



**Director of
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ITALY: Terrorist Attacks on US Targets

//The US Consulate in Milan and three US commercial enterprises in Rome have been targets of violent attacks during the past week.// [redacted]

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//An organization calling itself the "Avant Garde Communist Nuclei" has claimed responsibility for an undetonated bomb found at the Consulate. A self-styled "Communist Group for Proletarian Internationalism" says that it set off bombs that damaged the office in Rome of the Italian Chamber of Commerce for the US and a Ford Motor Company showroom and started fires at another Ford facility and at an office of the Hoover Appliance Company. Neither group has surfaced before.// [redacted]

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Comment: //The choice of targets, the timing of the attacks, the similarity of the names of the two groups, and the language in recent Red Brigade statements all suggest that the Red Brigades' kidnapping of General Dozier may have been the catalyst for these actions. Groups previously known by other names could be responding to the Brigades' call for unity among Italian terrorists and for violence against US officials and concerns.// [redacted]

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//The attacks, on the other hand, could have been carried out by individuals or groups hoping merely to capitalize on the publicity created by the Dozier incident. In either case, additional attacks by such groups are possible in the weeks ahead.// [redacted]

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NAMIBIA: Negotiations on Independence

The Frontline States and the South-West Africa People's Organization probably will reach a hard-won agreement at a meeting in Lusaka tomorrow on the constitutional principles for an independent Namibia proposed by the Western Contact Group, but prospects for subsequent steps in the peace process are uncertain.

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//The major point of dispute among the African states is SWAPO's strong dissatisfaction with the Contact Group's proposal that half the constitutional assembly be filled by proportional representation and the other half by contests in single-representative constituencies. SWAPO believes this proposal is designed to limit its role in the assembly. Most of the Frontline States have indicated that they are prepared to accept the principles with little or no change.//

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Comment: //The next phase of the negotiations will focus on the methods to be used in the internationally supervised truce and election and is likely to be more difficult. Pretoria's recent public criticism of remarks made by UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar underscores its distrust of the UN involvement in the settlement and indicates that South Africa will be less flexible in the negotiations.//

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//Negotiation also will be hampered by divisions among Frontline members. Some believe that Tanzanian President Nyerere is pushing acceptance of the Contact Group's proposals merely to increase his own international prestige.//

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//Zambia's cooperation may be affected by its neighbors' refusal to sign a mutual trade agreement that Lusaka promoted last month. Angola, probably with Mozambique's backing, continues to lobby to include Libya, Algeria, and Ethiopia in future Frontline meetings, a move opposed by Tanzania and Botswana.//

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PAKISTAN: Plan To End Army Rule

//President Zia apparently is considering sweeping changes that would end overt military rule and enable him to serve as a civilian leader, possibly through elections.//

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Comment: //Although Zia has been under increased pressure from within the Army to end martial law and hold elections, he will move cautiously. If the Federal Advisory Council established earlier this month appears to be succeeding, the President could call for a referendum to legitimize the new structure or work out a plan in the Council for general elections that would deny participation to political parties. If Zia feels threatened, however, he could use the Council to put off elections and give himself another extension as Army chief.//

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The President and the generals evidently believe that they run less of a risk of losing control from a phased loosening of Army rule than from a continuation of the present order. Zia would face an element of uncertainty, however, since he would give up the most powerful post in the country if he resigned from the Army

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NATO: Status of Spanish Membership

//West Germany is likely to suspend its normal ratification procedures to speed Spain's accession to NATO, but delays by the Netherlands and Greece may stall the process.// [redacted]

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//The West German Foreign Office now believes that final action on the application will be taken in April, well before the NATO ministerial meeting in May. This news, however, had little initial effect in the Netherlands, where the Socialists are using procedural tactics to demonstrate their concerns about Spain's membership. Foreign Minister Van Der Stoel predicts that it could take up to a year for the parliament to complete ratification.// [redacted]

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//The situation in Greece also is troublesome. The government probably will respond only to sustained Allied pressure to act on the application. Spain's backers, however, do not want to approach Athens until they can present a carefully timed united front.// [redacted]

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//Although most of the Allies have now indicated their ability to approve membership by May, Spain would prefer postponement of the NATO meeting if all members have not ratified accession. The minority government in Madrid has committed its prestige to joining NATO.// [redacted]

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Comment: //If the ratification process drags on and becomes politicized in other capitals, domestic opposition in Spain to NATO membership could grow and perhaps lead Madrid to withdraw its application.// [redacted]

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