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# WASHINGTON'S 10 MOST WANTED

BY ROBERT PACK

EXCERPTED

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## Francis Terpil: Renegade Spy and Trainer of Terrorists

Born: November 2, 1939 (has also used February 11, 1939), in Brooklyn, New York.

Height: five feet, ten inches.

Weight: 170 to 215 pounds.

Hair: brown.

Eyes: hazel.

Wanted for solicitation to commit murder and on other charges.

Former CIA agents Francis Edward Terpil and Edwin P. Wilson attempted in 1976 to arrange the assassination of an opponent of Libyan dictator Muammar el-Qaddafi. Their target, a Libyan who had tried to overthrow Qaddafi in 1975, was living as an exile in Egypt in August 1976 when Terpil and Wilson offered three Cuban-Americans \$1 million for his murder. The Cubans notified the CIA.

In December 1979 Terpil was arrested by New York City police and charged with illegal possession of automatic weapons and conspiring to sell them to a terrorist group.

On April 23, 1980, a federal grand jury here indicted Terpil, Wilson, and another man for conspiring to supply the Libyan government with weapons and material used to make explosive devices, and to train terrorists in the production of explosives. They were also charged with soliciting to commit murder and conspiring to commit murder in connec-

tion with the 1976 plot against Qaddafi's opponent in Egypt.

Terpil was arrested then on those federal charges, but he posted bond and fled the US before a court appearance in September 1980. Terpil's wife, Marillyn, and Wilson also fled the country.

Terpil was tried in absentia in New York state court in 1981, convicted on the charges pending against him there, and sentenced to 53 years in prison with the recommendation that he never be paroled.

Wilson was lured back to the US in 1982, tried, and convicted of numerous charges: he is now serving 52 years in federal prison.

Marillyn Terpil surrendered to US authorities in New York in 1983, after she and Frank Terpil split up. Under an arrangement with prosecutors, she was placed on probation for conspiring with her husband to procure a false US passport for an Iranian refugee. The Terpils' home, at 1102 Chain Bridge Road in McLean, was sold at auction for \$485,000 in September 1983 to help settle a \$4.6 million federal tax lien against the couple.

During the past five years, Frank Terpil has lived in Syria, Lebanon, Eastern Europe, and Grenada—he left Grenada not long before the US invasion in October 1983. He has been an adviser to former Ugandan dictator Idi Amin and to the Palestine Liberation Organization as well as to Qaddafi.

Regarded as armed and extremely dangerous, he is wanted on many charges, including soliciting to commit murder, weapons violations, failure to register as an agent of the Libyan government, and failure to appear in court.

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