



POLICY

~~SECRET SENSITIVE~~
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

#34

January 26, 1981

D.O.C.S

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Cabinet Meeting on Terrorism (U)

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(U) I understand that the Cabinet meeting this afternoon is to discuss terrorism. Beyond that, I am not sure of the precise questions to be addressed. Accordingly, this memorandum is to give you some background which may be useful for your discussions.

(U) From January 1968 to October 1980, there have been more than 7,300 international terrorist incidents. Of these, 2,700 were directed at US citizens or installations. During the same period, 173 Americans were killed and 970 wounded. The annual cost of international terrorism to governments and corporations is estimated to be in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

(U) The United States' public position has been that it will make no concessions to terrorist blackmail. We will not pay ransom or release prisoners. We support other governments that take a similar stance. When Americans are abducted, we look to the host government to exercise its responsibility under international law to protect all persons within its territory. We maintain close and continuous contact with the host government during an incident providing whatever support and assistance we can.

(U) To deal with international terrorism we have:

- given high priority to the collection of intelligence about terrorist activities and modus operandi *(from more could be done along these lines)*,
- appropriated \$40M in FY81 for security improvements at foreign service posts *abroad* to be used, for example, to strengthen perimeter controls and to build secure safe havens,
- undertaken contingency planning, tested in exercises and simulations, to provide rapid responses to possible terrorist incidents,
- placed responsibility for crisis management in the Special Coordinating Committee of the National Security Council. (Given the SCC's likely imminent demise, a new crisis management arrangement will have to be devised.)
- promoted international cooperation to reduce terrorism, especially hijacking. For example, in the 1978 Bonn Summit declaration, the US and six other major countries declared their intention to suspend commercial air

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service between their countries and any country harboring aircraft hijackers. The International Convention Against the Taking of Hostages, adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 1979, calls for states to prosecute or extradite hostage takers.

(U) Militarily, the United States has developed special forces dedicated to counterterrorism which are described at page 3 of the attached memorandum. The critical issue for us, I believe, is to integrate the various service components in an effective force. Much work has been done on this recently, but more still can be done.



Franklin D. Kramer
Under Secretary of Defense
for Policy (Acting)

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Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
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