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JORDAN-FEDAYEEN: A rash of terrorist and sabotage incidents in recent weeks probably is largely the work of maverick Fatah elements operating with members of more radical fedayeen groups.

On 8 September a Royal Jordanian Airlines flight from Beirut to Amman was hijacked to Benghazi, Libya, by a member of Fatah. On the same day, the pipeline carrying oil from Saudi Arabia's eastern province to the Mediterranean was ruptured in Jordan not far from the Syrian border; no organization has claimed responsibility for the act. Two bombs exploded and one was dismantled in Amman on 12 September, although the incidents received no publicity. This week, another hijacking attempt was made by a Fatah commando, a bomb was placed in a Jordanian hotel, and new breaks occurred in the pipeline in two places.

[redacted] a group of dissidents in Fatah, some in positions of considerable importance, has joined with a group from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) to torpedo any possibility of reconciliation with the Jordanian Government. This group is specifically targeted against Royal Jordanian Airlines and is planning to hijack another plane within the next three days.

[redacted] the pipeline sabotage was a joint operation of the PFLP and two other radical commando groups; Fatah's complicity is unclear.

Jordan is intensifying its security precautions and is pulling no punches in dealing with convicted fedayeen. Two, presumably PFLP members, were recently executed, despite the fact that publicity given to their hangings will not advance the on-again off-again "conciliation" conference in Jidda.

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PAKISTAN: The civilian cabinet appointed in East Pakistan yesterday is likely to be of only minor help in government efforts to win popular support among Bengalis.

The appointment of all East Pakistanis to the new cabinet is apparently designed to give the impression of a further step toward restoring civilian rule and that East Pakistanis will be allowed to run their own affairs. This latest action, however, is unlikely to be viewed by the great majority of Bengalis as more than window dressing to disguise continued army control over the East wing.

Most members of the cabinet have been fairly prominent in East Pakistani politics in the past, and several have served in national assemblies. Only two, however, are former members of the banned Awami League--the party that swept elections in East Pakistan last December--and these two are regarded as turncoats by many Bengalis. Most of the rest are from parties that favor a stronger central government than does the League, and which did poorly in the elections. Four of the cabinet members were badly defeated in races for the National Assembly.

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