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EMBASSY IN KUWAIT HAD CIA WARNING

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WASHINGTON (AP) - THE U.S. EMBASSY IN KUWAIT WAS WARNED ABOUT ONE MONTH IN ADVANCE BY THE CIA TO EXPECT A TERRORIST ATTACK BUT FAILED TO TAKE ENOUGH SAFEGUARDS TO AVERT THIS WEEK'S TRUCK BOMBING; INTELLIGENCE SOURCES SAY.

THE BOMBING LEFT SIX PEOPLE DEAD. A SEVENTH PERSON DIED IN ONE OF FIVE OTHER BOMBINGS THAT ROCKED KUWAIT ON MONDAY.

ONE SOURCE SAID BOTH THE COUNTRY AND THE TARGET WERE PREDICTED BY THE CIA IN LATE OCTOBER. THE SOURCE ALSO SAID THAT WARNINGS TO MARINES IN BEIRUT WENT LARGELY UNHEEDED PRIOR TO THE OCT. 23 BOMBING THAT KILLED 241 SERVICEMEN.

'ONCE AGAIN WE HAVE A SITUATION WHERE A WARNING WITH SUBSTANTIAL LEAD TIME WAS PROVIDED,' SAID THE SOURCE. BUT MARINE OFFICIALS HAVE SAID THE BEIRUT WARNINGS WERE TOO VAGUE TO BE HELPFUL.

TWO OTHER INTELLIGENCE SOURCES CONFIRMED THAT WARNINGS WERE SENT TO THE U.S. EMBASSY IN KUWAIT ABOUT A POTENTIAL ATTACK. ONE SOURCE SAID WARNINGS ALSO HAD BEEN SENT TO U.S. EMBASSIES IN CAIRO, EGYPT, AND RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA.

THE SOURCES, ALL OF WHOM SPOKE ONLY ON CONDITION THEY REMAIN ANONYMOUS, SAID SOME EVIDENCE EXISTS THAT LINKS THE KUWAIT BOMBING TO IRAN; BUT IT IS NOT CLEAR THAT THE ATTACKERS WERE OPERATING ON ORDERS FROM THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT. IRAN ON WEDNESDAY DENIED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ATTACK.

A GROUP CALLED THE ISLAMIC JIHAD OR 'HOLY WAR' CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE BOMBINGS. LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT THE GROUP, BUT IT IS BELIEVED TO BE BASED IN LEBANON AND CONSIST OF FUNDAMENTALIST SHIITE MUSLIMS LOYAL TO THE IRANIAN REVOLUTION. THE GROUP ALSO CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MARINE HEADQUARTERS BOMBING IN BEIRUT.

STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS, WHO DESCRIBED THE MONDAY ATTACKS AS 'HIGHLY ORGANIZED AND ORCHESTRATED,' PREDICTED THERE WOULD BE RETALIATORY STRIKES AGAINST THE GROUP'S MAIN BASE IN LEBANON IF ITS INVOLVEMENT IS PROVED.

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ONE U.S. OFFICIAL SAID THE LIKELIEST PLACE TO RETALIATE WOULD BE IN THE BAALBEK REGION IN LEBANON; THE GROUP'S BASE WHICH IS BEHIND SYRIAN LINES.

HE SAID IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THERE WOULD BE A DIRECT ATTACK AGAINST IRAN BECAUSE IT WOULD BE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY WHETHER ORDERS COME FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF AYATOLLAH RUHOLLAH KHOMEINI.

'NOBODY IS EVEN SURE WHO IS THE GOVERNMENT IN IRAN;' THIS OFFICIAL SAID.

MEANWHILE, THE DEPARTMENT VOICED DOUBTS THAT ONE MAN, INJURED IN THE KUWAIT EMBASSY BOMBING AND PREVIOUSLY BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN ABOARD THE BOMB-LADEN TRUCK, HAD ACTUALLY PARTICIPATED IN THE ATTACK.

'THERE ARE SOME DOUBTS ABOUT THAT AND I THINK THE DOUBTS MAY BE GROWING;' SAID DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ALAN ROMBERG. 'I'M NOT SURE THAT INDIVIDUAL IS NECESSARILY INVOLVED.'

IF THE INJURED AND HOSPITALIZED MAN, SAID TO BE BETWEEN 25 AND 30 YEARS OLD, CAN BE LINKED TO THE TRUCK, THIS WOULD MARK THE FIRST CAPTURE OF A PARTICIPANT IN THIS YEAR'S STRING OF SUICIDE BOMBINGS.
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