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CIA DI

TR 89-004

Terrorism Review (U)

23 February 1989

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

MAR 1998

~~Secret~~

MI TR 89-004
23 February 1989
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Terrorism Review

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Saudi Arabia

Update on Shootings of Saudi Diplomats

Saudi investigators continue to speculate on the motives behind three recent attacks on Saudi diplomats. The attacks began in October with the assassination of the second secretary at the Saudi Embassy in Ankara. In December, the Saudi Consul in Karachi was wounded by an unknown gunman, and on 4 January the third secretary at the Saudi Embassy in Bangkok was assassinated

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do not rule out the possibility that terrorists may have been responsible for at least one of the shootings. The Islamic Jihad of the Hijaz, which claimed responsibility for the Ankara killing, contended that it was avenging the Saudi execution of four Shi'a saboteurs in September 1988. Callers claimed responsibility for the other two shootings on behalf of the Jund al-Haq (Soldiers of Truth)—the same group that claimed to have kidnaped Belgian Jan Cools in Lebanon and to have attacked a synagogue in Denmark. Although very little information has surfaced about either group, we suspect that the callers, if not the killers themselves, are acting on behalf of pro-Iranian Shi'as who sympathize with Shi'a dissidents in Saudi Arabia, or who are intent on disrupting the rapprochement that is developing between the Saudi regime and Iran. (S/P)

Sudan

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