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- On 20 March, Tupac Amaru firebombed three Kentucky Fried Chicken outlets.¹ One was destroyed; the other two suffered minor damage.
- On 28 March, Tupac Amaru dynamited six separate offices of the Lima area water company and one site of the local electric company.
- On 30 March, Tupac Amaru “expropriated” more than 40 weapons from two commercial gun shops, one in downtown Lima and the other in the Lima suburbs.

In these latest incidents the group continued to demonstrate characteristically careful planning and disciplined execution along with an intent to avoid causing indiscriminate casualties. As usual, the Communist-dominated newspaper *El Diario* described the MRTA actions in great detail and with ill-concealed approval, suggesting that the group may somehow be linked to the Peruvian Communist Party. An MRTA communique published in *El Diario* on 31 March called on “democratic, progressive, and patriotic sectors” to close ranks against the IMF, support a moratorium on foreign debt, demand a minimum wage increase, and freedom for “social and political prisoners.”¹ Kentucky Fried Chicken franchises are the leading US fast-food enterprise in Peru.

Philippines

Peace Corps Volunteers Targeted in Mindanao

On 2 April in Marbel, an attempt to kill one or more Peace Corps volunteers by booby-trapping a Peace Corps vehicle with a grenade failed when the device malfunctioned. Peace Corps personnel had not previously been targets of lethal attacks in the Philippines. Such tactics would mark a major policy shift on the part of either of the two insurgent groups active in the region—the Communist New People’s Army (NPA) and the Muslim Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

Unaffiliated individuals or members of either group acting without orders could have mounted the attack (grenades are fairly readily available in Mindanao), perhaps motivated by a recent local press article alleging a Peace Corps connection to the CIA. In response to the attack, and pending a determination of whether there is a continuing threat, the US Embassy has removed almost all of the personnel, both American and Filipino, associated with the Peace Corps training program in the province.

India– Sri Lanka

Tamil Weapons Shipments Impounded

In an apparent effort to exert tighter control over Sri Lankan Tamil insurgents operating from Indian territory, Indian customs officials in Madras have impounded three shipments of weapons and communications equipment intended for the guerrillas, All three shipments had been arranged independently with foreign suppliers without the prior knowledge of the Indian Government. Prime Minister Gandhi has reportedly established a policy that Indian customs will only clear shipments of weapons for the Tamil insurgents if they have been approved in advance by the government.

¹ Kentucky Fried Chicken franchises are the leading US fast-food enterprise in Peru.

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~~Secret~~**Kidnapings of Westerners in Lebanon, 1984-85^a**

(As of 10 April 1985)

Victim	Date and Place Kidnaped	Claimant Group	Fate
Frank Regier, US professor	10 February 1984, West Beirut	None	Rescued 15 April 1984 by Amal from an apartment controlled by Hizballah
Christian Joubert, French architect	15 February 1984, West Beirut	None	Rescued 15 April 1984 by Amal from an apartment controlled by Hizballah
Jeremy Levin, US journalist	7 March 1984, West Beirut	Islamic Jihad	Escaped 14 February 1985
William Buckley, US diplomat	16 March 1984, West Beirut	Islamic Jihad	Probably held by Hizballah
Rev. Benjamin Weir, US minister	8 May 1984, West Beirut	Islamic Jihad	Probably held by Hizballah
Pedro Aristegui, Spanish Ambassador	10 October 1984, West Beirut	None; Musa Sadr Brigade probably responsible	Released soon after abduction
John Cronin, US student	17 November 1984, West Beirut	None; group responsible unknown	Released 21 November after sustaining several beatings
Peter Kilburn, US librarian	30 November 1984, West Beirut	Islamic Jihad	Probably held by Hizballah
Rev. Lawrence Jenco, US priest	8 January 1985, West Beirut	Islamic Jihad	Probably held by Hizballah
Geoffrey Nash, UK scientist	14 March 1985, West Beirut	Islamic Jihad, Khaybar Brigades	Released 27 March by Khaybar Brigades
Rev. Nicolas Kluiters, Dutch priest	Last seen 14 March 1985, Bekaa Valley	"Vengeance Party"	Died of strangulation. Body found 2 April north of Baalabakk
Brian Levick, UK businessman	15 March 1985, West Beirut	Islamic Jihad, Khaybar Brigades	Released 30 March 1985 by Khaybar Brigades after persuading captors he is British
Terry Anderson, US journalist	16 March 1985, West Beirut	Islamic Jihad	Possibly held by Hizballah
Marcel Fontaine, French diplomat	22 March 1985, West Beirut	Islamic Jihad, Khaybar Brigades	Reportedly held by radical Shias
Marcel Carton, French diplomat	22 March 1985, West Beirut	Islamic Jihad, Khaybar Brigades	Reportedly held by radical Shias
Danielle Perez, French secretary at Embassy	22 March 1985, West Beirut	Islamic Jihad, Khaybar Brigades	Released 31 March by Khaybar Brigades
Alec Collett, UK journalist with UNRWA	26 March 1985, Khaldah	Revolutionary Organization of Socialist Muslims (ROSM)	Probably held by ROSM
Gilles Peyrolles, French diplomat	24 March 1985, Tripoli	Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Faction (LARF)	Rescued (released?) 2 April
Jean Claude Duvent, French teacher	28 March 1985, West Beirut	None	Released soon after abduction, when found to be French
Robert Valnassian, French teacher	28 March 1985, West Beirut	None	Released soon after abduction, when found to be French

^a During the same period, scores of Lebanese and several citizens of other Middle Eastern countries were also kidnaped in Lebanon. Although not a Westerner, one in particular seems to fit the pattern described above. Husayn Farrash, a Saudi diplomat, was kidnaped in West Beirut on 17 January 1984. Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility. Like most of the missing Americans, he is probably being held by Hizballah.

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The police have tentatively concluded that Islamic fundamentalists were responsible for the incident because the surviving terrorist is reportedly a member of such a group, and the recovered bombs are similar to devices used in two previous bombings in which Islamic fundamentalists were implicated. The Hindu island of Bali is a target of fundamentalist Muslim hostility on several grounds, not least of which is the allegedly licentious environment there.

Pakistan



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~~Secret~~**ROSM Strikes Again**

On 25 March, Alec Collett, a British journalist with the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), was kidnaped in Khaldah, south of Beirut. Collett was traveling with an Austrian citizen in a clearly marked UN staff car when gunmen abducted him. The Austrian was not detained. On 28 March, in a statement delivered to the Reuter news agency in Beirut, the Revolutionary Organization of Socialist Muslims (ROSM) claimed responsibility for kidnaping Collett. ROSM asserted it had found "some documents related to spying missions in the service of Mossad [the Israeli intelligence service] and American intelligence" on Collett, and that his work with the United Nations was "only a coverup for his spying activities." ROSM also warned that it would "continue to chase and strike at whoever has a link with British imperialists wherever he may be until our organization's demands for the liberation of all Muslim freedom fighters from British imperialist jails are met." [redacted]

We know very little about ROSM, other than that so far it has limited its attacks to British targets. Last year, ROSM claimed responsibility for the killing of British diplomats Kenneth Whitty (shot to death in Athens in March) and Percy Norris (shot to death in Bombay in November). We speculate, [redacted] that ROSM may be a covername for the Abu Nidal Group because members of that group are serving long prison terms in Britain for the attempted assassination of Shlomo Argov, the Israeli Ambassador to Britain, in June 1982. The evidence overall, however, is insufficient to make a firm judgment on who is behind ROSM. Whatever group is involved is clearly a capable terrorist organization. The kidnaping of Collett was quick and efficient, and the terrorists have taken advantage of the anarchic Lebanese environment to keep their prisoner hidden. Given that the British Government has no intention of meeting its demands, ROSM will be heard from again. [redacted]

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~~Secret~~**Significant Developments****Bulgaria****Two Passenger Trains Bombed**

On 9 March, a bomb went off on a train near Bunovo, about 60 kilometers from Sofia. The government has admitted that seven persons were killed and nine injured, but the US Embassy has information indicating the toll was much higher. On the same day, [] another bomb went off on a train in Sliven, causing some deaths and injuries. The government has not admitted the second bombing occurred. As was the case with the unsolved bombings last summer of the train station in Plovdiv and the airport at Varna, ethnic Turks angry over the government's assimilation policies are suspected.

[]

Western Europe**Jordan Under Siege by "BSO"**

On 21 March, the Jordanian Airlines offices in Athens, Rome, and Nicosia were the targets of grenade attacks that injured five persons. On 3 April, a Palestinian was arrested by Rome police after the US-made light antitank rocket he fired narrowly missed the Jordanian Embassy offices on the fifth floor of an office building. On 4 April, a rocket fired at a Jordanian airliner as it was taking off from Athens airport punctured the fuselage but did not explode. In telephone calls to press agencies, an anonymous spokesman claimed responsibility for the incidents in the name of the "Black September Organization" (BSO). []

The name Black September commemorates the month in 1970 when Jordanian forces drove the Palestinian fedayeen out of Jordan. The original BSO, a covert element of Fatah that mounted a number of notorious terrorist operations in the early 1970s, has been defunct for more than a decade, however. Instead, Syrian-backed Palestinian radicals probably were responsible for these attacks. Use of the name BSO probably is intended both to provide cover and to heighten the publicity attending their attacks. []

Lebanon**Jews Being Kidnaped, Too**

Six Jewish Lebanese citizens, including Isaac Sasson, the leader of Lebanon's Jewish community, which numbers fewer than 100 persons, were kidnaped between 28 March and 2 April. Last July a Jewish businessman was abducted and killed; another Lebanese Jew has been missing since last August. No group has claimed responsibility for any of the abductions. []

Libya**Alleged Assassination Attempt Against Qadhafi Fails**

For the first time in two years, there was serious unrest in the Libyan military last month. [] a group of 30 soldiers in Benghazi planned in early March to fly an armed plane to Tripoli and bomb the Palace of Congress

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The Pre-Bonn-Summit Counterterrorism Experts Meetings

This year's meeting of the Summit Seven's group of counterterrorism experts was held in Bonn on 7-8 March. The French Government declined to send a delegation, however, and the Italian Government sent only an observer. Under the circumstances, it was not surprising that the group proved unable to reach any consensus on specific counterterrorism recommendations to be considered at the Bonn Summit itself on 2-4 May.¹

The experts attending decided only to forward to their governments the meeting's minutes, consisting of a summary analysis of terrorism and some suggestions as to practical ways to increase counterterrorism cooperation among the seven countries.² The minutes cite, in particular, the continuing threat posed by West European terrorist groups involved in recent attacks and the growth in state-supported terrorism as reasons for enhanced cooperation. The minutes also "offer language" for a summit statement on terrorism, which encourages countries to intensify cooperative antiterrorist measures.

President

Mitterrand made the decision not to send a French delegation to the preparatory meeting. Although the move apparently was a surprise to the other participants, the reported reasons behind it reflect no real change in French views on expanded multilateral cooperation against terrorism. Paris asserts that such exchanges contribute little to progress against terrorism because of their high level of generality and prefers to deal bilaterally on counterterrorism

¹ The countries that participate in the annual economic summit are Canada, France, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States, and West Germany. The European Community also sends a representative.

² At several previous summits, the issuance by the counterterrorism experts of a draft declaration helped smooth the way for agreements such as the 1978 Bonn Declaration on aircraft hijacking and the 1980 Venice Declaration on the protection of diplomats.

matters. Moreover, the government believes, and has said before, that the summit should focus on economics and avoid institutionalizing working groups on diverse topics, which tends to detract from the informal tone of the leaders' exchanges.

Civil Aviation Experts Meeting

In a related session on 12-13 March, Summit Seven authorities on civil aviation security (including representatives from France and Italy) reached a consensus that sanctions against Ariana Afghan Airlines should be lifted, provided Kabul makes a conciliatory gesture. The aviation security group, whose work also contributes to counterterrorism discussions at the summit, will prepare a summary of conclusions from the session on aspects of a new interpretation of the seven-year-old Bonn Declaration. Most of the Summit Seven governments would like to drop the Ariana sanctions—the only ones ever imposed under the terms of the declaration—but believe that Kabul should make a public commitment to respect the Hague and Montreal Conventions, which govern air piracy.

Even if the Afghans will not consent to such a move, we believe a majority of the Summit Seven countries will push to drop the sanctions because of their ineffectiveness in changing the Soviet posture in Afghanistan and Kabul's longstanding threat to deny overflight rights to the airlines of countries that adhere to the sanctions. The French repeatedly stressed the importance of making clear that the lifting of sanctions does not signal any weakening of the seven governments' opposition to Soviet actions in Afghanistan. If the recommendation is approved, the sanctions probably will be lifted early in 1986.

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Focus

**The Western Hostages in Lebanon:
Latest Developments and Implications** [redacted]

The series of kidnappings and disappearances of Westerners in Lebanon continued during the last week of March. In all, anonymous callers ostensibly representing five groups have claimed involvement in the nine kidnappings since 14 March; in some cases the claims have overlapped. Other recent developments, however, including the release of four of the hostages, have enabled us to begin sorting out the various groups and their motives. [redacted]

LARF Enters the Fray

On 24 March, Gilles Sidney Peyrolles, the director of the French Cultural Center in Tripoli, disappeared. On 25 March, in a statement delivered to a Western news agency in Beirut, the Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Faction (LARF) claimed it had kidnaped Peyrolles and demanded that, in exchange for his safe return, France release from prison Abd al-Qadr Saadi. [redacted]

LARF is believed to be a relatively small group of fanatical Lebanese Christian Marxists, most from northern Lebanon. LARF has claimed credit and is believed to have been responsible for the assassination or attempted assassination of several US and Israeli officials in France and Italy during the last couple of years. Last October, French police arrested suspected LARF leader Georges Ibrahim Abdallah in Lyon on charges of possession of false passports and association with criminals. [redacted]

Last year, Italian police arrested suspected LARF operatives Abdallah Muhammad al-Mansouri in Trieste in August [redacted] and Josephine Abdu at the Rome airport in [redacted] December [redacted] In its communique the group also demanded the release of these two comrades and threatened that otherwise, "our future retaliation will be more severe and will bring catastrophe to inhabitants of Paris and Rome." [redacted]

On 2 April, Peyrolles was back in Beirut, a free man whose story had some unlikely aspects. Publicly, Peyrolles said he had been abducted from his office and taken first to a town northeast of Tripoli. His captors identified themselves as members of LARF and told Peyrolles that they regarded the United States and Israel as their enemies, not France, and that the reason they had kidnaped him was only to get Abdallah (whom they called Saadi) released from prison. On 1 April, two of the kidnapers took him to a village in the Bekaa Valley, where all three of them allegedly were captured by suspicious Shia villagers. According to Peyrolles's statement, a local Amal leader then arranged for him to be released. [redacted]

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Beirut. The article reiterated that the “Islamic Resistance” would not accept the presence of “any American” on Lebanese territory for any reason, including “economic aid or social services,” and warned the United States to withdraw the “small number of American personnel” who remain in the US Embassy.

Key Indicators

Ireland

Provisional IRA Murders Alleged Police Informer

On 23 March, the body of John Corcoran, the 45-year-old father of eight children, was found in a farmer’s field outside Cork after a long search. Corcoran had disappeared on 19 March. Examination of the body revealed he had been tortured and then murdered with a single shot to the head. In a communique issued in Belfast, the Provisional IRA claimed responsibility for the murder, alleging that Corcoran had been an informer of the Irish Special Branch for more than seven years. Asserting that the Irish police have now adopted the same tactics of “intimidation and blackmail” used by the Royal Uster Constabulary (RUC) to recruit informers, the Provisional IRA offered other alleged police informers an undefined “14-day amnesty,” after which, the implication was clear, more such informers would be killed in Ireland.

Italy

Red Brigades Return to Action

The assassination of Rome University Professor Enzo Tarantelli on 27 March appears to mark the return of the Red Brigades (BR) to active operations after at least a year’s hiatus. The choice of Tarantelli, an eminent labor economist involved with the Christian-Democratic-oriented Confederation of Italian Labor (CISL) and an active participant in recent discussions on the politically sensitive topic of revising cost-of-living wage adjustments, indicates that the Red Brigades may continue to target primarily domestic rather than US or NATO targets. In the BR document left at the murder scene (Strategic Resolution 20), the group emphasized its intention to attack what it sees as a government-industrialist coalition to suppress workers’ rights.

Some Italian officials believe that the BR inactivity was due in part to squabbling between factions representing the activist “first position” (generally the younger generation) and the somewhat more ideological “second position” (generally the older generation), which resulted in the expulsion of the latter, smaller faction last October and subsequent efforts to consolidate the victory and reabsorb those expelled members now willing to go along with the majority. These officials think the Tarantelli attack may indicate that internal disarray no longer impedes terrorist action and that, consequently, more such BR attacks are likely soon. Moreover, defiant adherents of the second position—criticized in Resolution 20—may feel compelled to conduct attacks of their own in an effort to demonstrate their operational credibility and militance in protecting workers’ rights.

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~~Secret~~**Anomalous Incidents**

On 28 March, Jean-Claude Duvent and Robert Valnassian, two French teachers, were abducted in West Beirut but released two hours later. The gunmen who had captured them reportedly said they thought they had kidnaped citizens of another, unspecified nationality. []

On 1 April, the body of Jesuit priest Nicolas Kluiters was found near a village north of Baalabakk in the Bekaa Valley. Father Kluiters had disappeared on 14 March in the Bekaa Valley; his car had been found several days later containing a note saying "Vengeance Party." Kluiters apparently had been strangled to death soon after he disappeared. This probably was not a politically motivated attack. Jesuit colleagues said he had been carrying a lot of money when he disappeared, so his killing may have been a criminal act. Another possibility is that he strayed into a sensitive area controlled by one of the Lebanese militias, and local security personnel overreacted to his presence. []

The Khaybar Brigades ¹

On 26 March, an anonymous caller to a foreign news agency in Beirut claimed that the "Khaybar Brigades-Lebanese Branch," a previously unknown group, was holding five Westerners who had been kidnaped in West Beirut—French diplomats Marcel Fontaine and Marcel Carton, Carton's daughter Danielle Perez (a secretary at the French Embassy), British scientist Geoffrey Nash, and British businessman Brian Levick—but that it would soon release Perez, Nash, and Levick. Nash had been kidnaped on 14 March and Levick on 15 March; Fontaine had been kidnaped on 22 March, as had Carton and Perez (in a separate incident). Anonymous callers had previously claimed responsibility for all five kidnappings in the name of Islamic Jihad. []

Nash was released on 27 March, Levick on 30 March, and Perez on 31 March. Nash described his captors as "simple Shia" angry over the mistreatment of Shias by other Lebanese groups and Israel; he said his captors initially accused him of being an American diplomat. He had been held in three different places, probably in Beirut's southern suburbs. Nash was released on the condition that he deliver to the French Embassy a document containing the demands of the Khaybar Brigades. He was warned that, if the demands were not publicized, the group would execute the two French hostages—presumably Fontaine and Carton. []

Levick had also been mistaken for an American by his captors. During several rather brutal interrogation sessions the kidnapers—obviously amateurs—accused Levick of being an American spy or of having connections with Mossad. From Levick's description, his captors were unsophisticated but fanatic Muslims. He was held in two locations, probably in the Beirut area, and indicated that other captives were being held at the second location. Upon his release, Levick was told to say he had been held by the Khaybar Brigades. []

¹ The name Khaybar Brigades apparently comes from a battle in the seventh century A.D. in which followers of the Prophet Muhammad triumphed over a Jewish tribe that refused to accept Muhammad's leadership. Khaybar is an oasis near Medina, Saudi Arabia, where the Jewish tribe had lived. Guerrillas launching attacks against Israeli troops in southern Lebanon have called themselves "Martyrs of Khaybar" in memory of this event. []

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This review is published every other week by the Directorate of Intelligence. Appropriate articles produced by other elements of the CIA as well as by other agencies of the US Intelligence Community will be considered for publication. Comments and queries are welcome and may be directed to the Executive Editor

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Similarly, Perez described her captors as “devoutly religious.” She and her father were held together in the Beirut area, but she did not see any other hostages at the same location. Perez was questioned primarily about the personnel at the French Embassy, and she believes that she was released when the kidnapers realized she did not hold an important or sensitive position.

Based on the information provided by Nash, Levick, and Perez, it appears most likely that the Khaybar Brigades is one of the numerous quasi-independent Shia fundamentalist gangs that prowl the streets of West Beirut. The group seems to be distinct from the Hizballah, which usually takes credit for its actions in the name of Islamic Jihad. Similarly, the Khaybar Brigades probably has no connection to ROSM, or it would not have released its British captives.

Who Has the Hostages Now?

It seems reasonable to conclude that radical Shias, as opposed to any of the numerous other confessional factions operating in Lebanon, are holding the two French diplomats, along with AP correspondent Terry Anderson, who was abducted in West Beirut on 16 March. But which Shias?

One plausible theory is that one or more of the newest hostages are now in the hands of the Hizballah, even though they may have been kidnaped by the Khaybar Brigades or—in the case of Anderson—some other independent Shia street gang. Under this theory, Nash and Levick were abducted because they were mistaken for Americans and released once it was determined they were British. Perhaps Perez was released because direct attacks against women are a violation of Islamic principles. The valuable prisoners, however, were turned over to the Hizballah, perhaps in return for a material reward. There is some evidence to support this theory—for example, the telephone calls claiming credit for these kidnappings in the name of Islamic Jihad. The callers asserted that the kidnappings were part of continuing operations against the United States and its agents, and against “French imperialism.” This is the typical Hizballah modus operandi.

Alternatively, the Khaybar Brigades may still be holding Carton and Fontaine, and (since the Khaybar Brigades never claimed to have him) some other independent gang of radical Shias may be holding Anderson. Lending some support to this thesis is that fact that on 31 March prominent Hizballah cleric Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah publicly condemned the kidnaping of foreigners in Beirut, adding that such acts serve Israel and its agents. The Shaykh said that the presence of foreign diplomats and journalists in Beirut is useful even if, as he put it, there are some spies among them. He asserted that unity, rather than kidnaping, is the way to fight these spies, and alleged that he is trying to secure the release of the kidnaped Westerners.

Fadlallah maintains close links with Iranian officials in Lebanon and leads a significant portion of the pro-Hizballah movement. He is almost certainly involved with the Hizballah elements which have long been holding the four American

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hostages, along with a Saudi hostage, in the Bekaa Valley, so his speech reeks of sanctimony. Nevertheless, in this case it is conceivable he was telling the truth. An article attributed to a Hizballah source that recently appeared in a local newspaper suggested that the more organized radical Shias intended to begin focusing their activities on Israel and southern Lebanon. If the Hizballah was not involved, then it is most likely that renegade Shias are holding the hostages. And, if Fadlallah meant what he said about trying to get them released, the renegades may be forced to give some or all of them up in the coming weeks.

We are disinclined to believe Fadlallah. We think it more likely that, whoever kidnaped them, the Hizballah has the hostages now and has no intention of releasing any of them any time soon. At this point, however, the only firm conclusion that can be drawn from these recent incidents is that no Westerner is safe in anarchic Lebanon.

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Highlights

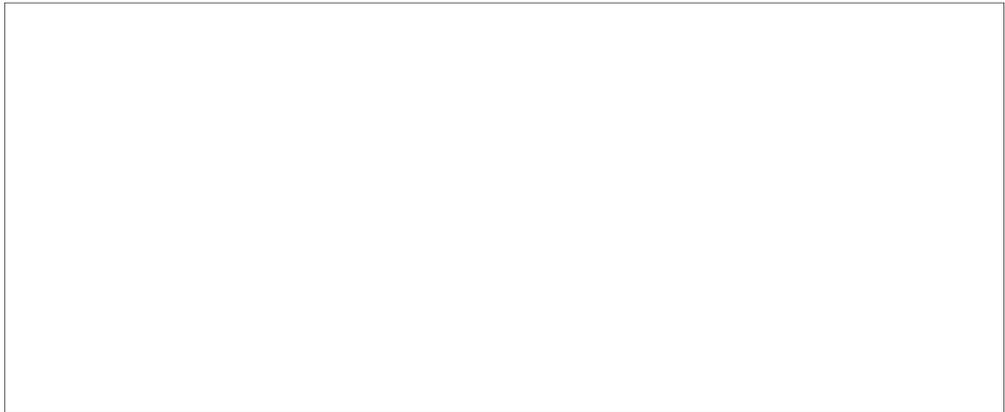
Alert Items

Cyprus

US Embassy Being Cased by Iranian Agent?

On 19 March, Gita Nassirian, an Iranian woman suspected of casing the US Embassy in Athens during December, visited the Consular Section of the US Embassy in Nicosia using a false name. Her behavior while acting (or posing) as an interpreter for another Iranian applying for a US visa aroused the consular officer's suspicions and led to consultations with other members of the staff, whence it transpired that Nassirian may have made as many as six visits to the US Embassy in Nicosia in recent months. It is not known if she is affiliated with any terrorist group.

Italy



Portugal

Possible Terrorist Threat to Scientific Conference Participants

About 150 Americans and 25 Israelis are expected to attend the world conference of the Federation of European Biochemical Societies to be held 20-27 April in Albufeira. Although no Iranians are scheduled to attend, the Iranian Embassy has made telephone calls to conference sponsors requesting a list of participants. Interpreting this curiosity as possibly reflecting a terrorist threat, Portuguese authorities are enhancing their counterterrorist precautions.

Lebanon

Explicit Hizballah Threat to Americans

An Arab magazine recently published an article from a "source close to Hizballah" in which the extremist Shia group threatened US personnel in Lebanon anew. It was a more explicit threat than most from that quarter, which have hitherto been issued in the name of "Islamic Jihad," to provide the Hizballah a modicum of plausible denial. Referring to the bombing on 8 March that killed at least 80 persons in Beirut, the article said that retribution might occur outside

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when Qadhafi was present. The plot reportedly failed because one of the conspirators talked. Dozens of arrests have been made; one report states that as many as 80 members of the military have been executed. []

Chile**The Right Strikes Back**

On 30 March, the bodies of three men who had been kidnaped on 28 and 29 March were found nearly decapitated outside Santiago. Four other men who had been kidnaped on 28 March were released on 30 March, after allegedly having been interrogated and tortured by their unidentified captors. All but one of the victims were members of a Communist-dominated teachers' union; the other was a Communist sociologist connected with a Catholic Church welfare and human rights organization. []

The kidnappings and killings were clearly the work of rightwing elements—most probably members of the intelligence services—although solid evidence is lacking. They probably were reacting to recent terrorist bombings by two leftwing extremist groups, the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) and the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR). A large demonstration protesting the kidnappings and murders so disrupted the traditional Palm Sunday mass being said by the Archbishop of Santiago that the mass had to be discontinued. A government investigation of the crimes is under way but not likely to uncover the culprits. []

Meanwhile, on 29 March, carabinieri reportedly killed two brothers, allegedly members of the MIR, after a street shootout in which one carabiniero was wounded. The next day, a woman also associated with the MIR was killed when she shot at carabinieri raiding her apartment, suspected of being a MIR safehouse. [] the apartment proved to contain a large cache of weapons, including mortars and submachineguns. []

India**Soviet Diplomat Murdered**

The victim, economics officer Valentin Khitrchenko, was shot while stopped at a New Delhi intersection in his car. The two attackers—described as Asian in appearance—fired from and fled on a motorbike. Although the unknown "Ukrainian Nationalist Front" claimed credit for the attack, elements of the Afghan or Iranian communities are more likely to have been responsible. If so, this attack may be followed by others. []

Indonesia**Muslim Extremists Suspected in Bus Bombing**

On 16 March in East Java, three of seven bombs hidden in a bus detonated while the bus was en route to the port where it was to board a ferry bound for Bali. Timers found on the remaining four devices indicate the bombs were meant to explode either while the bus was aboard the ferry or after it had arrived in Bali. Police believe that at least two men aboard the bus were carrying the devices; one of them was killed in the explosions, but the other is in custody. []

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~~Secret~~**Colombia****Urban Violence Recurring in Colombia**

On the night of 27 March, seemingly related terrorist acts were conducted in the cities of Cali, Medellin, Popayan, and Bucaramanga. The most serious incidents occurred near Cali, a city about 300 kilometers southwest of Bogota, where the 19th of April Movement (M-19) is strong. There, attacks against a national police station and a local councilman's home resulted in the death of one policeman. There is some speculation that these attacks were conducted jointly by elements of M-19 and the Ricardo Franco Front. [redacted] urban terrorist incidents in the area to occur with increasing frequency and culminate in a breakdown of the peace process within the next two months. [redacted]

Ecuador**AVC Becoming Increasingly Active and Violent**

[redacted]

- On 12 March, AVC terrorists raided a Quito police arsenal and stole approximately 700 weapons, mostly used revolvers and carbines, along with some 50,000 rounds of assorted ammunition. What the small urban group intends to do with so many weapons is unknown.
- On 27 March, AVC members stormed into a Quito radio station, locked the employees in a bathroom, and aired a message denouncing the government.
- The same day, two AVC bombs exploded at noon in Guayaquil—one in a central market area injured a small child; the other near a radio station resulted in no injuries. [redacted]

Previous AVC operations had been limited to Quito and had been designed to avoid causing indiscriminate casualties. The bombings in Guayaquil may have been conducted by a different element of the group, possibly looking for a new means of calling attention to its cause. The injuring of innocent bystanders by exploding bombs in crowded areas, however, is likely to repulse an Ecuadorean populace unused to such indiscriminate acts of terrorist violence. [redacted]

Peru**Tupac Amaru Back in Business**

With the national election scheduled for 14 April, the Revolutionary Movement Tupac Amaru (MRTA) has resurfaced in Lima after several months of inactivity in the wake of the arrests of several of its members last fall:

- On 18 March, the group staged three operations in the Lima area: bombings at the private residences of the Labor Minister and of the brother of the Agricultural Minister, as well as the temporary occupation of a local Lima radio station, whence the group broadcast a revolutionary "communique." The bombings caused only minor damage.

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