



Director of
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USSR-LEBANON-US: Soviet Comments on Bombing

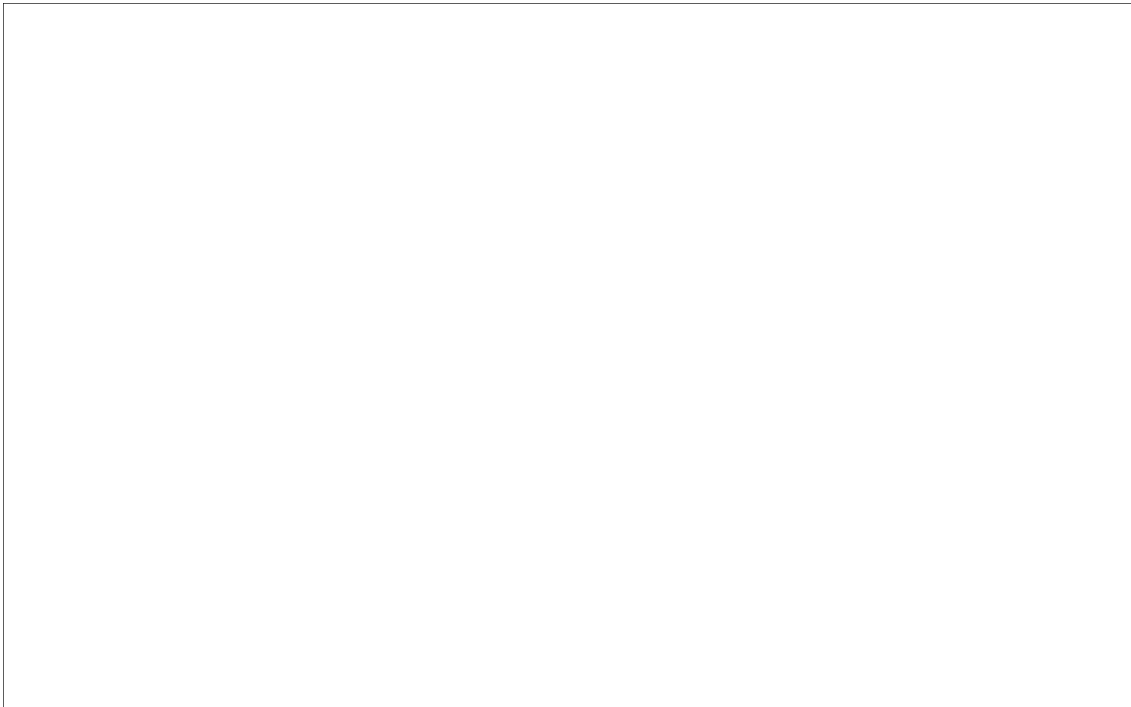
Soviet media—after a period of brief, factual reporting—have begun to use the bombing of the US Embassy in Beirut to criticize US policy in Lebanon and the Middle East. A TASS commentary on Wednesday, pointing to the US announcement of a CIA official's death in the explosion, castigated the CIA's "subversive" role throughout the Middle East. Radio Moscow in an Arabic broadcast yesterday linked the bombing directly to the unresolved Lebanese and Middle East crisis and to US support for Israeli "expansionism." An earlier broadcast implied that the Israelis were responsible for the explosion. 

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Comment: The Soviets are likely to portray the incident to Arab audiences as "proof" of Lebanese popular opposition to the US presence in Lebanon. The recent expulsions of Soviet intelligence officers from Western Europe and the publicity given to the defection last year of a KGB official stationed in Iran are added incentives for Moscow to squeeze maximum propaganda from the US statement concerning the CIA official. 

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