

~~Top Secret~~ *71 ER*
[Redacted]
NOFORN-NOCONTRACT-ORCO.



Director of Central Intelligence

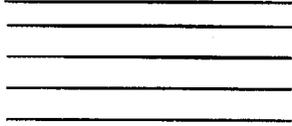


National Intelligence Daily

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CPAS NID 96-296CX

Friday, 20 December 1996



~~***** EYES ONLY *****~~



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20 December 1996

Current Notes

NEAR EAST

Iraq:



Lebanon:

Christians Arrested After Anti-Syrian Attacks [REDACTED]

Lebanese security forces since Wednesday have arrested approximately 50 Christians who are former members of the dissolved Lebanese Forces militia and supporters of exiled former armed forces commander Awn, [REDACTED]

— Press reports say gunmen attacked a bus carrying Syrian workers on Wednesday—killing one and injuring another—and that later that day a small explosion occurred near the Syrian military intelligence headquarters in Tripoli. [REDACTED]

A connection between these events cannot be corroborated, but Syria and its Lebanese surrogates have always quickly suppressed anti-Syrian attacks in Lebanon. Damascus may view attacks as part of a campaign to undermine Syria's interests in Lebanon.

— Some Christian leaders are attempting to work with Israel to facilitate a Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon, [REDACTED]