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Directorate of Intelligence

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# Digest of Foreign Terrorism and Political Violence



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A Reference Aid

17 March

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told press that his men have been trained in Lebanon under agreement with PLO ... he and his forces responsible for kidnaping of two US citizens in Sri Lanka in May 1984 ... he released them unharmed [redacted]

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**Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students (EROS)**  
*Sri Lanka*

Tamil insurgent group active since mid-1970s ... approximately 800 members ... specializes in explosives and urban terrorism ... since late 1986 has been informally allied with Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. [redacted]

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**Leadership**

**V. Balakumar** (Bank Bala) ... date and place of birth unknown ... has given group's allegiance to now dominant LTTE without fighting that has often accompanied LTTE's drive to take control of insurgent movement ... based in Madras, India, 1980-early 1987 ... now in Sri Lanka. [redacted]

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**Egypt's Revolution (Egyptian Revolution; Thawrat Masr)**  
*Egypt*

Small, secretive group opposed to Mubarak regime and Egyptian ties to Israel ... probably has ties to Libya ... primarily targets Israelis in Cairo, including attack on four Israelis at Cairo International Fair in March 1986 and murder of Israeli diplomat in August 1985 ... probably responsible for attack on US diplomats in Cairo in May 1987 ... surviving member of team that hijacked Egyptair plane in November 1985 claimed to have worked for group, although other evidence points to Abu Nidal Organization ... no known connection to illicit drug trade. [redacted]

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**Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF)**  
*Ethiopia*

Moderate, pro-Arab, mostly Muslim insurgent group ... established 1961 but now extremely fragmented ... membership 5,000 ... sometimes cooperates with other Eritrean insurgent groups in guerrilla warfare and political activity in pursuit of independence for Eritrea ... operates in southwest and central Eritrea. [redacted]

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**Abdallah Idris** ... born circa 1943, Eritrea ... secretary general of ELF-Revolutionary Council, a small ELF faction, since March 1982 ... seized control of ELF-RC in 1982 and imprisoned many leftist leaders, including then Secretary General Ahmed Nasser ... has since been unable to unify ELF-RC or negotiate mergers with other small Eritrean groups ... other Eritrean insurgent leaders believe he is cooperating with Ethiopian Government ... Muslim ... member Beni Amer ethnic group ... received military training in Syria and is effective field commander, according to Embassy officials ... was head of ELF-RC Military Bureau for most of 1970s. [redacted]

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**Eritrean Liberation Front/United Organization (ELF/UO)**  
*Ethiopia*

Breakway ELF faction comprising moderate and radical Muslim factions plus splinter group called People's Liberation Forces-Revolutionary Council ... established 1985 ... estimated membership 2,000, including some 1,200 combat troops ... sometimes conducts joint paramilitary and political ventures with other Eritrean insurgent groups ... supported by and would align with moderate Arab states [redacted]

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