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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC 01402-87
30 March 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Director of Central Intelligence
FROM: Charles E. Allen
National Intelligence Officer for Counterterrorism
SUBJECT: Terrorism Warning and Forecast Report

Representatives of the Intelligence Community met on 20 March 1987 to discuss the following issues: the Colonel Hawari Apparatus, counterterrorism exchanges with Soviet Bloc countries, terrorist threat in Peru, and threats associated with the trial of the Pan Am 73 hijackers. Attached is my report.

Charles E. Allen
Charles E. Allen

Attachment:
As stated

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Warning Report - Terrorism

Discussion Items

1. Colonel Hawari Apparatus

A representative of CIA/NESA/PG requested the opportunity to present his views on Colonel Hawari's terrorist organization, which was covered in depth at the February meeting. He has serious doubts that Iraq had knowledge of Hawari's terrorist activities against the US, although it may have directed his activities against Syria. Moreover, in the CIA analyst's view, the evidence does not permit an assertion that Iraq did not shut down the 15 May apparatus. Finally, the available evidence permits few categorical statements about this group.

Other participants agreed it is difficult to assess Iraq's role, but Hawari clearly has directed six anti-US operations from Baghdad in the period between fall 1985 and April 1986. There is no Community agreement on whether Iraq had knowledge of or influence over those activities.

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3. Terrorist Threat in Peru

A CIA/DDI/ALA representative gave an excellent synopsis of the major terrorist organizations in Peru, and a State/DS officer who recently returned from assignment in Lima elaborated on the implications for the US.

Sendero Luminoso (SL) was summarized in the following way:

- approximately 4,000-5,000 members;
- propagandizing more and recruiting radicals from the United Left;
- expanding its activities into Cuzco and Puno;
- no evidence of sustained cooperation between SL and narcotraffickers nor deep links with M-19, American Battalion, or other terrorist groups;
- presents a high threat to government and military officials as well as to the general populus;
- presents a high threat to US interests because it does not discriminate in its targeting.

The Revolutionary Movement Tupac Amaru (MRTA) was synopsisized thus:

- approximately 2,000-3,000 members;
- moving into the south and north where SL is not strong and may be creating new cells outside Lima;
- has conducted greatest number of anti-US attacks; so far against property, not people;
- has tried to establish links with M-19.

The Peruvian government has significant deficiencies in dealing with this threat:

- military services are oriented to the potential external threat;

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- lacks an effective crisis management structure to deal with terrorist events;

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- desires increased counterterrorist assistance.

WARNING NOTES: To embarrass the government, Sendero Luminoso has shown an increasing propensity to attack foreign interests in Peru when President Garcia is visiting abroad. Counterterrorism information or tactics given to the Peruvians is likely to be passed to the Soviets through the military services.

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4. Abu Nidal Threat Resulting from Impending Trials

CIA and FAA representatives discussed [redacted] Abu Nidal (AN) hit teams positioning themselves in India and elsewhere for activities when the trial of the Pan Am 73 hijackers begins, probably in Karachi early in April. It was noted that trials of other Abu Nidal members are soon to begin in Italy, and possibly in Austria and Malta.

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While the threat of retaliatory action in India has received considerable attention, CIA analysts noted that AN has never before attacked and taken hostages, prior to a trial of one of its members but rather has a history of initiating dialogue with governments in attempts to secure their release.

FAA believes the trial will commence in early April, the hijackers will receive a fair trial, and expeditiously be hung. AN members may seek to secure release of their associates before or during the trial. US air carriers serving India have been alerted to the potential AN threat and other carriers in Asia will be advised. It was agreed that the Intelligence Community will issue a threat advisory on potential AN terrorist activities in response to upcoming trials.

5. Narco-terrorism

Because of a congressional mandate to assess the threat posed by collaboration between terrorists and narcotics traffickers, the NIOs for Narcotics and Counterterrorism will jointly host a series of ad-hoc meetings to review intelligence collection and analysis on the topic. The first meeting is scheduled for 3 April, room 7D32 from 1030-1200.

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