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Syria's Four-Year Ties to Terrorism

The United States and the United Kingdom have officially confirmed what we have been reporting for years: that Syria has sponsored international terrorism. Syrian strongman Hafez Assad has been stirring up terrorist attacks against the West for at least four years.

There is no question that Syrian troops occupying Lebanon have protected the Iranian Shiites, who have held American and other Western hostages in the Bekaa Valley over the last two years. Not much happens in the Bekaa Valley without the Syrian army's knowledge and consent.

We were the first to disclose—on May 10, 1983—that the Bekaa Valley terrorists were responsible for the bombing a month earlier of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, which killed 17 Americans.

Since that first terrorist incident in the current cycle of anti-American violence, many other Americans have been murdered by Iranian Shiites—with the Syrians' help. All told, we count at least 270 Americans who have died as a result of the unholy Iranian-Syrian alliance. Here is the detailed indictment of this bloody conspiracy at work:

- October 1983—An Iranian-trained terrorist, with Syrian logistical help, car-bombed the U.S. Marine barracks at Beirut airport, killing 241 Americans.
- September 1984—Two Americans died in the suicide bombing of the Beirut embassy annex. U.S. intelligence sources are convinced the attack had Syrian support.
- December 1984—Two Americans were murdered and two others savagely tortured aboard

a Kuwaiti airliner hijacked to Tehran. The hijacking was planned and coordinated by the Ayatollah Mohtashani, then Iran's ambassador to Syria. We proved this by quoting word-for-word from a Dec. 4 NSA intercept of a telephone conversation between Mohtashani in Damascus and an Iranian foreign ministry official in Tehran.

- June 1985—A U.S. Navy man was murdered during the hijacking of TWA Flight 847, which U.S. intelligence sources say was the work of Iranians and Syrians.

- December 1985—Simultaneous terrorist attacks on the Rome and Vienna airports left six Americans dead. Although Libya helped Abu Nidal's terrorists stage these atrocities, secret intelligence evidence we've seen shows that Iran and Syria were equally to blame. As we reported earlier this year, the two four-man terrorist teams got their training and operational planning in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley.

Under the Dome: The ill-fated American Embassy a-building in Moscow for the past couple of decades continues to fuel a snarling match between State Department officials and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff. At one point in the discussions, the exasperated Senate staffers proposed that all further work on the embassy be halted until the State Department gets its act together. The diplomats chewed this over for a while, then protested that such a move would cost time and money. Responded the committee staff with bitter sarcasm: "It is obvious that speed and economy have not been the hallmarks of this particular project."