

USSR: Rumors About Recovery of Black Box

A Soviet scientist who is highly regarded in the West says the Soviets have unreleased recordings of cockpit conversations and communications between the pilots of the South Korean airliner and ground stations. The scientist believes the Soviets have recovered the airliner's "black boxes" and that the information supports claims that the plane was on a spy mission. [redacted]

Comment: The Soviets are still searching in the Sea of Japan, suggesting that the flight and cockpit voice recorders have not been recovered. The source apparently believes the information he is passing, but he could have heard about communications that, in fact, are the same as those already released by the US. The USSR may be using Soviets with contacts in the West to circulate rumors justifying the shutdown. Moscow could be preparing to make a statement strengthening its claim about US involvement in the incident, hoping to embarrass the President during his visit to the Far East. [redacted]
[redacted]

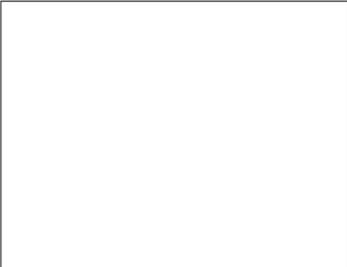
JORDAN: Reaction to Attacks on Personnel

Many Jordanian military officers are seeking retribution against the Syrian-sponsored Abu Nidal organization, Black June, the prime suspect in the recent terrorist attacks against Jordanian diplomatic personnel in three countries. The killing of one security guard and the wounding of another at the Jordanian Embassy in Athens on Monday occurred less than two weeks after assassination attempts on the Jordanian Ambassadors in New Delhi and Rome. [redacted]
[redacted]

Comment: The Jordanian officers hold the Syrians to be as responsible as Nidal for what they see as efforts to intimidate and humiliate the Jordanian Government. Although they would like to erase any impression that Jordan is sitting by helplessly in the face of such attacks, they probably have only limited capability to take retaliatory action. Moreover, senior government and military officials are unlikely to countenance such action, given Syria's unquestioned military superiority and its new boldness in the region. [redacted]
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