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Terrorism Review (U)

22 February 1990

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Morocco

South/East Asia

Thailand

Saudi Officials Assassinated

Iran probably was behind two well-executed attacks that killed three Saudi officials in Bangkok on 1 February. According to the US Embassy, one Saudi Embassy second secretary was gunned down at his home, and another second secretary and an embassy communicator were shot in a car outside their residence. The Embassy says Thai police are focusing their investigations on possible criminal motives to the killings, despite preattack warnings from the Saudi Embassy that Iranian surrogates might be targeting Saudi diplomats. (S,DP)

Saudi officials are convinced that pro-Iranian terrorists were behind the attacks, according to press reports, and probably will reject any attempts to attribute the killings to criminal activity. The Saudis are angry over Bangkok's inability to protect Saudi diplomats and its perceived tardiness in solving these murders as well as the assassination last year of another Saudi diplomat. According to the US Embassy, Riyadh has stopped issuing visas to Thais seeking work in Saudi Arabia and threatens to break diplomatic relations unless Bangkok finds and prosecutes the assassins. Meanwhile, Thai officials have increased security for Saudi diplomats. (S,DP)

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