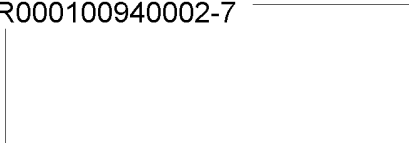


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Questions Without Answers

Often an event captures headlines, then fades from view with important questions unanswered — questions that defy news reporting, at least for a while. This column periodically offers a selection of such questions.

WANTED MAN. Where is the terrorist known as Carlos the Jackal? Two years have gone by since Carlos was positively identified as being involved in an operation. On Jan. 6, 1984, the French Interior Ministry said that handwriting specialists had identified Carlos, a Venezuelan whose real name is Illich Ramirez Sanchez, as the writer of a note claiming responsibility for two fatal New Year's Eve bombings in the south of France. Since then his whereabouts have been a mystery.

Getting the facts on Carlos is complicated by the range of his potential hideouts. He is known to have taken sanctuary in Libya and has maintained ties to Syria and Iraq. He is also believed to have maintained connections to Soviet and East European intelligence organizations, according to an American intelligence official.