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TR 89-017

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Terrorism Review



10 August 1989

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10 August 1989

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1 Focus: Libya: What's Qadhafi Up to Now? [Redacted]

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Middle East

Lebanon

Death of US Hostage

The Organization of the Oppressed on Earth announced on 31 July that it had hanged US Marine Lt. Col. William Richard Higgins. The announcement was accompanied by a videotape purporting to show Higgins's execution; however, the time of death has not been confirmed. Hizballah claims that the execution was done in retaliation for Israel's abduction on 28 July of Shaykh Ubayd, a Hizballah leader in southern Lebanon. The Organization of the Oppressed on Earth is one of several names under which Hizballah factions have claimed responsibility for hostage takings. Hizballah subsequently has threatened to kill other US hostages unless Ubayd is released. Israel continues interrogating Ubayd and has publicly expressed the desire to trade him for captive Israeli personnel and the Western hostages.

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Syria

SSNP Stepping Up Activity?

The Syrian Social Nationalist Party (SSNP)—a Syrian-supported, Lebanese-based group—has stepped up operational and organizational activity in recent months.

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In the past, the SSNP has confined much of its operational activity to Lebanon. In 1985 the group carried out a series of suicide bomb attacks in southern Lebanon, killing an estimated 85 persons and wounding 276 others—most of the casualties were members of the Israeli army or pro-Israeli South Lebanon Army. Factional feuding within the SSNP over the past couple of years apparently disrupted the group's internal cohesion and operational activity. Having overcome internal differences, the group may now be trying to bolster its reputation, enlist financial support, and encourage recruitment.

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Latin America

Chile

Increasing Terrorist Violence

A new surge of terrorist violence has hit Chile in the past month. Most of the actions have been carried out by two associated terrorist groups, the Lautaro Youth Movement (MJL) and the Lautaro Popular Revolutionary Forces (FRPL), which have claimed responsibility for four attacks on Mormon chapels, the shooting of three policemen, and several robberies since the beginning of July. The characteristically active dissident faction of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR/D) contributed to the growing violence in two attacks on 27 July—a bomb was detonated near the Presidential Palace, and a radio station in Vina del Mar

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