

~~Secret~~



(b)(3)



Copy

*Weekly Situation Report
on
International Terrorism*



(b)(3)

27 January 1976

~~Secret~~ 95

27 JAN 1976

SECRET

(b)(3)

ARTICLESIncrease in Threats Against U.S. Personnel Abroad

The number of reported plans for terrorist attacks against U.S. personnel overseas, as well as other circumstances that might cause terrorists to target Americans, was larger in January than at any time in several months. Many reports of planned attacks came from informants of unknown or dubious reliability, and it is normal for rumors of this type to increase following successful, publicized terrorist incidents such as the seizure of the OPEC ministers in Vienna and the murder of U.S. official Richard Welch in Athens--both in late December. It does appear, nevertheless, that the probability of an attack against an American target will be higher than normal for the next few months.

Reports of planned attacks have come from various parts of the world. In Latin America, four different reports concerning attacks against U.S. officials have been received in the past two weeks.

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

The embassy is taking all possible precautions until more information can be developed.

Guatemalan Communists have information that an organization called the Guerrilla Army of the Poor is planning some sort of violent action against U.S. military advisers in Guatemala. (See the 20 January issue, page B-11.) American military personnel also are possible targets in Venezuela, where a Bandera Roja activist reportedly was assigned in mid-January to surveil the automobile registered to a U.S. Military Group employee. The surveillance was to last for ten days and may have been only an exercise, but the Military Group and the targeted employee were advised to be alert.

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

In the Dominican Republic, the Commandos of the Resistance reportedly plan to kidnap one or more Americans traveling on the "Queen Elizabeth II." They intend to entice some of the debarking tourists into taxis driven by members of the Commandos, abduct them, and demand that three political prisoners

SECRET

(b)(3)

SECRET

[Redacted]

(b)(3)

be released in exchange for the Americans. One of the three prisoners is Plinio Matos Moquete, founder of the 12th of January Liberation Movement--the group that kidnapped USIS director Barbara Hutchison in Santo Domingo in September 1974. The next scheduled visit of the "Queen Elizabeth II" to Santo Domingo is on 10 February, and if this reported plot is found to be genuine, the terrorists' plan probably can be neutralized by that time.

In the Middle East, threats have been reported against U.S. interests in Abu Dhabi and Iran.

(b)(1)

[Redacted] a Palestinian group is planning an operation against the U.S., British or West German embassy in Abu Dhabi. Precautions are being taken, but no further details are available [Redacted]

(b)(3)

The FBI has unconfirmed information that [Redacted]

(b)(7)(d)

[Large redacted block]

(b)(3)

(b)(1)

In Europe, one explicit threat to U.S. personnel has been reported, and other possibilities for anti-U.S. operations exist.

[Redacted block]

(b)(1)

(b)(3)

SECRET

[Redacted]

(b)(3)

87 JAN 1976

SECRET

(b)(3)

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

While the OPEC ministers were held hostage in late December, "Carlos" (Ilich Ramirez Sanchez), the leader of the terrorist group, allegedly told a hostage that his next operation would be aimed at freeing the Baader-Meinhof anarchists currently on trial in West Germany. (See Section B-II.) This would be done by seizing an official of an allied country in order to put pressure on the FRG government. This report did not specify American personnel as the intended victims, but if the report is accurate, U.S. officials in Europe might be considered desirable targets.

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

The possibility of a terrorist attack against an American target is strengthened by the recent publicity given to the U.S. intelligence presence in Western Europe. In mid-January radical leftist publications published the names of more than one hundred Americans alleged to be intelligence officers in the U.K., France, Spain, Italy and The Netherlands. Some of these officers have since been the object of harassing telephone calls and surveillance. While much of this activity is believed to be motivated more by curiosity or mild political malice than by serious hostility, the likelihood of another terrorist attack against an American believed to be a high-level intelligence officer, in Europe or elsewhere, cannot be dismissed. The combination of this publicity and the unusual number of reported threats is causing most U.S. missions abroad to increase precautions in order to discourage or to blunt the effect of any terrorist operation that may be planned against them.

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

3

SECRET

21 JAN 1976

(b)(3)