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### An Overview of International Terrorism January - June 1986

International terrorist attacks are on the rise and the United States continues to be a favorite target. During the first six months of 1986, nearly 450 international terrorist incidents occurred worldwide -- a 25-percent increase over the comparable period last year. Of these, some 125 attacks -- or one-fourth of the total -- were directed against US interests.

- o As in recent years, international terrorism continues to be a problem of the Middle East. More than half of all international terrorist incidents recorded for the first six months of 1986 occurred in the Middle East. In addition, Middle Eastern terrorists were responsible for at least 50 percent of the total number of incidents worldwide for the period.

Around 20 percent of the international terrorist attacks for the 6-month period occurred in Western Europe, down slightly from the 1985 total. Despite some government counterterrorist successes, several major indigenous terrorist organizations -- among them West Germany's Red Army Faction (RAF) and France's Action Directe (AD) -- continued to stage terrorist attacks. In early July, the RAF claimed responsibility for the assassination of Siemens executive Karl-Heinz Beckurts near his home in a Munich suburb. That same month, AD carried out four attacks against French interests, including an attack against a police headquarters that left one dead and some 20 persons injured.

- o During the 6-month period, Latin America accounted for 15 percent of international terrorism. Though international terrorism continues to be a small subset of all political violence in the region--dwarfed by insurgent domestic violence directed principally against governmental or military targets--the level of international terrorism in Peru, Chile, and Colombia so far this year has been notable. Government-sponsored violence in Chile has continued unabated while rightwing terrorism in El Salvador has declined.

\* The 1986 figures are based on preliminary data.

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GIM 86-20198

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- o In the first six months of 1986 there were about as many international terrorist incidents in Asia as there were for all of 1985. Among the more significant events were the series of homemade rockets fired at the State Guest House in Tokyo by the leftist Japanese group Chukaku-ha, as heads of government were arriving for the Economic Summit in early May. Although the rockets missed their target, and caused only minimal damage, the incident caused great embarrassment to the Nakasone government.

In the first half of 1986, Libya, Syria, and Iran continued to be active in supporting terrorism. Tripoli and Damascus were involved in dramatic incidents that were departures from their previous patterns of terrorist-related activity. Libya sponsored attacks in April against US diplomatic personnel in Khartoum, Sudan, and Sanaa, Yemen Arab Republic, and Syria probably was behind the attempted bombing of an El Al jetliner in London in mid-April. Iran, following a period of inactivity on the terrorist front, probably was involved in a series of bombing attacks against Kuwaiti oil facilities on 17 June.

The United States has been a frequent target of international terrorism in the first half of the year. In the first six months of 1986, 10 Americans died at the hands of international terrorists, and some 80 were wounded.

- o Forty percent of all international terrorist attacks against US persons and property for the half-year occurred in Latin America, particularly in Peru, Chile, and Colombia. In Peru, the Maoist insurgent movement Sendero Luminoso increasingly has attacked urban targets, and the United States has borne the brunt of much of its activity directed against foreigners. Chile and Colombia, as in 1985, have continued to be principal venues for anti-US terrorism. Twice as many anti-US incidents occurred in Latin America during the month of April as occurred in any other region in any other month during the period.
- o Leftist groups in West Germany accounted for some 10 incidents -- or one-fourth -- of all anti-US violence in Western Europe for the first half of 1986. Most of these were low-level attacks directed against military installations.
- o Some 15 international terrorist incidents were directed against US interests in the Middle East during the first half of 1986. This level is roughly the same as the total number of anti-US incidents in the region for all of 1985. So far this year, most of the anti-US violence has occurred in Lebanon.

GIM 86-20198

2

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The highest level of international terrorist activity in the first half of 1986 -- well over 100 incidents -- took place in April, in the wake of US naval operations in the Gulf of Sidra in late March, and again after the US airstrikes on Tripoli and Banghazi in mid-April. Past experience demonstrates that a dramatic upsurge in international terrorist incidents usually occurs in the immediate aftermath of significant political or military events. In the wake of the Israeli incursion into Lebanon in June 1982, for example, a rash of international terrorist incidents occurred worldwide, with many claimants linking their actions to solidarity with the Arab victims.

Terrorist operations continue to become more indiscriminate in nature, reflecting apparent disregard for the fate of bystanders and others not specifically targeted. In the early-April bombing of the La Belle discotheque in West Berlin, for example, two people died, and more than 200 persons of various nationalities were wounded (another died from his injuries two months later). The total number of casualties for the first half of 1986 -- more than 1,250 -- increased by nearly 30 percent from the comparable period in 1985. The number of fatalities dropped substantially -- by more than one-third -- while the number of persons wounded increased by well over 100 percent. Forty-five percent of all casualties in 1986 occurred during the month of April.

During the first half of 1986, more than one-fifth of all international terrorist incidents were conducted against business targets, reflecting a growing trend in terrorist attacks against more vulnerable, less protected targets -- especially as diplomatic and military installations are hardened against terrorism. The number of attacks against business interests worldwide exceeded the combined total of attacks against diplomatic and military targets for the period.

Bombings remained the favored type of attack, used in nearly 60 percent of all incidents for the period. Counted among these were some 14 vehicle bombings, employed most frequently in the Middle East.

GIM 86-20198

3

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**Chronology of Significant Terrorist Incidents  
July 1985- July 1986**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Incident</u>
1985	
1 July	<p><b>Spain</b> In Madrid, a bomb exploded at the British Airways ticket office, killing one person and injuring 27 others. The blast gutted the premises and also wrecked a TWA office located directly above. Minutes later, a grenade was lobbed into the nearby offices of Royal Jordanian Airlines, and the front of the building was raked with small-arms fire. The Organization of the Oppressed, Revolutionary Organization of Socialist Muslims, and Black September claimed responsibility.</p>
11 July	<p><b>Kuwait</b> In Kuwait, two powerful bombs exploded within minutes of each other in two crowded outdoor cafes, killing eight people, and injuring 89. The Arab Revolutionary Brigades claimed responsibility.</p>
22 July	<p><b>Denmark</b> In Copenhagen, simultaneous bombings damaged the Northwest Orient Airlines office and a synagogue, injuring 32 persons. A caller claiming to represent Islamic Jihad took responsibility.</p>
29 July	<p><b>Spain</b> The Basque Fatherland and Liberty-Military Wing claimed credit for the machinegun attack that killed Vice Admiral Fausto Escrigas Estrada, the Director General of Defense Policy, as he drove to work in Madrid.</p>
6 August	<p><b>Mozambique</b> The Mozambique National Resistance killed 33 persons in an attack on a funeral cortege in Tete province near the Malawi border.</p>
8 August	<p><b>West Germany</b> A carbombing at Rhein-Main airbase near Frankfurt killed two Americans and wounded 17 other persons. The West German Red Army</p>

GIM 86-20198

4

CONFIDENTIAL

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Faction and the French Action Directe both claimed responsibility.

16 August

**Colombia**

The 19th of April Movement claimed responsibility for the kidnaping in Bogota of an American oil company executive, Michael Stewart. Stewart, an employee of a Tenneco subsidiary, was released on 23 December.

20 August

**Egypt**

In Cairo, the Israeli administrative attache was assassinated by gunmen in a passing car. His wife and secretary were wounded. The previously unknown group Egyptian Revolution claimed credit.

3 September

**Greece**

Two grenades were thrown into the lobby of a Greek hotel in Glyfada, wounding 19 Britons. A caller to an Athens newspaper stated that Black September would conduct numerous attacks in Athens if Greek authorities did not release one of its members.

9 September

**Spain**

In Madrid, the Basque Fatherland and Liberty-Military Wing claimed responsibility for a remote-controlled car bomb attack that injured 18 Spanish Civil Guardsmen and an American passerby; the American later died of his injuries.

10 September

**El Salvador**

President Duarte's daughter, Inez, and a companion, were kidnaped on a San Salvador university campus during a scuffle that left one security guard dead and another mortally wounded. Duarte was held for nearly two months before being released in a prisoner swap involving approximately two dozen captured guerrillas. The Pedro Pablo Castillo Front claimed responsibility.

16 September

**Italy**

Terrorists lobbed grenades into the Cafe de Paris restaurant in Rome, wounding 38 tourists, including nine Americans. The Revolutionary Organization of Socialist Muslims, a covername used by the Abu Nidal Group, claimed responsibility.

CONFIDENTIAL

25 September

**Italy**

In Rome, a bomb exploded in the British Airways office, injuring 15 persons. An Arab arrested fleeing the scene claimed to be a member of the Revolutionary Organization of Socialist Muslims.

30 September

**Lebanon**

In Beirut, three Soviet diplomats and a Soviet Embassy doctor were kidnaped. The body of one of the captives was found in a West Beirut suburb on 2 October; the remaining hostages were released on 30 October. A Sunni Muslim group, Islamic Liberation Organization, claimed responsibility.

7 October

**Mediterranean Sea**

The Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro was seized as it departed Alexandria, Egypt, for Port Said. Before surrendering to Egyptian authorities on 9 October, the terrorists killed US tourist Leon Klinghoffer. The Palestine Liberation Front was responsible.

6 November

**Colombia**

Guerrillas belonging to the 19th of April Movement seized the Palace of Justice and held it for over 27 hours. By the time the incident came to an end -- when government troops stormed the building -- some 90 people were dead, including seven Supreme Court judges and more than 50 guerrillas.

23 November

**Malta**

An Egyptian jetliner was hijacked from Athens to Malta. Before Egyptian commandos stormed the plane -- killing some 60 persons who remained aboard -- the terrorists murdered five persons, including an American woman, and wounded the other Americans on board. The Arab Revolutionary Brigades claimed responsibility for the hijacking jointly with the Egyptian Revolution.

24 November

**West Germany**

A car bomb exploded in a parking lot adjacent to a US military shopping center in Frankfurt, wounding 32, mostly US military personnel and dependents. No group claimed responsibility.

GIM 86-20198

## CONFIDENTIAL

- 29 November **Japan**  
Chukaku-ha cut National Railway communications cables in at least 16 places, firebombed a railway station, and burned a transformer facility in a well-executed assault which ultimately stranded 11 million commuters.
- 7 December **France**  
The bombing of two department stores in Paris left about 35 holiday shoppers wounded. The Palestine Liberation Front, the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia, and Islamic Jihad all claimed responsibility.
- 10 December **Colombia**  
Approximately 60 armed guerrillas of the People's Liberation Army attacked a Bechtel Corporation construction site in northern Colombia and kidnaped two US engineers, demanding \$6 million for their release. One of the Americans died in captivity in early 1986; the other was released shortly thereafter.
- 1986
- 31 January **Lebanon**  
In West Beirut, five gunmen kidnaped the second secretary at the South Korean Embassy. The Organization of the Oppressed and two previously unknown groups -- the "Fighting Revolutionary Cells," which provided a photograph of the diplomat, and the "Green Brigades," which demanded ransom -- claimed responsibility. His current status is unknown.
- 5 February **France**  
In Paris, a bomb exploded in a large shopping complex, injuring at least 26 people, including one American. The Committee for Solidarity with Arab and Near Eastern Political Prisoners claimed responsibility.
- 10 February **Italy**  
In Florence, terrorists assassinated the former mayor of Florence, Lando Conti. The Red Brigades claimed responsibility.
- 21 February **Italy**  
In Rome, members of the Union of Communist Combatants shot and wounded presidential

GIM 86-20198

7

CONFIDENTIAL



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economics adviser Antonio da Empoli. Da Empoli's bodyguard killed one of the four terrorists, and Italian police reportedly arrested two others. The Union of Communist Combatants may be associated with the Red Brigades terrorist organization.

2 March

**West Bank**

The pro-Jordanian mayor of Nablus was assassinated outside city hall by an unidentified gunman.

7 March

**West Bank**

In Jerusalem, an American tourist was shot by unidentified assailants. The man, probably mistaken for an Israeli, was slightly wounded. The anti-Arafat Palestinian group, Abu Musa, was most likely responsible.

8 March

**Lebanon**

In West Beirut, four members of a French television crew were kidnaped, possibly by a faction of Hizballah. Two of the captives were released on 20 June.

19 March

**Egypt**

In Cairo, the wife of an Israeli Embassy employee was killed and three other Israelis were wounded when terrorists ambushed their car leaving the Cairo Trade Fair. The attack was claimed by a group calling itself Egypt's Revolution.

25 March

**Japan**

In Tokyo, three homemade incendiary rockets were fired into the grounds of the US Embassy, and two rockets were fired into the grounds of the Imperial Palace. None of the rockets did any damage or caused any casualties, although one rocket landed on the roof of the Embassy.

27 March

**Bolivia**

In La Paz, a previously unknown group calling itself "Los Commandos del Pueblo" claimed responsibility for a dynamite explosion at the US Embassy. The incident caused no casualties and minor damage. In a communique sent to a local radio station, the group said it acted in retaliation for US aggression against Libya, Nicaragua, and other Third World countries.

GIM 86-20198

8

CONFIDENTIAL

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29 March

**Lebanon**

In West Beirut, two British citizens were kidnaped. Their bodies, along with that of American citizen Peter Kilburn, were discovered on 17 April. The note accompanying the bodies said they had been executed in retaliation for the US raid on Libya. Kilburn was kidnaped in West Beirut in November 1984.

29 March

**West Germany**

In West Berlin, the German-Arab Friendship Union was bombed. Three Palestinians were implicated in the attack.

2 April

**Greece**

A bomb exploded aboard TWA Flight 840 as it approached Athens, killing four Americans, and injuring nine other persons. Although it was damaged severely, the plane was able to make an emergency landing in Athens. A previously unknown group, the "Arab Revolutionary Cells," claimed responsibility for the incident in a communique issued from Beirut. The major suspect in the case remains a Lebanese woman with ties to the Syrian-backed Syrian Social Nationalist Party.

5 April

**West Germany**

A bomb explosion inside a popular West Berlin nightclub, the La Belle discotheque, killed two -- including one US serviceman -- and injured more than 200, including 60 Americans. Another American soldier died two months later. A Palestinian has been arrested in connection with the bombing. Libya is believed to have sponsored the attack.

15 April

**Sudan**

Unidentified assailants shot and seriously wounded a US Embassy employee in Khartoum. Black September claimed responsibility. Libya is believed to have sponsored the attack.

17 April

**United Kingdom**

London police arrested an Irish woman at Heathrow Airport as she attempted to board an El Al flight with a suitcase bomb. Her Palestinian boyfriend, who planted the explosives, was arrested two days later. In his confession he stated that Syrian officials were extensively involved in assisting him.

GIM 86-20198

9

CONFIDENTIAL

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- 18 April**                   **Greece**  
In Athens, gunmen killed Dimitros Angelopoulos, director of Greece's largest iron and steel works, as he walked to work. The Greek terrorist group Revolutionary Organization 17 November claimed responsibility.
- 18 April**                   **Turkey**  
Turkish authorities thwarted a plot by Libyans to stage a grenade attack against the US Officers Club in Ankara. According to the Turkish indictment of five Libyans implicated in the attempt, about 100 people were attending a wedding party at the time the attack was scheduled to occur.
- 23 April**                   **Lebanon**  
The Revolutionary Organization of Socialist Muslims -- a covername used by Abu Nidal -- claimed that it had executed British UN employee Alec Collett, who was abducted in Khaldah in March 1985. In a communique, the group asserted that it had murdered Collett in retaliation for British support for the US raid on Libya.
- 25 April**                   **Yemen Arab Republic**  
In Sanaa, an unidentified assailant shot and wounded a US Embassy communications officer near his residence. Libya is believed to have sponsored the attack.
- 3 May**                      **Sri Lanka**  
Tamil separatists bombed an Air Lanka passenger jet preparing to take off from Colombo for the Maldives. The blast blew the tail off the jet and killed 16 people.
- 4 May**                      **Japan**  
In Tokyo, the leftist radical group Chukaku-ha (Nucleus Faction) fired five homemade rockets at the State Guest House, where heads of government were arriving for the Economic Summit. The rockets, which missed their target, caused no injuries and only minimal damage.
- 14 May**                    **Indonesia**  
In Jakarta, two mortar projectiles were fired at the US and Japanese Embassies, but both failed to explode. An hour later, a car bomb

GIM 86-20198

10

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

exploded in the parking lot of an office building housing the Canadian Embassy and destroyed at least six cars. The previously unknown "Anti-Imperialist International Brigade" claimed responsibility for the attacks, stating that they were conducted in retaliation for the antiterrorism declarations of the Tokyo Economic Summit earlier that month.

17 June

**Kuwait**

A bomb exploded at an oil well near Kuwait City, and two blasts occurred at manifolds near Kuwait's oil tank farms, causing considerable damage.

25 June

**Peru**

A bomb exploded aboard a tourist train that travels from Cuzco to Machu Picchu, killing eight persons, including one American, and wounding 36 persons, including eight Americans. An American teenager died of her injuries several days later.

26 June

**Spain**

A suitcase bomb exploded at the El Al counter at Madrid airport during an inspection. Thirteen persons were injured, three seriously. The arrested terrorist said he was a member of Abu Musa, an anti-Arafat Palestinian group.

9 July

**West Germany**

The Red Army Faction claimed responsibility for the assassination of Siemens executive Karl-Heinz Beckurts near his home in suburban Munich.

9 July

**France**

In Paris, a powerful bomb exploded inside the building housing the French police prefecture. A police inspector was killed and some 20 other persons were wounded. Action Directe claimed responsibility.