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Terrorism Review



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20 September 1984

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*This review is published every other week by the Directorate of Intelligence. 25X1
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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Terrorism Review 

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20 September 1984

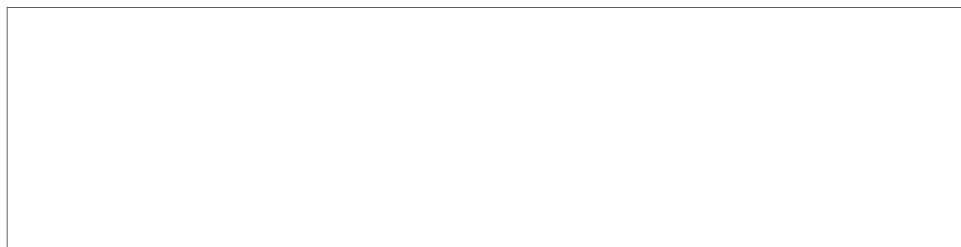
Perspective

How Many International Terrorist Groups Are There? 

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We are often asked how many international terrorist groups there are. We usually suggest there might be one or two dozen such groups, not counting similar entities like insurgent groups and government organizations that covertly engage in terrorism. The vagueness of this reply accurately reflects our uncertainty.

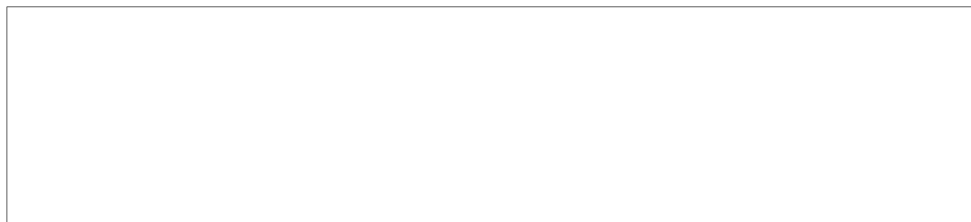
The uncertainty arises mainly from the great amount of terrorism of basically unknown authorship. In many cases, groups we have never heard of—or have heard of but know nothing about—claim responsibility for terrorist attacks. We often have no independent evidence that the groups even exist. We know that some terrorists invent names of groups solely to confuse the authorities—this has been a common practice in Italy, for example. The group we call the Carlos Apparat often acts anonymously; other times it reportedly claims credit for its acts in the names of other groups or in names that it makes up.



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Many terrorist acts are committed by persons or groups that never claim responsibility, leaving it to the victims, the police, the media, and the analysts to try to figure out who did it and why. It is often debatable whether the perpetrators should be considered terrorists, although, when there seems to be no opportunity for personal profit, when the target seems symbolic, the victim innocent, and the context political, we usually conclude that the act is terrorism. Even if we granted the existence of self-proclaimed groups [redacted] the numerous incidents of such anonymous terrorism make it impossible for us to estimate with any confidence how many international terrorist groups there are.

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Highlights

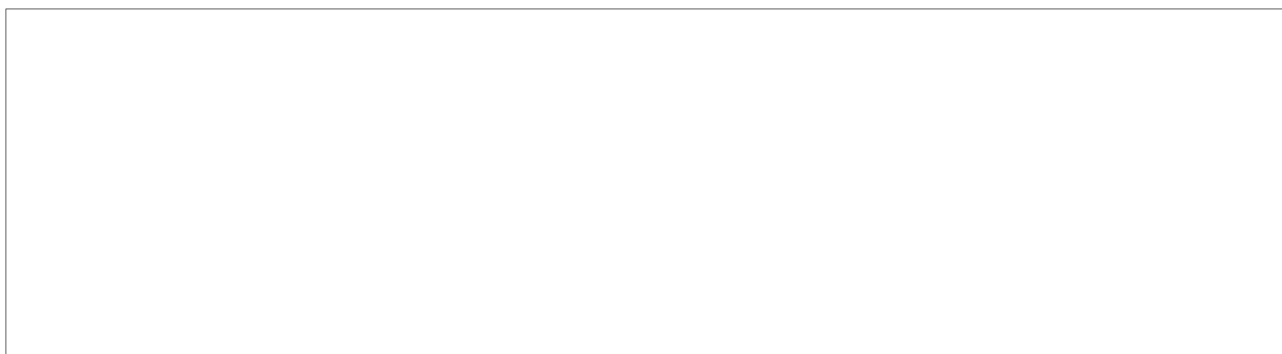
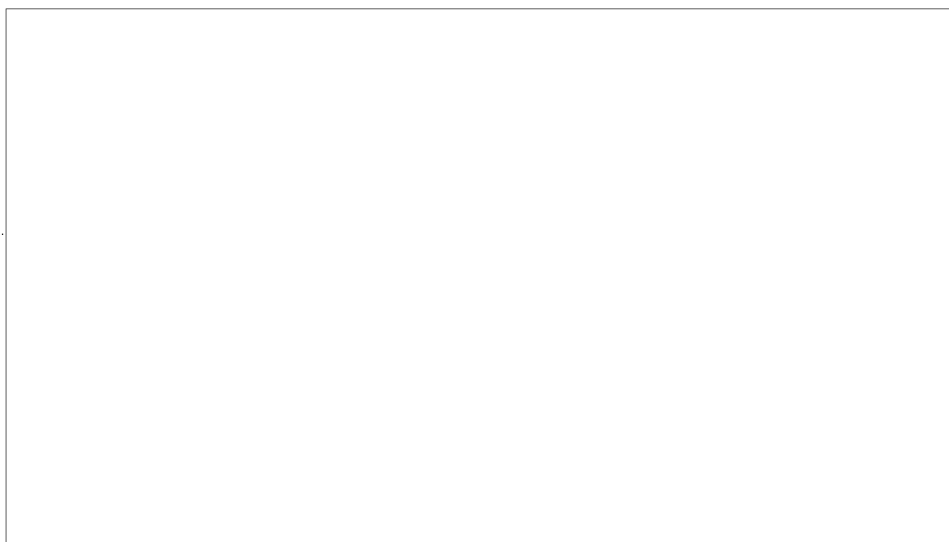
Alert Items

Lebanon

Islamic Jihad Threatens US Interests

On 8 September, an anonymous caller told a Western press agency in Beirut that members of the Islamic Jihad Organization (IJO) would very soon "sacrifice their lives to destroy an American or Zionist institution, even of secondary importance . . . we now have more sophisticated methods than boobytrapped cars and lorries." The attack would be in retaliation for the US veto of a UN Security Council resolution calling on Israel to respect the rights of citizens in southern Lebanon. 25X1

We believe the term "Islamic Jihad" is a covername for a variety of radical pro-Iranian groups and individuals. Although the authenticity of this latest threat is difficult to assess, it is an undoubtedly accurate reflection of the sentiment generated by the US veto. 25X1
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Key Indicators

Colombia

M-19 Cease-Fire Plans

Although the 19th of April Movement (M-19) has signed a cease-fire agreement with the Colombian Government, it does not plan to remain idle. The group reportedly intends to use the time to penetrate civilian organizations, especially labor unions, to expand and train its military cadre, and to conduct revenue-raising activities such as robberies, kidnappings, and extortion in the name of other groups.

[redacted]

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Some of the funds raised during the cease-fire are to be used to buy heavy arms, including anti-aircraft weapons, to improve the group's ability to carry on a protracted struggle with the government. Through the civilian organizations, the M-19 hopes to launch strikes and inspire complaints about inadequate government services, to raise the level of public dissatisfaction. The M-19 will intentionally make unreasonable demands against the government, and will use the government's inability to meet these demands as an excuse to revert to armed warfare.

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[redacted]

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Sudan

Dissident Sabotage Threat

[redacted] seven Libyan-trained Sudanese dissidents have begun to infiltrate the country to carry out terrorist attacks involving at least one American target. The authorities suspect that two of the saboteurs may already have entered via Khartoum airport. The group's targets reportedly include facilities at Port Sudan, important Nile dams and bridges, a satellite relay station, and the Hilton Hotel in Khartoum. [redacted]

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France

Basque Hunger Strikers Weakening

On 9 August, seven ETA members imprisoned in France began a hunger strike to protest proceedings to extradite them to Spain on murder and assault charges. Beginning 24 August they refused liquids as well as food. Following a visit to the hospital, the president of a French human rights organization reported that the prisoners, although conscious, were extremely weak. The death of any of the hunger strikers would add fuel to the current terrorist campaign in Spain against French interests. [redacted]

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Significant Developments

Italy

Reform Law To Benefit Accused Terrorists

At the beginning of August, the Italian Parliament enacted into law legislation that could seriously undercut many of the successes of the Italian authorities in combating terrorism. Provisions of the new law—which is to take effect next February—reduce the maximum period of preventive detention to six years for persons charged with major offenses relating to terrorism or organized crime, with

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time already served to be considered cumulative. According to the US Embassy in Rome, as the result of mishandling by the majority in Parliament, the law passed in a more liberal form than was initially intended [redacted]

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Earlier this year experts estimated that the reform could result in the release on bond of several thousand current detainees. Among an estimated 300 accused unrepentant terrorists who will be affected are those convicted earlier this year in two major terrorist trials—the “April 7” trial and the trial of members of the Red Brigades Rome column—along with some Brigadistas implicated in the Aldo Moro kidnaping. Many of these detainees would be eligible for bail almost immediately. Legal experts disagree as to whether the law could result in an early release for Sergey Antonov, the Bulgarian imprisoned in Rome on charges of complicity in the attempt to kill Pope John Paul II in May 1981 [redacted]

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Investigating Magistrate Ferdinando Imposimato predicted that Parliament would act promptly to change the law [redacted]

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Bulgaria

Spate of Bombings

On 30 August, a bomb exploded in the main waiting room of the Plovdiv railway station, killing as many as 14 people and injuring 20 to 30 others. At about the same time, other bombs exploded at the Varna airport (causing no casualties) and in the cities of Ruse and Burgas. The Bulgarian Government acted expeditiously to repair the damage in Plovdiv and curtailed the dissemination of information about the bombings. Consequently, details are scarce. Some Bulgarian journalists have speculated that disaffected Bulgarian youths were responsible, but the US Embassy in Sofia believes that members of the Turkish minority were the most likely culprits. [redacted]

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Lebanon

Ambiguous Car Bombing

On 5 September, a large car bomb exploded near the home of the Sunni Mufti Hassan Khalid in West Beirut as Education Minister and former Prime Minister Salim al-Huss arrived for a visit. Five people reportedly were killed and 10 wounded, although both al-Huss and the Mufti escaped harm. It is not clear who was responsible for this attack nor who the intended target was. Predictably, Muslim leaders have accused Christian government officials, including President Gemayel. A Lebanese Forces (Christian militia) spokesman denounced the attack as a strike against security and stability in Lebanon. [redacted]

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Afghanistan

Bombing at Kabul Airport

On 31 August, a powerful bomb exploded in the main passenger terminal of Kabul airport, killing at least 20 persons and wounding another 180. [redacted] eight of the dead were Soviet civilians, the others were Afghans. At least one Cuban adviser was reported wounded. The Karmal regime acknowledged the attack and blamed the resistance, but released no casualty figures and quickly repaired the damage to the airport. [redacted]

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The resistance group Jamaat-i-Islami claimed responsibility for the blast, asserting that the airport is used as a military airfield and thus is a legitimate military target.

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Iran-Iraq**More Iranian Hijackings**

On 9 September, five Iranians—a police lieutenant, a married couple, and their two children—diverted a domestic Iranian airline flight to Iraq. The hijackers were armed with at least one pistol. The flight engineer and as many as five passengers may have been wounded during the takeover. The plane made intervening landings in Bahrain and Cairo—where 52 passengers escaped—before arriving in Baghdad, where the remaining passengers were released. As in a similar hijacking in August, they have been the objects of an Iraqi propaganda campaign but will probably be returned to Iran eventually.

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This was the third Iranian plane taken to Iraq in the last two weeks. Moreover, on 12 September, according to Iranian press accounts, a group of four hijackers attempted to divert yet another domestic Iranian flight to Baghdad but were arrested by armed guards on the plane. (Two of the hijackers were reportedly wounded.) Although there is no evidence that Baghdad engineered any of these events, the Iraqi Government granted asylum to all three sets of successful hijackers, called for more such defections, and vowed not to return the planes until the war with Iran is over.

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Iraq expects Iranian reprisals, especially against the planes and offices of its own civil air carrier. Moreover, the actions of Iraq and, to a lesser extent, those of the other Persian Gulf nations that refueled the Iranian planes were in violation of provisions of international antiskijacking conventions and may require sanctions under the Bonn Declaration, which commits the Summit Seven countries to cutting off civil aviation traffic with countries guilty of such violations.

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South Africa**Bombings Underscore Black Unrest**

The African National Congress probably was responsible for six bombings of government buildings and facilities in and around Johannesburg since mid-August that have caused 15 injuries and extensive damage. Among the targets were the Supreme Court, the Department of Internal Affairs, and the police station responsible for Soweto.

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The attacks occurred as South Africa implemented a controversial new constitution that grants a limited franchise to the Colored and Indian members of the population but excludes the black majority. During the same period the country was beset by severe rioting in black townships—mainly near Johannesburg—over both political and economic grievances. The bombings almost certainly were intended to take advantage of the international spotlight on South Africa because of the constitution issue and the riots.

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Sri Lanka

Army Retaliates for Soldiers' Deaths

Tamil terrorists apparently have succeeded in provoking a Sri Lankan Army backlash against Tamil civilians. On 10 September an ambush of government troops resulted in the deaths of nine soldiers; the next day five Sinhalese believed to be present or former Army troops stopped and boarded a bus and shot more than 20 male Tamil passengers, killing about 15 of them.

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Peru: Standoff With Sendero Luminoso

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Sendero Luminoso (SL) terrorism continues to be a major problem for the Government of Peru, and the failure to deal with it effectively is causing growing concern there. Although the Peruvian armed forces have been given increased counterterrorist powers, no significant progress has been achieved except in Lima.

anticipate more terrorist attacks in both the emergency zone and the new front area in the coming weeks.

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The Government Response

The government has reacted to the increased level of violence in a number of ways. On 3 August, the national state of emergency was extended for 60 days, and the armed forces were granted substantially greater powers to counter the SL threat outside the emergency zone. In addition, an emergency subzone has been created in the Huanuco and San Martin departments. The armed forces have assumed political and military command in the area and intend to reestablish government control.

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In the capital, the insurgent forces have suffered major reversals. Laura Zambrano Padilla, the political commander of the Sendero Luminoso's Lima Metropolitan Regional Committee and director of the group's local activities since 1982, was arrested in July. Arrests of other SL members have further reduced the SL strength. Despite these successes by local law enforcement units, the SL has demonstrated its resilience in Lima by recent attacks on banks and security forces. Perhaps partly for this reason, the responsibility for maintaining public order in Lima has been transferred to the military.

To contain the insurgency in the new emergency subzone, the military has assembled a 1,500-man counterinsurgency force, which includes commandos, marines, a naval river detachment, and paratroops. The Air Force has contributed four helicopters and three short-take-off-and-landing aircraft. These forces have encountered some difficulty in outfitting and equipping for a jungle operation, but they are confident they will be able to eliminate the terrorists from the region. We believe this confidence is premature.

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The situation in the emergency zone is at best stalemated. Security forces control the city of Ayacucho, but the SL cadres hold the initiative elsewhere in the department. The government has had difficulty asserting its authority over large portions of the region, and its control is often tenuous even in the "secured areas."

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Meanwhile, the guerrillas have opened a second front in the upper Huallaga River valley, about 450 kilometers north of the emergency zone. Several government officials in the area have reportedly been murdered and many others have resigned after receiving death threats. We doubt, however, that the Sendero Luminoso has been responsible for all of the violence and intimidation; we believe that narcotics traffickers and local coca producers, who are actively resisting the government's efforts to eradicate the region's narcotics industry, are also involved. Regardless of who has been responsible, officials

Given the entrenched presence of narcotics interests in the valley of the upper Huallaga River, what is taking place there is not a classic terrorist-counterterrorist confrontation. Peruvian Army intelligence estimates there are 400 guerrillas in the area, but we believe there are no more than 150. In addition, however, several hundred coca producers, who have obtained small arms either from the traffickers or from the guerrillas, pose a separate, significant threat. The military has the right mix of

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Emergency Zones in Peru



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personnel and equipment to establish limited control over the area, but the rugged terrain will enable at least some of the terrorists to evade capture. [redacted]

Ostensibly, the role of the military force is to conduct counterterrorist operations, and law enforcement units will continue their antinarcotics efforts. How this division of labor will work out in practice remains to be seen. Both the armed forces and police units will have difficulty distinguishing terrorists from narcotics traffickers—especially if they are cooperating, as is persistently alleged by Peruvian officials and the media. There is no independent evidence to substantiate these charges, and the Sendero Luminoso has an announced policy of not cooperating with drug traffickers. [redacted]

The armed forces also face other problems. Apparently frustrated by their inability to defeat the insurgents, they have reportedly turned to harsher tactics in their counterterrorist operations. This has caused criticism that they are abusing human rights in the emergency zone. The armed forces were also shaken by the removal of General Huaman as commander of the military forces in the emergency zone. He was fired for complaining publicly that the government has not provided sufficient funding or economic development initiatives for an effective counterterrorist program there. The US Embassy reports rising discontent among military leaders who share General Huaman's views. [redacted]

Outlook

Despite the opening of the new front, we believe the Sendero Luminoso is not nearly strong enough yet to offer serious national competition to the central government. Moreover, reports of SL atrocities have alarmed most Peruvians and vitiated the movement's efforts to gain widespread public support. Nevertheless, we also believe that the government will have to commit far more forces to the counterinsurgency effort before it can even begin to threaten the viability of the Sendero Luminoso in either zone of operations. [redacted]

[redacted]

Is the Sendero Luminoso Overconfident?

In the process of arresting several members of the Sendero Luminoso recently, Peruvian counterterrorist officers seized documents that yield new insight into the organization's plans. [redacted]

The Sendero Luminoso has inaugurated a new plan which it terms the Gran Salto (Great Leap), a title consistent with its Maoist ideology. The plan schedules four stages of armed campaigns, each of which is to last several months. The first campaign began in May of this year and will last until October. Succeeding stages are scheduled for December 1984–April 1985, July–September 1985, and November 1985–early 1986. [redacted]

It is not clear how the timing of the Great Leap correlates with that of the other major SL plan—the Gran Plan (Great Plan)—which was already being implemented. The latter called for a yearlong series of attacks beginning in October 1983 and divided into two six-month waves. Thus the Great Leap's first campaign coincides with the Great Plan's second six-month wave of violence. Whether the Great Leap supplants or complements the Great Plan, however, has not been established. [redacted]

Although plans for the Great Leap have been mentioned in other SL documents, the decision to begin it in mid-1984 was apparently made only recently. That decision suggests a degree of SL confidence in the progress of its insurgency that we believe to be unwarranted. In fact, we think this Great Leap is unlikely to be any more successful than its namesake. [redacted]

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Chronology

Below are described noteworthy foreign and international terrorist events and counterterrorism developments that have occurred or come to light since our last issue. Events and developments that have already been described elsewhere in this publication are not included.

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25-27 July 1984**Angola: UNITA Terrorizes Towns**

In Cutato, forces of the national Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) destroyed the school, the general store, the railroad station, some 50 houses, and the militia and security service buildings. Near Quibala, UNITA burned 30 houses in a village. UNITA apparently continued its practice of avoiding casualties among the local population—preferring to terrorize through the demolition of property. Only four civilians were killed and one wounded in the destructive attacks.

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Early August 1984**Venezuela: Bandera Roja Robs Bank**

In Maturin, seven members of Bandera Roja (Red Flag) robbed a bank of US \$20,000 worth of Venezuelan pesos. The group leader planned to send most of the money to the Salvadoran FMLN. This is the second time in a year that funds from a bank robbery in Venezuela have been reported as destined for Central American guerrilla groups.

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3-9 August 1984**Angola: UNITA Takes Foreign Hostages**

In Ganda, UNITA kidnaped a West German civilian after a clash with government forces. In Bela Vista, UNITA captured two Portuguese citizens during a raid. Southeast of N'Gunza, UNITA forces took one Spanish and two Portuguese citizens hostage after an engagement with government troops.

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18 August 1984**Somalia: Terrorism Campaign Continues**

In Hargeisa, according to rebel claims, commandos of the Somali National Movement (SNM) attacked the homes of two government supporters with bazookas, continuing the terrorism campaign they began last June.

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23 August 1984**Namibia: Government Office Bombed**

In Ondangwa, a bomb exploded in the Ovambo administration office, wounding two persons. The South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) probably was responsible.

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25 August 1984**Swaziland: Arrest of ANC Members**

In Manzini, according to a Swazi press report, police arrested five members of the African National Congress (ANC) and confiscated 300 rounds of ammunition. A police spokesman said the men would be deported. Swaziland is trying to suppress ANC activities within its borders.

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25-26 August 1984**Lebanon: Bombings in Armenian Quarter**

In East Beirut, bombs damaged an Armenian church, an Armenian school, and three shops owned by Armenians. A telephone caller claimed that ASALA had conducted one of the attacks, but no group has yet claimed responsibility for the other attacks. The bombings appear to be part of the recent resurgence of violence between leftist and rightist Armenian factions in Lebanon.

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30 August 1984**Dominican Republic: Vehicles Destroyed by Molotov Cocktails**

In Santo Domingo, a bus and a delivery truck were destroyed by Molotov cocktails thrown by members of Popular Struggle Committees (CLPs)—neighborhood groups organized by Dominican leftists to protest the government's announcement of a petroleum product price increase.

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Late August 1984**Swaziland: Refugees Flee RENAMO**

In Swaziland, representatives of the United Nations High Commission on Refugees registered 400 refugees from Mozambique, mostly children and older people, who said they had fled attacks by the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (RENAMO). Some of the refugees were suffering from knife and bullet wounds. RENAMO may have attacked civilians along the Mozambique-Swaziland border, which lies only 30 miles from Maputo, to demonstrate the inability of the Mozambican regime to protect the populace.

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Mexico: Former Terrorist Leader Arrested

In Ensenada, Hector Topete, former leader of the disbanded 23rd of September Communist League and one of Mexico's most wanted criminals, was arrested during a drug raid. At its peak in the mid-1970s, the 23rd of September League was considered Mexico's principal guerrilla group.

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**Late August–Early
September 1984****Japan: Protests Against Visit of South Korean President**

On 6 September, an incendiary device destroyed a van parked 2 kilometers from the site of a ceremony in which visiting President Chun Doo Hwan was participating. Several other acts of terrorism preceded Chun's arrival, including firebombings near police and government facilities. Chukaku-ha (the Nucleus Faction) claimed credit for one of them, and Japanese authorities suspect the Trotskyite group may have been responsible for some or all of the rest as well.

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2 September 1984**Sri Lanka: Poisoning of Water Supplies**

In Kantesanturai, eight armed youths believed to be members of a Tamil separatist group reportedly poisoned the water supply of a hotel and the quarters of some police officers. No casualties were reported. Other terrorists reportedly tried to poison the water supply of the Point Pedro police station.

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3 September 1984**Corsica: More FLNC Bombs**

In Bastia, a bomb planted by suspected members of the Corsican National Liberation Front (FLNC) exploded near the home of a policeman, injuring his wife and son. A second bomb in the same village damaged the car and home of a teacher from mainland France, but the teacher escaped unhurt. A third bomb aimed at another teacher failed to explode.

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4 September 1984**Sri Lanka: Terrorists Execute Informers**

In the village of Thunkai, suspected Tamil terrorists attacked a teashop, killing a village chief and a retired policeman, and seriously wounding at least five other persons. The victims were thought to be informers who had passed information on the terrorists to the Sri Lankan Army.

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4-5 September 1984**Uganda: Attacks on Diplomatic Facilities**

In Kampala, groups of armed men wearing military uniforms broke into the grounds of British High Commission and USAID residences. British soldiers from the guard force drove off one set of intruders—wounding at least two of them in the process. At the home of an American USAID employee, a local guard observed four uniformed men stealing the wheels and tires from the employee's car. No shots were fired. Government soldiers from a nearby barracks are suspected of having committed the robberies.

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5 September 1984**Nicaragua: Sandinista Candidate Kidnaped**

A Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) candidate, a FSLN zonal secretary, and their driver were kidnaped by anti-Sandinista Contras while campaigning in the Southern Zelaya department.

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Spain: Commemorative Assassinations by GRAPO

In Madrid, members of the First of October Antifascist Resistance Group (GRAPO), shot and killed a construction company president. In Seville, other GRAPO gunmen killed the president of the merchants association, while in La Coruna a third GRAPO attack seriously wounded a government employee. The attacks occurred on the anniversary of the death of a former GRAPO leader.

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6 September 1984

West Bank: Bus Attacked

Molotov cocktails were thrown at a bus near a refugee camp outside Ramallah, according to press reports. There were no injuries, and no group claimed responsibility.

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7 September 1984

France: Corsicans Bomb Mainland Targets

In Marseilles, three bombs planted by members of the Corsican National Liberation Front (FMLN) damaged a French bank, a police station, and a courthouse. The bombings were probably a response to the arrest in Corsica on 31 August of a suspected Corsican terrorist.

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West Berlin: Police Foil Neo-Nazis Again

Police raided a meeting of known rightwing extremists who had convened to establish a new neo-Nazi organization, the National European Union (NEU). Confiscated materials indicated that the group had ties to Michael Kuehnen, the founder of the Action Front of National Socialists (ANS), a neo-Nazi organization that was banned in 1983. Police believe the NEU was to have served as a cover for the ANS.

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7-8 September 1984

Spain: ETA Attacks

On 7 September in Lasarte, a bomb planted by suspected members of the Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA) exploded at a supermarket. There was damage to the building but no injuries. On 8 September in the Spanish Basque country, a French-registered truck was shot at by three suspected members of ETA. The truck was severely damaged, but the driver escaped unharmed.

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8 September 1984

South Africa: UNITA Frees More Foreign Hostages

In Johannesburg, the Angolan resistance group UNITA released 25 foreign hostages of Portuguese, Mexican, Spanish, and other nationalities whom it had held for six months.

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Sudan: Three Priests Kidnaped

Rebel forces of the Anya Nya II overran the town of Bentiu and kidnaped three priests—an American, a Briton, and a Sudanese—along with a Sudanese employee of the Sudan Catholic Church. The group has not acknowledged holding the captives, and we do not know why the group kidnaped them or what it means to do with them.

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9 September 1984

Lebanon: Israel Bombs Another Palestinian Facility

Israeli aircraft attacked a building near Bhamdun reportedly used by Abu Musa's Fatah dissident group. Maj. Salim Sulayman Da'ud (Abu Hasan), a senior commander in Abu Musa's group, was killed and three other persons were wounded in the attack.

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11 September 1984**Netherlands: Monument Bombed**

In Amsterdam, a previously unheard of group took credit for the bombing of a monument dedicated to the former Dutch colonial army in Indonesia. A child playing nearby was wounded in the blast. Police defused three other bombs at the same site. A group calling itself "Koetoh Reh"—the name of an Indonesian village where the group claimed the Dutch Army had massacred 460 people in 1904—said that the attack was to protest racism in the Netherlands and Dutch ties to the current government of Indonesia.

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Spain: Libyan Embassy Employee Attacked

In Madrid, two gunmen carrying Lebanese passports wounded a Libyan Embassy employee. The gunmen were arrested by Spanish police. In Beirut, an anonymous telephone caller told a foreign news agency that the Musa Sadr Brigade was responsible. The Lebanese Shia group, which holds Libya responsible for the disappearance in 1978 of its religious leader, the Imam Musa Sadr, has already attacked Libyan targets in Beirut several times this year. Another caller in London claimed the little-known Libyan exile group Alborkan (Volcano) was responsible for the attack.

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12 September 1984**Argentina: Bomb Threat**

In Buenos Aires, an Argentine Airlines plane scheduled to fly the foreign ministers of the Dominican Republic and Uruguay to Mar Del Plata received an anonymous bomb threat. A search of the plane failed to detect explosives.

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13 September 1984**Colombia: Chilean Consulate Bombed**

In Barranquilla, three unidentified terrorists passing by in a car hurled a powerful bomb at the doors of the Chilean Consulate. The explosion caused some US \$20,000 damage to the Consulate and to five nearby buildings, but no injuries. No group has claimed responsibility.

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13-14 September 1984**Turkey: Dev Sol Bombings**

In Istanbul, members of the resurgent terrorist group Dev Sol (Revolutionary Left) planted 10 to 20 explosive devices and distributed antigovernment propaganda leaflets throughout the city. At least four of the bombs exploded, injuring several people and damaging four district offices of Turkey's ruling Motherland Party. Several hundred people were arrested following the explosions.

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