

Syria's Role in International Terrorism

Intelligence Information Memorandum
Memorandum to Holders

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
AUGUST 1997

~~Secret~~ 6-3
March 1987
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MEMORANDUM TO HOLDERS

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Information available as of 23 February 1967 was used in the preparation of this Memorandum, which was approved for publication by the National Foreign Intelligence Board on that date.

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SCOPE NOTE

This Memorandum to Holders ██████████ *Syria's Role* in *International Terrorism*, examines developments since publication of the Interagency Intelligence Memorandum in November 1985. It examines Syrian involvement in terrorist incidents—directly and through surrogates—and discusses the fallout from the revelations stemming from the trials of Syrian-supported terrorists in the fall of 1986. The Memorandum projects how Syrian-supported terrorism will evolve over the next year and assesses the likelihood of terrorist attacks against Western interests during that time frame. This Memorandum does not address Syria's deployment into Beirut in February 1987 or the subsequent Syrian-Hizballah clashes and their implications for Syrian terrorism policy. ██████████

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Pages 3,4,5,6,7,and 8 are non responsive to the request.

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26. *Iran.* The IIM noted that the Iranian Revolutionary Guard has been operating out of the Syrian-occupied Biqa' Valley since 1982. The Guard has recruited and trained Lebanese Shia for the Iranian-backed Hizballah movement that apparently was responsible for the bombing of the US Marine barracks in West Beirut in October 1983 and the bombing of the US Embassy Annex in East Beirut in September 1984. The IIM judged that although Damascus probably did not directly participate in these anti-US attacks, Syria may have provided the logistic and material support that made these operations possible.

27. Relations between Syria and Iran have been increasingly strained, however, over Lebanon during the past year. Syria has tried to impose stricter controls over Iranian-backed Shia groups in Lebanon, including Hizballah, as part of its effort to establish a modicum of stability there. Damascus is frustrated over its inability to contain the rapidly growing Hizballah and concerned that Iranian influence could come to rival that of Syria in Lebanon.

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