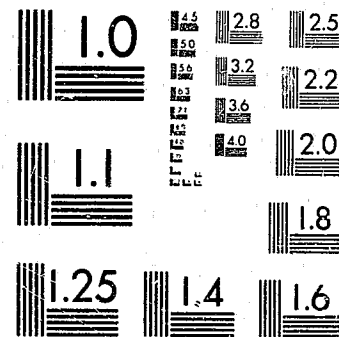


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ORGANIZED CRIME IN CALIFORNIA..1978

PART 4
• TERRORISM

• Annual Report
to the California Legislature •

77301

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U.S. Department of Justice
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Annual Report To The
California Legislature

December 1979

NCJRS

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ACQUISITIONS

INTRODUCTION

This Assessment of Organized Crime in California is submitted in accordance with Government Code Section 15028 which requires that an annual report on organized crime be presented to the California Legislature.

The purpose of the report is to identify the characteristics, scope, and magnitude of organized criminal activity in California and the efforts of the California Department of Justice (DOJ) directed against this crime problem.

The annual report has been divided into four sections highlighting separate areas of organized criminal activities.

Part 1: Organized Crime - Special Programs

Part 2: Gang Activity

Part 3: Property, Fraudulent, and Narcotics Crimes

Part 4: Terrorism

Part 4 is the subject of this report and includes:

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TERRORISM

TERRORISM

Year in Review

During 1978, the number of terrorist acts and terrorist groups active in California dropped to the lowest level since 1973. However, even that low level of activity included several bombings, the takeover of the West German Consulate in Chicago by California based terrorists, several suspected terrorist-related robberies, and a number of other lesser criminal activities. In addition to the known and/or suspected criminal activity of terrorists, terrorist members and their above-ground support elements have been involved in recruiting, training, and propaganda efforts.

The most recognizable of terrorist acts -- bombings -- declined dramatically in 1978. Terrorist bombings dropped from 27 in 1977 to 8 in 1978. The decline in bombings may be caused in part by increased law enforcement pressure. Five members of the Revolutionary Committee of the Weather Underground Organization were arrested for the planned bombing of State Senator Briggs' office in November 1977. Three major leaders of the George Jackson Brigade were arrested in Washington for terrorist activities. Members of the Fuerzas Armadas Liberacion Nacional de Puertorrequino (FALN) were arrested in Chicago for terrorist activities. In addition to these major disruptions to three of the most violent terrorist groups in the United States, one can add the greatly increased paranoia felt by other groups and their fear of penetration. That fear was significantly heightened when the wide-ranging arrests mentioned previously were effected in such rapid succession. It also became known that the above members of the Weather Underground (the terrorist entity felt to be most secure and safe from infiltration) were arrested because two Federal Bureau of Investigation agents had infiltrated their group.

Terrorist Activities

Bombings are only one criminal activity used by terrorists or used as an indicator of terrorist activity. Terrorists are also noted for their involvement in kidnappings, taking of hostages, robberies (identified by them as "expropriation from the ruling class"), and a host of other, more minor criminal endeavors. In addition, terrorists can be identified by their use of false identification, unique weapons, and paramilitary training.

In addition to the eight bombings last year, California-based Croatian terrorists took over the West German consulate in Chicago where they held eight persons hostage at gunpoint. This attack was related to several bombings and two possible homicides carried out throughout the United States last year. Given the issues involved and the escalation of terrorist activities that have taken place worldwide, it is quite likely that such Croatia-related terrorist activity will continue and even increase.

Also, there were significant numbers of terrorist groups reported conducting paramilitary training throughout California. There were several sightings of anti-Castro Cuban terrorists training in the Southern California desert and in the central coast area of California. Individuals believed to be members of a Croatian terrorist group have been reported training in isolated areas of Lake and Mendocino counties. Other groups have also been seen conducting training in the Southern California desert.

California and International Terrorists

Along with the criminal acts and paramilitary training, there have been other significant developments in California terrorist circles which could cause real difficulties for California. The most serious of these developments has been the large number of meetings and contacts between international terrorists and California terrorists. In 1978, California terrorists met with members of the West German Red Army Faction, the Italian Red Brigades, the Mexican 23rd of September Communist League, and the Palestine Liberation Organization. These meetings took place both in California and overseas. The purpose of the meetings seems to have been to cement closer relationships for more concerted efforts and to compare notes on tactics and techniques. Thus far, California and the United States have been fairly free of the consequences of international terrorism; however, with such meetings taking place, it is quite possible we will not be so fortunate in the future.

Potential

Although 1978 was a relatively calm year as far as terrorist bombings and related criminal acts were concerned, there were significant developments in the planning, recruiting, training, and coordinating areas. The most significant aspect was the greatly increased interaction of California terrorists with international terrorists. Also important was the decision of one such international terrorist group, the Croatian Separatists, to escalate its terrorist activities in the United States.

Since all the issues of interest to terrorists are still abundant in the United States, there is no reason for them to just quietly slip away. On the contrary, there is every indication that terrorist groups will continue

to exist and operate in California. It is also likely, given the interaction seen between California and several international terrorist groups, that future terrorist activity in California will be more closely tied to international issues. Whether California and foreign based terrorists carry out joint actions remains to be seen.

END