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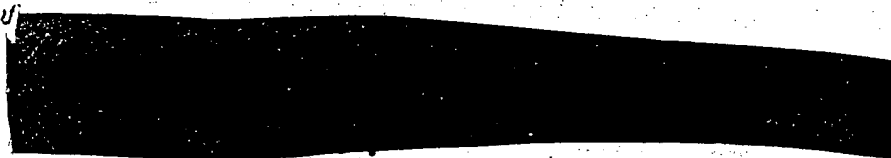
LD DC



Directorate of Intelligence

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# Terrorism Review



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10 January 1991

Approved for Release  
Date JUN 1999

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10 January 1991



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Terrorism Review **b3**

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<b>Focus</b>	<b>Persian Gulf: The Terrorist Threat</b> [Redacted]	1	<b>b (3)</b>
	Iraq and its client Palestinian groups have made extensive preparations for terrorist attacks against US, other Western, and moderate Arab targets. If war erupts in the Gulf, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn will almost certainly unleash a major terrorist campaign, with simultaneous attacks likely to occur in several geographic regions. Mob violence is also probable in countries where pro-Iraqi sentiment is strong. [Redacted]		<b>b (3)</b>
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	The security situation in Beirut is improving, but the recently returned US Embassy staff will be at significant risk for the foreseeable future. Possible assailants include Hizballah elements, supporters of ousted Christian General Awn, and other groups with grievances against the United States. [Redacted]		<b>b (3)</b>
	<b>Country Profile: Terrorism in Chile</b> <i>Counterterrorist Center</i>	15	<b>b (3)</b>
	With terrorism on an upswing in Chile, we take note of recent incidents and of the groups to watch as potential perpetrators of future attacks. (C NF)		
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**Terrorism Review**

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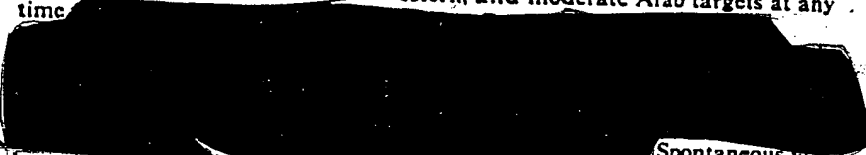
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Focus

**Persian Gulf: The Terrorist Threat**

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Iraqi intelligence services and client Palestinian groups are capable of launching terrorist attacks against US, other Western, and moderate Arab targets at any time.



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Spontaneous violence is also a danger in countries with significant pro-Iraqi sentiment such as Jordan and Yemen.

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**Poised for Attack**



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Since the deployment of Western forces to Saudi Arabia, US diplomatic and military facilities worldwide have received dozens of threatening telephone calls and letters. Some threats appear to be part of a harassment campaign orchestrated by Baghdad or conducted by supporters of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn; identical calls and letters have been received in several countries. A select few may be genuine warnings of terrorist attacks.

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Such harassment is encouraged by the propaganda campaign being waged by senior Iraqi officials, Palestinian extremists, and Islamic leaders. Saddam repeatedly has called for a Muslim "holy war," and his allegation that US military forces are defiling Muslim holy sites has prompted calls by Palestinian and Islamic fundamentalist leaders for terrorist attacks against Western and moderate Arab targets.

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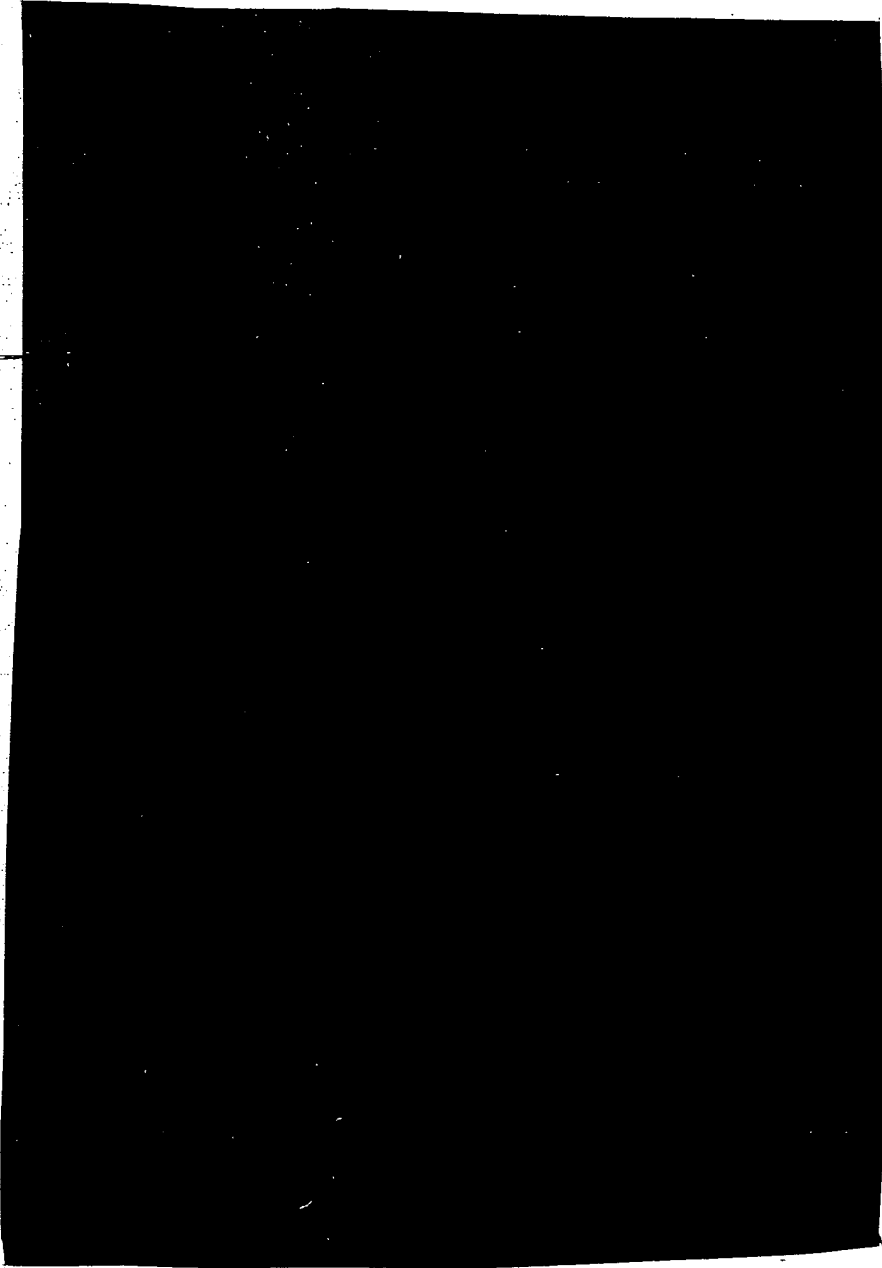
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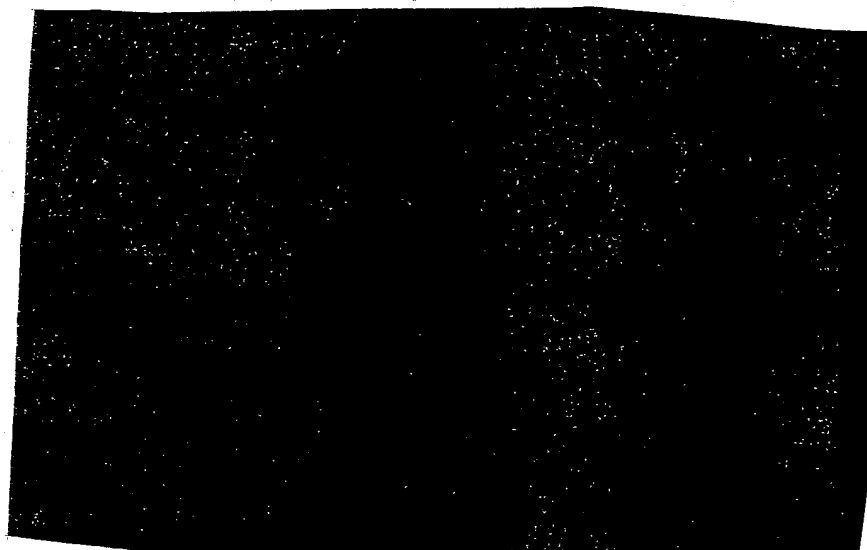
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Most groups appear to link implementation of their terrorist plans to hostilities in the Gulf, but a number of factors could induce one or more of the groups to act earlier. These include resentment of the Western military presence and concern about the possibility of a diplomatic settlement that would leave the group's goals unfulfilled. The ANO, for example, which is dedicated to the destruction of Israel, might stage a major terrorist incident in order to light the fuse of a Middle Eastern war that almost certainly would include Israel.

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Iran appears to be seeking to exploit Palestinian ferment against Israel and probably will encourage Palestinian terrorism within Israel and abroad. In early December, for example, Tehran hosted an international conference on the *intifadah*, including the PFLP-GC and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad among the participants. Iranian rhetoric at this conference stressed support for armed resistance to Israel. Iran almost certainly regards support for Palestinian violence as a means to blunt Iraq's appeal among the Palestinians and to burnish its own revolutionary credentials.

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**Outlook**

In our judgment, Saddam has been keeping the terrorist option in reserve while he attempts to take advantage of international diplomatic initiatives. Baghdad almost certainly believes that the United States would use terrorist attacks traceable to Iraq as a reason to initiate hostilities.

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As the 15 January UN Security Council deadline for Iraqi withdrawal draws closer, Saddam may explore the utility of the terrorist option against moderate Arab states. We believe his strategy would be to use terrorist attacks cast as the work of domestic opponents in order to foment unrest in Arab countries aligned against Iraq.

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The threat to US and other Western interests is equally strong from entities not controlled by Iraq. Palestinian and Muslim extremists—many backed by Iran—who believe the United States wants a permanent presence in the region may conduct attacks to weaken Arab support for the multinational coalition and to drive out the United States.

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If war erupts, Saddam almost certainly will unleash a major terrorist campaign against Western—particularly US—interests. Multiple, simultaneous attacks are likely to occur in several geographic regions—possibly including the United States—in an effort to capture maximum publicity and sow widespread panic.

[REDACTED] Groups that have prepared terrorist attacks independently of Baghdad are poised and eager to act. Some European and Latin American terrorist groups may also follow through on their stated intentions to attack US targets in the event of war. Mob violence against US installations is probable, particularly in countries such as Jordan and Yemen, where pro-Iraq sentiment is strong.

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If the current crisis is resolved short of war, Iraq almost certainly will keep its terrorist apparatus intact for future use. Saddam is likely to use it for revenge against Arab states that opposed him—particularly Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Egypt. Attacks against US and other Western targets are unlikely while a substantial military presence remains poised on the border. Once the multinational force draws down, however, Saddam may secretly approve attacks against US interests to demonstrate that his agreement to a diplomatic solution has not diminished his independence from Western influence.

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**Highlights** b (3)

**Significant Developments**

Europe

Greece

**17 November Strikes EC**

On the evening of 16 December, the Greek terrorist group Revolutionary Organization 17 November launched a rocket attack against the downtown Athens offices of the European Community (EC). The destroyed offices were vacant at the time, although two women waiting for a bus were injured by flying glass. The attack came minutes after an anonymous male telephoned a warning to an Athens daily.

[REDACTED]

They were then launched simultaneously from a vacant apartment building across the street from the EC offices. b (3)

The 17 November group has made Athens's economic austerity program, particularly the government's plans to sell off state companies, the focus of its propaganda campaign this year. The 17 November attack clearly was timed to embarrass the government before the EC and to demonstrate contempt for Parliament's recent passage of a counterterrorism law expanding police investigative powers. In a six-page proclamation claiming responsibility for the attack, the group condemned the EC for "forcing a policy of strict austerity on the Greek people" as a precondition for a major European loan. The attack followed Prime Minister Mitsotakis's return from the EC summit in Rome. In addition, the terrorists threatened the Saudis and condemned their plans to buy 50 percent of the state refineries; the group also reiterated its recent threats to Germany for failing to pay war reparations owed to Greece. This was the fourth terrorist incident targeting the EC offices since 1988 and the third 17 November rocket attack in 1990; the two other rocket incidents targeted the US firm Proctor and Gamble and a prominent Greek industrialist.

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Spain

**ETA Steps Up Attacks**

The Spanish domestic terrorist group Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA) launched a series of attacks against security officials and civilians in November and December. The most lethal incident occurred on 8 December when ETA remotely detonated a powerful car bomb in a northern suburb of Barcelona, killing six police officers and wounding two others. Eight civilians were also injured in the attack.

In a separate incident, ETA assassinated a newspaper vendor in San Sebastian on 13 December. In its call claiming responsibility, ETA stated that the man was a police informer.

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These terrorist incidents are the latest in a recent surge of explosive, incendiary, and direct attacks by ETA terrorists. In November the group was responsible for at least six bombings and an equal number of fires targeted against security officials, as well as individuals and equipment associated with the construction of a controversial highway project linking Madrid and the Basque region. Despite continued attacks, which claimed 25 lives by late December, Spanish and French authorities arrested many ETA terrorists in 1990.

one of these leaders to 10 years in prison.

Moreover, France sentenced

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Middle East

United Arab Emirates

Potential Terrorist Targets

Terrorist attacks against United Arab Emirates (UAE) interests could have an impact on US military operations in the Persian Gulf.

[Redacted]

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Saddam Husayn has stated publicly that the UAE would be punished for siding with the West and permitting US military personnel to be based in the Emirates.

[Redacted]

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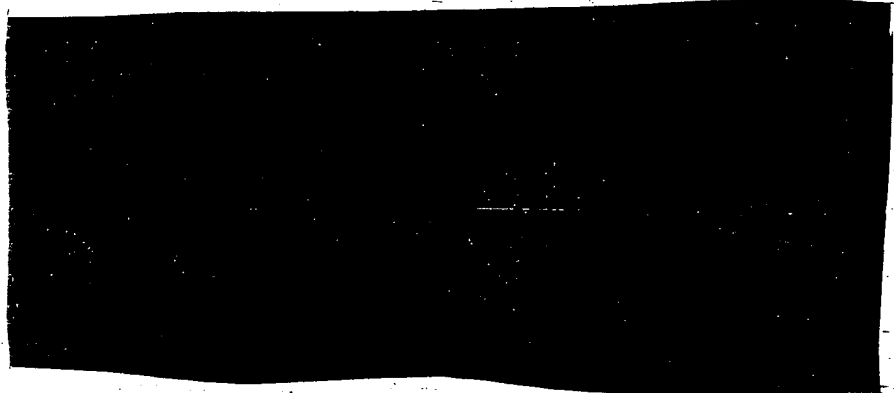
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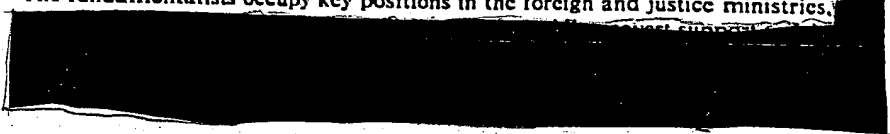
**Sudan**

**ANO Terrorists To Be Released**

Sudan's national court decided on 7 January to release the five Abu Nidal organization (ANO) members convicted of carrying out grenade and machinegun attacks on the British club and the Acropole Hotel in Khartoum in 1988 that killed eight persons and injured 20. The Sudanese court, applying Islamic law, said its decision was based on the refusal of the victims' families—most of whom are British citizens—to impose the death penalty or to accept financial compensation from the defendants.

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Sudan's decision to release the ANO members reflects worsening Sudanese relations with the West and underscores the high terrorist threat to Western interests in Sudan. Islamic fundamentalists increasingly control the Bashiri regime and have contributed to the government's pro-Iraqi tilt in the current Gulf crisis. The fundamentalists occupy key positions in the foreign and justice ministries.



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**Latin America**

**El Salvador**

**FMLN Insurgents Execute US Servicemen**

Members of the Salvadoran Farabundo Marti Liberation Front (FMLN) summarily executed two US servicemen on 2 January after shooting down their transport helicopter. The helicopter



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The helicopter was flying east along the Pan-American Highway in order to avoid crossing zones in northern El Salvador where Salvadoran military aircraft had received FMLN fire in the last several weeks.

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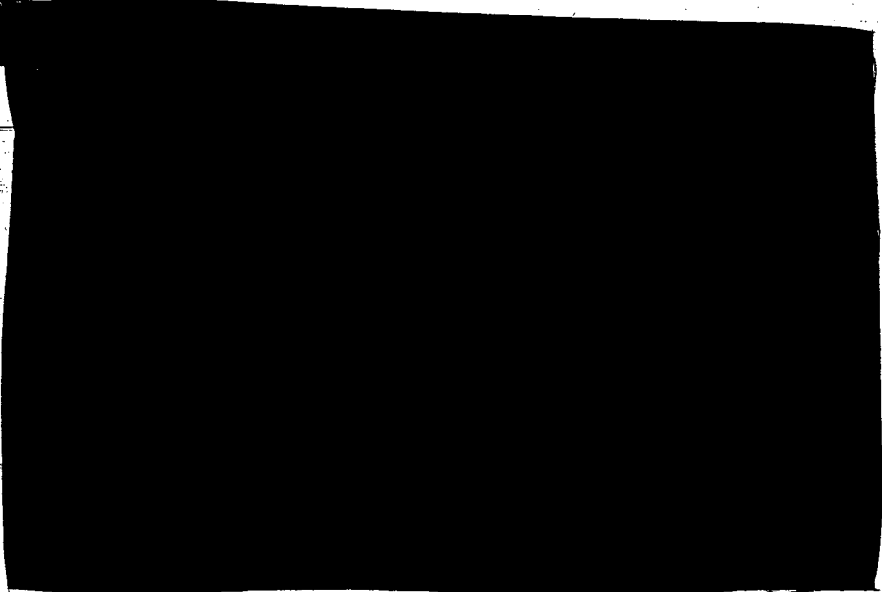
Although the insurgents may have initially mistaken the helicopter for a Salvadoran aircraft, two of the three US servicemen were killed in an execution-style murder. [redacted] The other died of injuries sustained in the crash.

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[redacted] The incident underscores the chances of US personnel in the area getting caught up in a terrorist or military incident. [redacted]

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Colombia

**ELN Kidnaps US Petroleum Engineers**

The National Liberation Army (ELN) kidnapped three US petroleum engineers and two Colombians in the Norte de Santander Department on 25 November, continuing its activities against the US oil companies. One of the Colombians was released. All were employees of or contractors to Ecopetrol, the state-owned oil company in which US oil companies have heavy investments. As of 10 January, the kidnapers had not made known their demands for release of the engineers.

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The ELN has been responsible for numerous attacks against US oil interests in Colombia, demanding the nationalization of the oil industry and designating multinational oil corporations working in the country as military targets. The ELN

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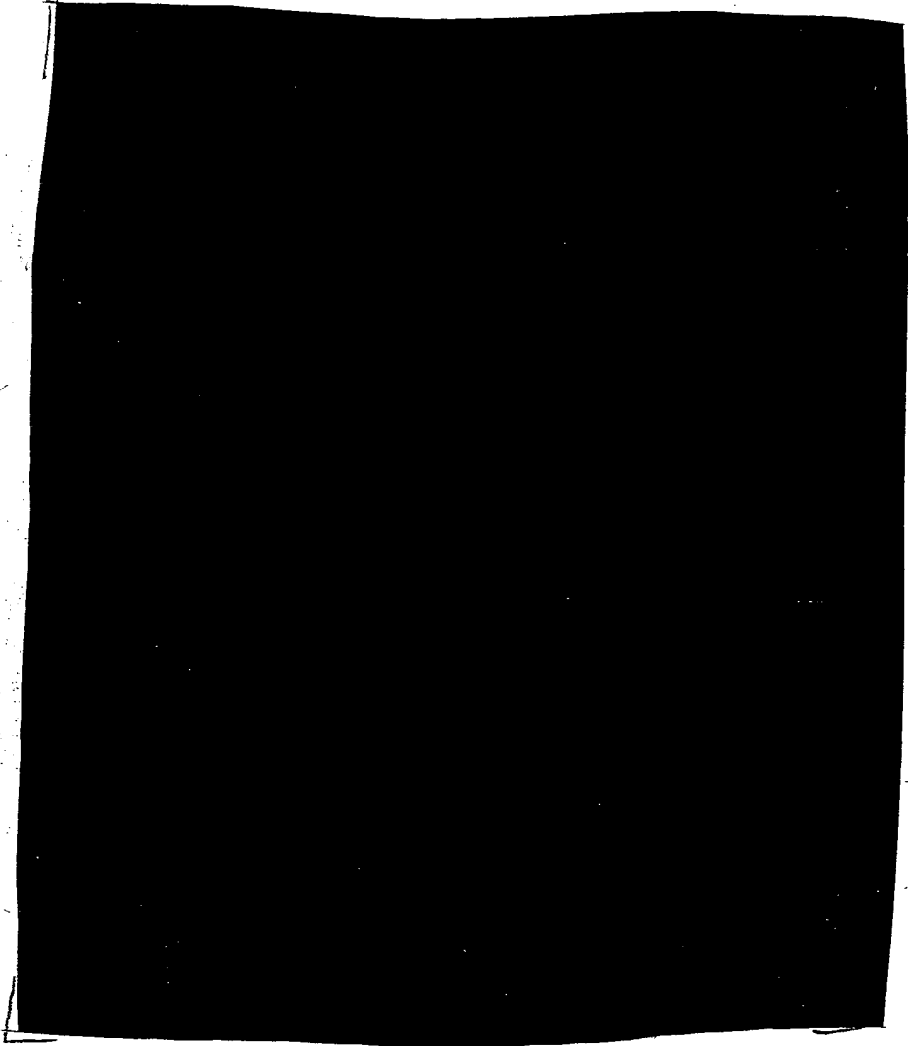
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charges that the multinationals are stealing Colombia's oil and advocates expropriation of foreign oil assets without reimbursement. The ELN will almost certainly demand payment for the return of the hostages and meanwhile will probably use them to continue pressing US oil companies to leave Colombia.

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### The Terrorist Threat to US Personnel in Lebanon

The security situation in Beirut is improving, but the recently returned US Embassy staff will be at significant risk of terrorist attacks from a variety of groups for the foreseeable future. We believe Hizballah elements and supporters of ousted Christian Gen. Michel Awn, many of whom believe they were sold out by the United States, pose the greatest threat. Other groups with significant grievances against the United States—elements of the former US Embassy guard force fired in 1989, for example, and extremist Palestinian groups—may also attempt to settle old scores with Washington.

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If war breaks out in the Gulf, Iraq could call on extremist Palestinian groups resident in Lebanon—such as the Abu Nidal organization and the Popular Liberation Front (PLF)—to target US personnel in Lebanon.

security plan, and, in our judgment, all militias have retained fighters and small and medium arms throughout the city. Clashes between rival militias, particularly Christian militias operating in the 'Awkar area, could erupt without warning, trapping US personnel.

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Positive political developments such as the elimination of the Green Line and the reopening of roads throughout Lebanon have negative security implications. The unification of Beirut, for example, facilitates the movement of radical Shia, Palestinian, and Christian elements into and within the city. This makes it easier for terrorist groups to surveil the US Embassy compound and monitor the movement of US personnel around Beirut.

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### Security Situation in Beirut

The implementation of a government security plan has improved security conditions in Beirut, and some semblance of order has returned to the capital. Christian and Muslim militias have moved most forces out of Beirut, while the government continues to deploy units of the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) throughout the city. The situation nonetheless remains fragile. [redacted] the essential next step for the Lebanese Government is to take effective rather than symbolic control of Greater Beirut and disarm all militias as stipulated in the Taif National Reconciliation Accord.

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The major militia groups are pursuing a policy of tacit cooperation with the government, but they are continuing to stall on issues directly affecting their power. [redacted] tensions and mutual distrust among the militias remain high. They have traded accusations about lack of compliance with the

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**Terrorist Threat Facing US Personnel**

Of all Western targets in Lebanon, US interests are at greatest risk. Although other Western nations have operated embassies in Beirut without interruption over the past several years, the threat to these embassies has been lower historically than that facing US diplomats. Several factors account for the higher anti-US threat:

- The large number of terrorist groups resident in Lebanon that strongly oppose US influence in the Middle East and, in particular, US support for Israel.
- The perception among many Lebanese and Palestinians living in Lebanon that the United States has been responsible for the political disintegration of the country over the past 20 years.
- The status of the United States as a superpower and the leader of the Western community in Lebanon, and thus a symbolic, high-profile target for attack.

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In our view, the following groups pose the most serious threat to US interests:

**Hizballah.** Since its inception in 1982, Hizballah has publicly pledged to eliminate Western, particularly US, influence in Lebanon. In pursuit of this goal, the

group has carried out a number of attacks against US and Western targets, including car-bombings against the US Embassy and Marine barracks in 1983 and the kidnapping of more than 60 Westerners. Hizballah continues to be opposed to a US presence in Lebanon, and we believe the group may attempt to carry out an attack against the recently reopened US Embassy in Beirut. Despite the Syrian move into Beirut, some Hizballah terrorists certainly have remained in the area, and the group probably has maintained a considerable arsenal throughout the city.

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Hizballah terrorists are planning attacks against US, UK, and French targets in Lebanon and elsewhere if war breaks out in the Gulf. Given Hizballah's strength in Lebanon, it would be easier for the group to plan and carry out an operation directed against the US Embassy in Beirut than in other Middle Eastern or West European countries.

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**Christian Threat.** The United States is perceived by elements of the Christian community to have acquiesced or even given tacit approval to the Syrian move ousting Christian Gen. Michel Awn. Awn supporters believe that the United States is also partly to blame for the subsequent looting by Syrian troops.

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Disgruntled Christians pose a particularly serious threat to US interests because they might be able to compromise the effectiveness of the LAF and local guard force that are responsible for the Embassy's security.

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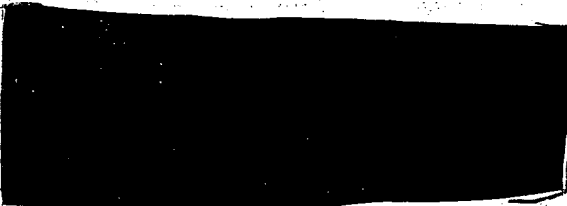
*Other Candidates.* There are numerous other elements in Lebanon that have both the capability and motivation to attack US interests:

- Some former guards dismissed when the Embassy closed in September 1989 have not been rehired and may harbor grudges.

with the implementation of the Greater Beirut security plan. As US personnel become more active, their vulnerability to terrorist attacks will grow. The permanent presence of US personnel enables terrorist elements to monitor US activities and carefully plan an attack, thus increasing the likelihood of success. In addition to car-bombings and assassinations, some groups may attempt to kidnap US personnel.

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**Outlook**

Security at the US Embassy will improve as additional measures are implemented, but US officials in Lebanon remain prime terrorist targets for the foreseeable future. There have been no specific threats against the Embassy or its staff since the return to Beirut in late November, but this may reflect the preoccupation of Hizballah, the Christians, and others

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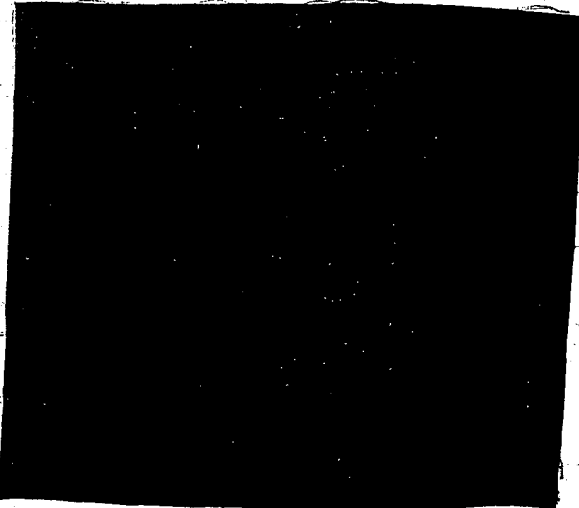
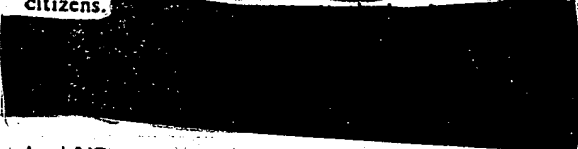


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**Country Profile: Terrorism in Chile** b (3)

Chile experienced a sharp upsurge in terrorist attacks in 1990, specifically focused against US targets, prompting increased concern for the safety of US citizens.

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Anti-US terrorism appears to be taking a disturbing turn toward more sophisticated and lethal attacks. On 3 November a restaurant frequented by foreigners was bombed, injuring three US sailors. On 17 November a bomb concealed in a bat exploded at a softball game, killing one Canadian and severely injuring a US Embassy employee. Previous incidents appear to have been designed more to harass than to injure or kill. Anti-US attacks are likely to continue at the same or an even greater pace in the near term because of the radical left's frustration at not having a greater influence over the newly formed democratic government, which they view as US backed. They consider the government no more than a continuation of the Pinochet regime—one that does not address human rights abuses, the concerns of political prisoners, or the left's socioeconomic agenda.

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*Below are described selected noteworthy foreign and international events involving terrorists or the use of terrorist tactics. These events have occurred or come to light since our last issue. In some cases, the perpetrators and their motivations may not be known. Events and developments that have already been described elsewhere in this publication are not included.*

**b (3)****Europe****1 December**

*Northern Ireland: Former Ulster Defense Regiment soldier shot and killed and his wife seriously injured in South Londonderry. The Provisional Irish Republican Army (PIRA) claimed responsibility.*

**b (3)****2 December**

*France: Bomb detonates at European University of America in Paris. The Gracchus Babeuf group claimed responsibility.*

**b (3)****5 December**

*Belgium: Three suspected PIRA members arrested and arms and ammunition recovered during raid in Antwerp.*

**b (3)****6 December**

*Spain: Package bomb, mailed to an engineer on the Irurzun-Beasain highway project, deactivated by Civil Guard explosive technicians. The Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA) is suspected.*

**b (3)**

*France: Bomb destroys apartment building under construction in Biarritz. The Iparretarrak terrorist group logo was left at the scene.*

**9 December**

*Turkey: Separatist terrorists shoot and kill three civilians during raid on home in Akarsu village in Mardin Province.*

**b (3)****12 December**

*Turkey: Two Dev-Sol terrorists shoot and kill retired police lieutenant waiting for bus in Istanbul.*

**b (3)**

*France: Bomb damages office belonging to US cosmetics firm in Paris. The Gracchus Babeuf group claimed responsibility.*

**b (3)****14 December**

*Spain: Simultaneous bombings of National Police vehicles in San Sebastian and Amorebieta cause one death and two injuries. ETA claimed responsibility.*

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15 December

Spain: Explosive device, [redacted], detonates near a National Police station in Basauri, injuring six civilians in a passing vehicle. ETA claimed responsibility. [redacted]

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18 December

Turkey: Retired Turkish National Intelligence Organization employee shot and killed in front of his store in Uskudar. The Turkish Workers and Peasants Liberation Army (TIKKO) claimed responsibility. [redacted]

b3

Spain: Package bomb, addressed to a firm involved in the Irurzun-Andoain highway project but stolen by a postal employee, explodes, injuring his wife. ETA is suspected. [redacted]

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20 December

Spain: Car bomb explodes, [redacted] in Valencia, injuring [redacted] and 10 civilians. ETA is suspected. [redacted]

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25 December

Greece: Molotov cocktail, thrown by persons on a motorcycle, damages Ioniki-Laiki Bank in Athens suburb. The "Antistate Cell" organization claimed responsibility. [redacted]

b3

26 December

Turkey: Four TIKKO members paint slogan and set fire to the Kartal Headquarters of the Nationalist Labor Party near Istanbul. [redacted]

b3

27 December

Northern Ireland: PIRA gunmen open fire on border checkpoint in Rosslea village minutes after the expiration of the group's Christmas cease-fire. There were no injuries. [redacted]

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Middle East

5 December

West Bank: Shots fired at Israeli bus and a following van wound three of the bus passengers near Jalazone refugee camp. [redacted]

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West Bank: Masked activists shoot and kill a suspected Palestinian collaborator in Janin. [redacted]

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8 December

Lebanon: Unknown gunmen fire a rocket propelled grenade at an educational institute in Ad Dubayyah, Beirut, wounding a passer-by. [redacted]

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11 December

Gaza Strip: Masked individuals shoot and kill a suspected collaborator from Dayr al Balah refugee camp. [redacted]

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- 12 December *Gaza Strip: Masked men break the arms and legs of a suspected collaborator from Nusayrat refugee camp.* b (3)
- 13 December *Israel: Palestinians stab and kill three Israelis in an aluminum plant in Yafu. Hamas has claimed responsibility.* b (3)  
*Lebanon: Gunmen hurl a bomb at the Phalangist Party Center in Kafr Shima, Beirut, wounding two residents of a nearby house.* b (3)  
*West Bank: Masked men kill suspected collaborator from Janin.* b (3)
- 17 December *West Bank: Masked men attack and wound a suspected collaborator from Ram Allah.* b (3)
- 23 December *Lebanon: Two gunmen shoot and kill Phalangist Party leader Emile Dawn and wound his wife in their home.* b (3)
- 24 December *West Bank: Masked men shoot and kill a suspected collaborator in Al Birah.* b (3)
- 27 December *West Bank: Suspected Israeli gunman shoots and wounds three Arab car passengers near Gush 'Etzyon. The Organization for Zionist Retribution claimed responsibility.* b (3)
- Latin America
- 1 December *Chile: Four Lautaro Youth Movement (MJL) members toss bomb at Mormon chapel in Santiago, causing moderate damage to the building.* b (3)  
*Chile: Four MJL members fire into the unoccupied home of a Chilean family hosting two American Mormon missionaries in the Conchali section of Santiago. "Yankees out of Chile MJL" was spray painted on the house.* b (3)
- 3 December *Peru: Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) kidnaps well-known chemical-pharmaceutical businessman Hory Halfin from garage in Lince and detonates a bomb in his car. A guard was shot and wounded as they escaped.* b (3)
- 4 December *Argentina: Explosion at the Bank of Boston on eve of President Bush's visit to Buenos Aires causes major damage but no injuries. The Eva Peron Command claimed responsibility.* b (3)

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5 December

Chile: Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR) members toss small bomb in front of US Consulate in Santiago on eve of President Bush's visit. No damage or injuries were reported.

B3  
Bolivia: Commando Nestor Paz Zamora (CNPZ) members assassinate hostage Jorge Lonsdale, prominent businessman and Coca Cola manager held since 10 June, after police surround their hideout. Four CNPZ members were killed and two policemen wounded in the ensuing shootout. b3

6 December

Haiti: Explosion at Aristide political rally kills seven and wounds at least 50 persons in Petionville. Supporters of hardline Duvalierist Roger Lafontant are believed responsible. b3

Chile: FPMR terrorists detonate bomb on grounds of Santiago hotel where aides to President Bush have reservations. No damage or injuries were reported. b3

Chile: Three FPMR members hurl explosive into McDonalds restaurant in Santiago. Leaflets from the FPMR, a Palestine Liberation Organization flag and a note saying "Free Palestinian political prisoners" were left at the scene. b3

10 December

Peru: Sendero Luminoso (SL) guerrillas kill seven Peruvian residents and destroy all equipment and facilities at exploration camp of Mobil Oil at Barranca in the upper Huallaga Valley. b1 b3

Peru: terrorists detonate at least four explosive devices in Lima, targeting Soviet, Japanese, and American Embassies. There were no injuries and only minor damages in the four blasts. b3

12 December

Colombia: The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) detonates remote-control bomb in Medellin. b1 b3

14 December

Colombia: Ten-kilogram TNT explosion in front of Medellin health club injures five persons in a passing vehicle and causes serious property damage. There has been no claim of responsibility.

15 December

Colombia: bomb detonates under occupied police vehicle in Medellin. There has been no claim of responsibility. b1 b3

Colombia: Ten FARC members force crew and passengers out of plane landing at Villagarzon Airport in Mocoa and set it on fire. b3

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16 December

*Chile: [redacted] MJL members evacuate Sunday School class in Mormon chapel and set fire, which guts the building.*

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*Guatemala: Bomb explosion one block from headquarters of the national police in Guatemala City causes serious damage to businesses. The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Union (URNG) claimed responsibility.*

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*Nicaragua: Two grenades thrown at the unoccupied Managua home of Deputy Humberto Castilla, a Nicaraguan Social Christian, destroy his car but cause no injuries. There has been no claim of responsibility.*

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