

Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

DCI/DDCI Executive Staff

5 November 1986

NOTE TO DDCI

Attached are the two things you asked for earlier this week for your upcoming speeches -- the numbers on Soviet aid to Nicaragua, Angola, etc., and the evidence on Syrian, Libyan, and Iranian state support for counterterrorism.

On the former, the authors tell me that you could easily use the grand total numbers on the two tables on an unclassified basis. I have asked them to try to get you some better numbers on the Turkish information.

On the latter, I think you will find more than enough to indict. The CTC has mixed unclassified with classified material, but you will find that most of the sentences are carefully marked. I suspect that much of what they have classified is judgmental rather than derived from specific reports.

Paul

They've looked - don't have anything more specific.

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Libyan Involvement in Hijacking of Egyptair Flight 648 and the Attacks on the El Al Airport Ticket Counters.

Evidence of Libyan involvement in the November 1985 hijacking of Egyptair Flight 648 and the December attacks on the El Al counters at the Vienna and Rome airports is largely circumstantial. It is not clear whether Libya participated in the planning or execution of the hijacking, but it certainly moved quickly to exploit the situation. Evidence of Libyan complicity in the airport attacks is more concrete, and we judge it likely that Libya played at least a logistical support role. [redacted]

(b)(3)

Egyptair

While there is no "smoking gun" with which to convict Libya for the hijacking, there is evidence of Libyan involvement:

-- [redacted] the hijackers wanted to be flown to Tunisia or Tripoli, Libya. [redacted]

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-- The Libyan ambassador in Malta spoke with the hijackers at their request. [redacted]

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[redacted]

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El Al Attacks

There is better evidence tying Libya to the Rome and Vienna attacks on 27 December. ✓

-- Tunisian officials reported that Libya provided the three passports used by the terrorists in Vienna. Two had been seized from Tunisians expelled from Libya last fall, and the third had been lost by a Tunisian resident in Libya. [redacted]

(b)(3)

-- While the Libyan press quickly provided supporting rhetoric, calling the attacks "heroic operations", Qadhafi dissassociated himself from these comments after an international uproar. [redacted]

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Recent Libyan Activity

[redacted] one of the suspects arrested by Pakistani authorities in connection with the attempted hijacking of Pan Am Flight 73 has ties to Libya and that Libya probably provided logistical support to the hijackers. [redacted]

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Libya also has been implicated in a number of other extremely vicious anti-Western attacks. [redacted]

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On 5 April, Tripoli undeniably sponsored an attack--probably conducted by Palestinians--against the La Belle discotheque in West Berlin, killing three people including one American.

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(b)(1)

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In response to the retaliatory airstrikes launched by the United States on Tripoli and Banghazi on 14 April, Libya initiated a new round of terrorist violence.

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-- On 15 April a US Embassy communicator was shot and severely wounded in Khartoum, Sudan. Circumstantial evidence points strongly to Libyan involvement.

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-- The British Government has publicly blamed Libya for the death of two British teachers kidnaped in West Beirut in late March. Their bodies, along with that of American Peter Kilburn--a hostage since December 1984 who may have been held by an independent group

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[redacted]

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in Lebanon and "sold" to the Libyans--were found together on 17 April. ^u Libya, therefore probably had a hand in Kilburn's death as well. ^u The note accompanying the bodies said that they had been executed in retaliation for the US raid on Libya. [redacted]

(b)(3)

-- On 18 April, two Libyans were apprehended as they approached the US Officers Club in Ankara to launch an attack with six Soviet-made fragmentation grenades they claimed they had received from the Libyan People's Bureau in Ankara. Two other Libyans were arrested soon afterward as possible accomplices. [redacted]

(b)(3)

-- On 25 April, unknown ^u gunmen seriously wounded another US Embassy employee in Sanaa, Yemen Arab Republic. The assailants are believed to have been Libyan-sponsored. [redacted]

(b)(3)

A growing body of circumstantial evidence also points to Libyan sponsorship of the 3 August attack on the British base in Akotiri, Cyprus, in which two persons were wounded. [redacted]

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[redacted]

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(b)(1)
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Syria

Syria long has used terrorist tactics to dissuade opponents and recalcitrant allies from pursuing policies inimical to Syrian interests. Support for terrorist groups costs Syria little but raises the cost to participants of any peace initiative that excludes Damascus and serves to keep Assad's regional rivals off balance.

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Syria largely uses surrogates to mask its role in terrorist attacks and to obtain leverage over the groups Damascus supports. Syria enables terrorist groups to use Syrian or Syrian-controlled territory for base camps, training facilities, and political headquarters and provides arms, travel assistance, intelligence, and probably money. Some of the groups linked to Syria are the Abu Nidal Group, the PFLP-GC, and Abu Musa's Fatah rebels.

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The recently concluded Hindawi trial in London, however, paints the most damaging picture of direct Syrian involvement in terrorism since the early 1980s. The British investigation implicated top Syrian Air Force Intelligence

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