

Battalion Classifieds

World and Nation

Global order, human lives threatened by terrorist acts

LONDON (AP) — A wanton war with no rules and little pity is turning the world, bit by bit, into a free-fire zone.

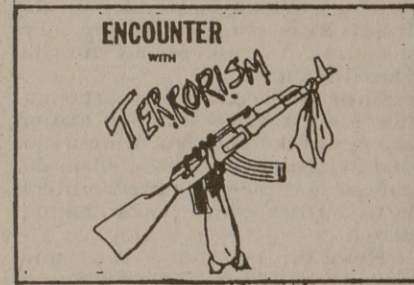
International terrorism is striking in numbing waves. It left at least 926 people dead worldwide in 1985, hundreds more than in any year since the U.S. State Department began compiling statistics in 1968.

So far this year, at least 43 more have died, including five Americans killed in last week's bombings of a TWA jetliner and a West Berlin nightclub.

But terrorism has left another casualty as well: the system of global order, shaken by terrorist assaults that exposed weak spots in international law and the Western alliance, led the United States into military conflict, and made vigilantes out of governments.

A recent series of interviews in the United States, Europe and the Middle East with security officials, diplomats, scholars, politicians, alleged terrorists and their defenders found disagreement over how to combat terrorism and even how to define it. But almost all agreed that such "free-form" political violence will spread in the years to come.

Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist chief, George Churchill-Coleman, said, "Terrorism is with us now, whether you like it or not. You've got to adjust your way of life to that."



Those interviewed also generally agreed on these other points:

- As governments strengthen defenses of embassies and other official installations, terrorists will become more indiscriminate, attacking "softer" targets like the innocent civilians massacred by Palestinians at Rome and Vienna airports last December.
- Terrorists will probably escalate to attacks on computer systems, power grids and other key links of industrial societies.
- Terrorist groups often maintain practical ties with each other, but are not joined together in a "grand conspiracy" against the West.

The State Department reports international terrorist incidents — those involving citizens or territory of more than one country — have doubled in number since 1975, to slightly over 800 last year.

Last year's TWA hijacking and

Achille Lauro "seajacking" were more visible, but 1985's deadliest event was the downing of an Air-India jetliner over the Atlantic, believed to have been the work of Sikh extremist bombers. It killed all 329 people aboard.

Today's terrorism is practiced on an international scale, a kind of global guerrilla war that has developed with developing technology.

Jet travel and open borders, particularly in Western Europe, enable terrorists to reach far-off targets. A booming arms trade offers them the latest in compact, relatively cheap weapons in a nuclear age when traditional warfare is too costly. And instant communications, advances in the news media, give their actions a "multiplier effect."

Terrorists' goals can be complex. But experts say, first and foremost, terrorists crave attention for their cause.

And now, more obscure causes are exploding into the headlines — the cause of Tamil separatism, for one, in whose name 150 bystanders were massacred by gunmen at a holy place in Sri Lanka last year.

In the United States, too, new-style terrorists strike: "right-to-life" militants who firebomb abortion clinics, for example, and terrorist bombers — possibly Jewish extremists — who killed an Arab-American activist last year.

Police search for new leads in bombing

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Police said Sunday they questioned Arabs and other foreigners at Athens airport about the TWA jetliner bombing that killed four Americans, but that a Lebanese woman remained their only suspect.

Athanasios Zafeiris, security police chief for the Athens area, said the airport interrogations were part of a general inquiry and stressed: "We're not searching for any specific people or investigating any specific actions. No one has been arrested or is being held."

Police said they still suspected that a Lebanese woman named May Elias Mansur planted the bomb on the Trans World Airlines Boeing 727 on a flight Wednesday from Cairo to Athens. The plane went on to Rome. The bomb exploded as the plane was flying back to Athens and Cairo, and was 15,000 feet over southern Greece.

A woman identifying herself as the suspect spoke with The Associated Press on Saturday in Tripoli, Lebanon. She said she flew on the plane from Cairo to Athens, but denied planting the bomb.

News reports have said that Greek police picked up an Arab identified as Mohammed Youssef for questioning Friday in the transit lounge at the international terminal.

The reports said Youssef bought a plane ticket March 30 in Nicosia, Cyprus, to fly to Athens with a connecting flight to Beirut.

Zafeiris said police questioned "at least one" Arab man who arrived at Athens airport from Nicosia but refused to say if the man was named Youssef.

According to TWA's passenger list, someone identified as Mo. Youssef occupied seat 1A on TWA Flight 840 from Rome to Athens, on which the bomb exploded. The list said Youssef was scheduled to continue to the flight's termination point in Cairo.

A TWA spokesman has said the bomb exploded under seat 10F and that Miss Mansur sat in that seat during the earlier flight from Cairo. The woman interviewed in Tripoli denied sitting in 10F.

Reagan renews fight against terrorism

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan ended a 10-day California vacation Sunday, returning to work on a renewed campaign against international terrorism in the wake of another wave of attacks aimed at Americans.

While stopping short of blaming Libyan leader Moammar Khadafy for two attacks last week in which Americans were killed, an administration official accused Khadafy of sponsoring "a master plan . . . to cause terrorist incidents worldwide."

Reagan, who spent a working vacation at his mountaintop ranch near Santa Barbara doing chores and horseback riding, was briefed on the explosions on a TWA airliner approaching Athens and in a West Berlin discotheque popular among U.S. soldiers. Earlier in the week, the White House responded cautiously

to placing blame on Libya as the possible agent behind the bomb that killed four Americans on the TWA flight bound from Rome to Athens on Wednesday.

In Thursday's news briefing, however, White House spokesman Larry Speakes stressed the Reagan administration was not ruling out Khadafy as a possible suspect.

As he boarded Air Force One at Point Mugu Naval Air Station, Reagan was asked by a reporter whether he believed Khadafy was behind the West Berlin bombing. He said, "No comment."

Asked whether he planned to "hit Libya," Reagan again answered: "No comment."

The Berlin bombing prompted an administration official, who spoke on the condition he not be identified

by name, to accuse Khadafy of masterminding a plan for world terrorism. The official said the United States was pursuing diplomatic initiatives to increase cooperation with European allies to combat terrorism.

"There is obviously a master plan from Khadafy to cause terrorist incidents worldwide, and particularly they've targeted Americans," the official said.

More than 30 U.S. facilities have been targeted for potential terrorist attack by agents of the Khadafy government in recent months, the official said. He added that an unspecified number of diplomats have been followed by Khadafy agents.

The plans for potential terrorist attacks against U.S. diplomats have been uncovered "at various stages," the official said, and none have been carried out.

Farm crisis fuels anti-Semitic feelings

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — It usually begins with talk of conspiracy: outsiders plotting to bankrupt America's farmers and take their land. International bankers are involved. So is the Federal Reserve System.

And somehow, they're all linked to the Jews.

That shadowy message, that Jews are behind the farm crisis, has become an uncomfortably familiar refrain in the economically devastated Midwest. With land values and crop prices down, it's not hard to see how farmers fall prey to such talk.

Retired Nebraska Judge Samuel Van Pelt said, "Hitler did the same thing in Germany. This went on back during the Depression in the '20s and '30s. Anytime you have someone in financial trouble, they're more vulnerable to a racist pitch."

Jews, furthermore, tend to be convenient scapegoats because so few live in rural areas.

A recent Louis Harris poll commissioned by the Anti-Defamation League of the B'nai B'rith found that while most rural Iowans and Nebraskans blamed farm problems

on Congress, bankers, the Reagan administration and local loan agencies, 13 percent of the 606 people questioned believed substantial fault could be attributed to "certain religious groups, such as Jews, for example."

The poll also found that 27 percent felt Jews have "too much power" in this country.

The Harris organization said, "Any phenomenon which affects over one in four residents must be viewed as a mass phenomenon, even if it is not massive."

The poll has prompted varied interpretations. Michael Lieberman, the ADL's Midwest civil rights director, said it demonstrated that "despite these very concerted efforts . . . (extremists) are not making a significant impact."

But Dan Levitas of the Iowa-based farm advocacy group Prairiefire saw it differently.

"Without question, they've made significant inroads . . . and have worked their way into the mainstream of rural communities," Levitas said.

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