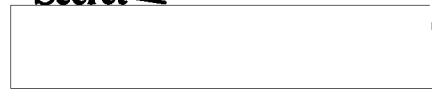




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Terrorism Review



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December 1986

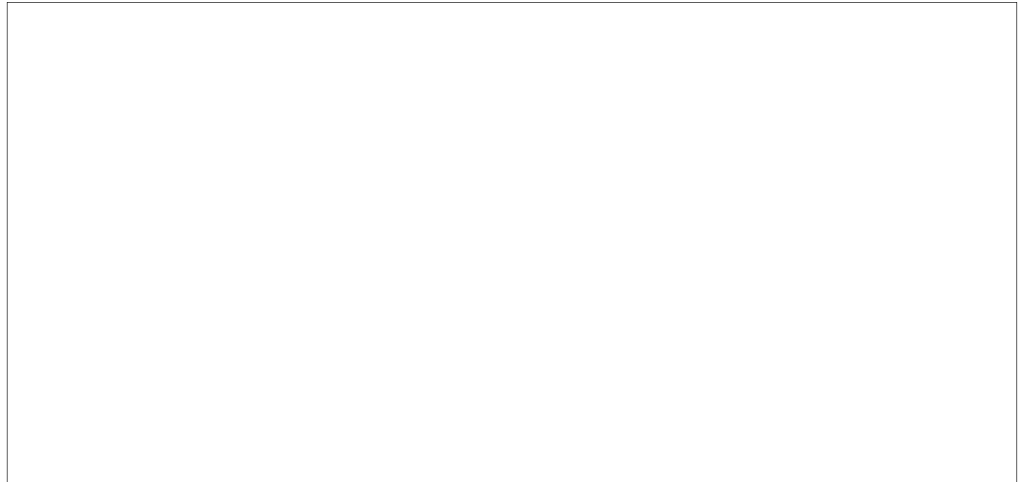
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Ireland



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Malta

Egyptair Hijacking Trial Approaches

The Maltese Government still awaits letters of evidence from three key witnesses in the trial of a terrorist who hijacked an Egyptair jet in 1985, meaning that the trial probably cannot take place before these documents arrive, according to the trial's prosecuting attorney. The defendant, Omar Mohamed Ali Rezak, is the only surviving member of the bloody Egyptair hijacking on 23 November 1985, that resulted in the deaths of nearly 100 passengers. [redacted]

(b)(3)

Rezak reportedly faces Malta's maximum sentence, which is only 25 years, even if several of the charges against him are dropped. The prosecuting attorney has stated that the Maltese Government will not consider any extradition requests until after the trial's completion. [redacted]

(b)(3)

Spain

Basque Group Resumed Terror Campaign

The Basque separatist group Fatherland and Liberty Military Wing (ETA-M) kidnaped a Spanish industrialist on 10 December in northern Spain. This was the first major attack in nearly six weeks. The group has had a number of setbacks in recent months including:

- On 10 September the assassination of a former ETA leader for participating in Spain's amnesty program backfired by causing public outrage.
- On 5 November French police raided a major ETA arsenal in southern France (see earlier Highlight).
- France has arrested and expelled at least 23 ETA members and leaders this year while scores more have abandoned the group for Spain's amnesty program, which pardons former terrorists who have not committed any violent crimes and who renounce violence. [redacted]

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As a result of setbacks and internal problems, ETA may find it more difficult to keep up the tempo of its attacks in the near future. Some members may also forgo attacks until the role of ETA's political arm in the newly elected Basque regional parliament becomes clearer. The party won 17 percent of the seats and reportedly could become a viable part of the new coalition government. [redacted]

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