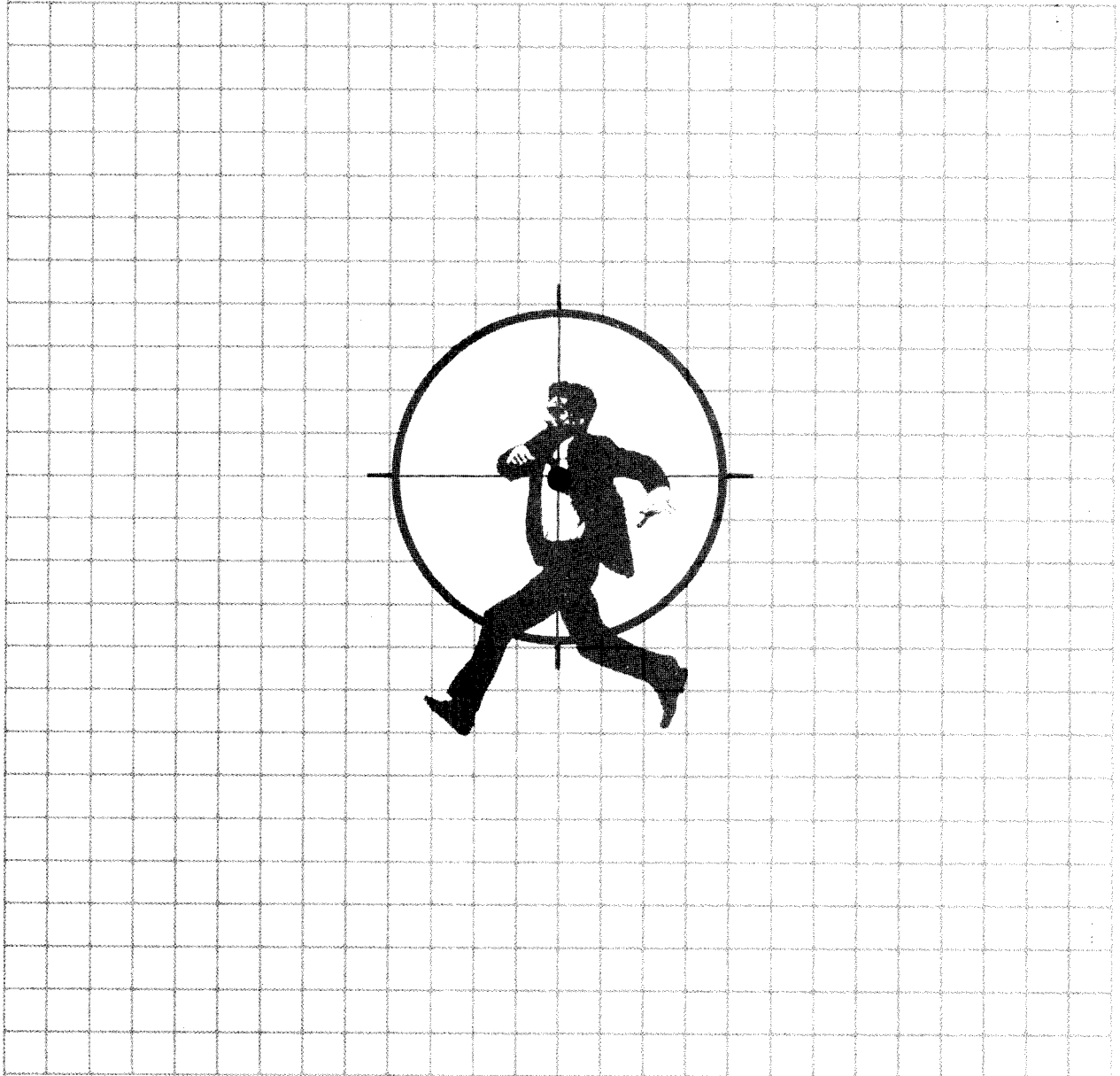
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