

29

DATE/TIME TRANSMITTED

KASHFAX MESSAGE NUMBER

DATE/TIME RECEIVED

DEC 27 10 14 AM '68

10:37

C I A
OPERATIONS CENTER
SITE A
KASHFAX MESSAGE RECEIPT

C

FROM

CPAS

SUBJECT

SPOT COMMENTARY

CLASSIFICATION

~~SECRET~~

2

PAGES

SENT TO:

DELIVER TO:

EXTENSION

ROOM

B

INR, WATCH

C

WHSR

D

CIA REP. *

F

NSOC TEAM CHIEF

G

CIA REP.

K = 1

OPS. CENTER

L

OPS. CENTER

* AFTER 1700 Please
PASS TO NSOC TEAM CHIEF

~~CONFIDENTIAL NOFORN~~



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

22 December 1988
0930 EST

SPOT COMMENTARY: PAN AM 103: Analysis of Claims

We have received no forensic evidence to confirm the cause of the crash of Pan American Airlines Flight 103 yesterday; we do not rule out the possibility that a bomb was behind the crash.

Several groups have claimed responsibility for the incident in telephone calls in the United States and Europe:

- A male caller claimed that a group called the Guardians of the Islamic Revolution had destroyed the plane in retaliation for the US shootdown of an Iranian airliner last July.
- A caller claiming to represent the Islamic Jihad organization told ABC News in New York that the group had planted the bomb to commemorate Christmas.
- The Ulster Defense League allegedly issued a telephonic claim.
- Another anonymous caller claimed the plane had been downed by Mossad, the Israeli intelligence service.

We consider the claim from the Guardians of the Islamic Revolution as the most credible one received so far; previous attacks claimed by this group suggest it is pro-Iranian:

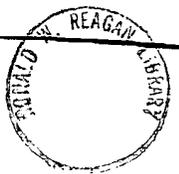
--Persons using this name have taken credit for the hijacking of an Air France flight from Frankfurt, West Germany in 1984; in that incident, an anonymous caller demanded that France release five persons imprisoned for attempting to kill former Iranian Prime Minister Bakhtiar in 1980. The group had taken credit for the assassination attempt as well.

--The Guardians of the Islamic Revolution claimed responsibility for an assassination attempt against a former Cabinet Minister of the Shah in London on 18 July 1987.

--In April 1988, the Guardians of Islam took credit for the bombing of a vehicle belonging to a German businessman employed with a firm involved in transfer of missile technology. The anonymous caller accused the businessman of providing missiles to Iraq, then at war with Iran.

An anonymous caller told a US diplomatic facility in Europe on 5 December that a bombing attempt would be made against a Pan American aircraft flying from Frankfurt, West Germany to the United States. The Federal Aviation Administration was notified of the threat and security for Pan Am flights out of Frankfurt was enhanced.

CONFIDENTIAL
NOFORN
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50



CONFIDENTIAL NOFORN

We cannot assign responsibility for this tragedy to any terrorist group at this time. We anticipate that, as often happens, many groups will seek to claim credit.

Prepared by:

