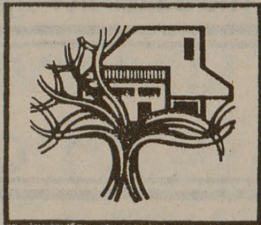




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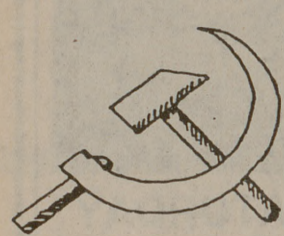
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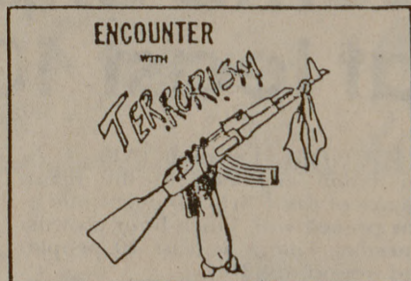
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Terrorists targeting NATO in new wave of attacks



WIESBADEN, West Germany (AP) — The "armies" of Western Europe's terrorist left are rising up again in a lethal new generation...

A decade of police successes, tough anti-terrorist laws and damaging defections has not stopped — let alone crushed — the continent's urban guerrilla movement.

Heinz Doebla, an anti-terrorist specialist with the West German federal police, said, "Time and again, they have come back."

And this time West Germany's Red Army Faction and other European terrorist groups are coming back together, in an "anti-imperialist" brotherhood of bombers and assassins that some authorities now trace to a 1981 terrorist gathering in Paris.

In a barrage of attacks over the past 14 months, West German, French and Belgian radicals have assassinated prominent members of the European defense establishment and set off bombs at a U.S. air base, military pipelines and other North Atlantic Treaty Organization installations.

By narrowing their focus to NATO, the extremists may actually broaden their appeal, since they are aligning themselves with millions of young West Europeans who have demonstrated against U.S.-NATO missile deployment plans.

A source close to the German underground group, speaking with a reporter on condition of anonymity, said, "From the Red Army Faction point of view, the only opportunity to fight NATO suppression around the world is to organize a kind of illegal guerrilla war and get in contact with more and more people."

Unlike such nationalist movements as the Irish Republican Army and Spain's Basque separatists, the "ideological" terror groups born in the late 1960s — notably West Germany's Baader-Meinhof band and successor Red Army Faction, and Italy's Red Brigades — were driven by a far-left creed that drew little popular support.

derground group, speaking with a reporter on condition of anonymity, said, "From the Red Army Faction point of view, the only opportunity to fight NATO suppression around the world is to organize a kind of illegal guerrilla war and get in contact with more and more people."

By the late 1970s, these groups were under heavy pressure. In Italy, where the Red Brigades assassinated judges, police officials and former Premier Aldo Moro, authorities say their key tools were new laws allowing plea bargaining for "repentant" terrorists who informed against comrades. About 1,250 Red Brigades members and other leftist terrorists are now in jail.

Weinberger's Bangkok visit marred by bomb attack

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger pledged Wednesday that America is ready to modernize a Thai army facing off Soviet-backed Vietnamese forces along its border with Cambodia.

He shrugged off a bomb attack that occurred Tuesday at a hotel where he was to have dinner. Three people were wounded by the device which police described as a home-made time bomb.

"I don't have enough facts. I can't really bring myself to believe that anybody would want to do me in," Weinberger said in response to questions about the blast.

Police said there were few clues to the explosion which occurred in the parking lot of the Erawan Hotel just 90 minutes before Weinberger was to have arrived for a state dinner.

Speaking to newsmen before departing for Australia, Weinberger said his three-day visit to Thailand was very productive and that U.S.-Thai "cooperation for defense is stronger than ever."

Weinberger said he was optimistic that the U.S. Congress would approve a plan to place U.S. munitions in Thailand to be used by the Thai

army in event of a serious military threat.

Negotiations on the war reserve stockpile are to begin within two months, according to an agreement reached by Weinberger and Thai Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda.

After the bombing, officials moved the reception and dinner to the Hilton Hotel, where the defense secretary was staying.

Foreign Minister Siddhi Savetsila told reporters Weinberger had said at the private dinner: "Thailand is one of the safest places in the world. It's safer than New York."

Police said the bomb at the Erawan Hotel was hidden in a trash can at a drivers' rest area next to the entrance gate.

Two men were seriously wounded, one losing a leg through amputation. A woman walking in the street suffered slight injuries.

Weinberger was to leave today for Australia.

He visited South Korea, Japan and the Philippines before Thailand.

Asbestos settlement \$145 million

HOUSTON (AP) — Hundreds of former asbestos workers will share an estimated \$145 million as part of a settlement announced Tuesday in a class-action federal lawsuit, attorneys said.

"I was very pleased with the amount — very much so," said Port Arthur attorney Walter Humphrey, who represents 539 of the 741 plaintiffs. "It is two or three times the national average (in such cases)."

He estimated his clients alone would divide about \$88 million.

The Wellington Group, an organization of asbestos manufacturers paid the settlement. Armstrong, Celotex, Owens Corning Fiberglass, Owens Illinois and Fiberboard Corp. were among eight manufacturers who set up an asbestos claims facility "for the purpose of providing a means to aid in the settlement of asbestos

claims," said an attorney for Wellington, Richard J. Sephson of Houston.

The trial, the first class-action asbestos trial in the nation, involved 741 insulators, pipefitters and housewives who said manufacturers were responsible for their asbestos-related diseases.

A spokeswoman in U.S. District Judge Robert Parker's court in Marshall said the case was settled Thursday, but Parker issued a gag order that was lifted Tuesday.

The workers claimed their health was damaged or destroyed because of their exposure to asbestos products and sued 13 companies, primarily manufacturers of the products. In October, Parker consolidated the hundreds of cases into a class action.

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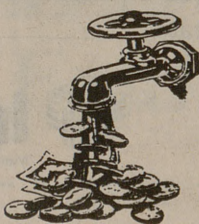
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