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## REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

### A. (U) Greece: More Surveillance Against US Embassy Personnel.

[1] (U) In late April, two more incidents of surveillance occurred against US Embassy personnel in Athens. On 28 April an embassy officer and a local national colleague departed the embassy compound in a USG vehicle. A few minutes later the embassy officer noticed a red motorcycle bearing license plate number YEZ 365 [the same stolen license plate noted in the March surveillance incidents] pass the vehicle on the passenger side. On 29 April an Office of Defense Cooperation [ODC] local national driver and an American ODC passenger were departing the embassy via government vehicle, heading toward the ODC compound, when a red motorcycle pulled out and followed the ODC vehicle for five minutes. The motorcyclist, wearing a white helmet with dark face shield, attempted to look into the vehicle. The ODC driver noticed the motorcycle and took corrective action. The motorcyclist eventually turned around and headed back in the direction of the embassy. Greek police were notified and are attempting to apprehend the motorcyclist.

[2] ~~(S)~~ Comment: These incidents are the most recent in a series of motorcycle surveillance noted by US Embassy personnel in the last two months. They highlight the continued heightened threat to US personnel stationed in Athens. Motorcycle surveillance is an established technique used by the Greek terrorist group 17 November in pre-operational surveillance and to conduct close-in assassinations. This lethal terrorist group maintains a high degree of operational security and thus pre-incident indicators, other than suspected surveillance, are unlikely to be noted prior to an impending attack. The DoD terrorist threat to US interests in Greece is assessed as Critical.

## TERRORIST THREAT OVERVIEW

[1] (U) Current Activity:

(U) There were no terrorist attacks directed against US or other Western interests during the month of April in the PACOM AOR.

(S) In Sri Lanka, a telephone exchange in Chilaw, about 100 kilometers north of Colombo, was the scene of a bombing on 29 March. This was the latest in a series of at least 15 bombings since last December aimed at economic targets by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE]. In an unrelated incident, police announced the arrest of a middle-aged woman in Colombo who they believe has played a key role since 1995 in helping LTTE bombers infiltrate from northern Sri Lanka into Colombo to conduct operations. On 12 April two men were killed and more than 20 others injured when a bomb exploded prematurely in the city of Kandy. Police said the two dead men were carrying the bomb to another location when it exploded. Authorities believe the men were members of the LTTE. This group is believed responsible for the January 1998 truck bomb at a Buddhist temple in Kandy which killed 13 people and injured dozens more. A bomb detonated in the generator room of the People's Bank in Batticaloa on 18 April causing damage to the building. There were no reported deaths or injuries. Police suspected the explosive was similar to other devices recently used by the LTTE against utility boxes and panels in telephone exchanges in Colombo and several other towns.

(E) On 16 April an improvised explosive device [IED] killed at least two people and injured three others as they were traveling on passenger train in New Delhi, India. Authorities believed the device, possible made of RDX, was placed under the seat near the door of the last car. Sikh terrorist groups operating in the area have been known to use similar devices on public transportation assets as well as against New Delhi businesses. In a market place, in the town of Rajouri, Jammu-Kashmir State, a powerful bomb exploded killing five people and injuring 33 others. An investigation which led police to a large arms cache in the Rajouri and Poonch districts in Kashmir resulted in the deaths of four senior members of the Harkat-ul-Ansar [HUA] on 21 April. Authorities seized a large assortment of weapons, including four AK-47 rifles, a 50 mm mortar projectile, several handgrenades, two kilograms of explosives and a large quantity of ammunition. As the police were conducting the search, they were attacked by HUA members armed with sophisticated weapons and hand grenades. Four of the attackers were killed in the firefight.

(U) In Indonesia, early April violence between pro-independence East Timorese and pro-Indonesian integrationists escalated after several days of kidnappings and house burnings, with an attack on a Catholic church by integrationists in the Liquica district of East Timor. There were conflicting reports on the number of people killed in the incidents. Numbers of dead ranged from 17 to as few as five persons. On the afternoon of 19 April, several people were injured in the bombing of the Al-Istiqlal mosque in

Jakarta. At the time, approximately 300 people were attending a prayer service in the mosque. There were no claims of responsibility for the bombing; the second in Jakarta in a week.

(U) In the Philippines, police intelligence officer Major Roberto Bernal was released on 9 April, after being held hostage by the New People's Army [NPA] for seven weeks. The victim was kidnapped by the NPA on 21 February in Sorsogon province while investigating a suspect's ties with a NPA-linked kidnap-for-ransom group. The officer's local informant was killed during the abduction. On 16 April, after being held captive for almost two months by the NPA, Brigadier General Victor Obillo and Army Captain Eduardo Montealto were released. The two were abducted in Mindanao on 17 February. Wivino Demol, a sergeant in Army intelligence held hostage since February 1998, was released to representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC], clergymen and a Filipino senator on 25 April.

(U) In Nepal, a medical clinic run by the American-sponsored Adventist Development and Relief Agency [ADRA] in the rural town of Banepa, Kabhre District, was bombed by Maoists on 7 April.

No one was injured and the bombing caused only minor damage to the building. Police stated the device was a gelatin-based explosive detonated manually with a battery and two wires. In a note left at the scene, Maoists claimed responsibility for the bombing and accused the imperialist countries of seeking to exploit Nepal.

(C) A worker at the construction site of a new post office in Narathiwat, the southern most province of Thailand, discovered a timed improvised explosive device [IED] on 18 April. The IED consisted of three pounds of C-4 explosive compressed in a time can, along with a detonating kit and an alarm clock. Authorities believed the device was placed at the site by members of the New Pattani United Liberation Organization [NPULO] in retaliation for a 13 April raid on the separatist's base.

(C) Cambodian police arrested five alleged terrorists as they were preparing to blow up a fuel depot outside of Phnom Penh on 18 April. The five men are believed to belong to a group known as the Cambodian Freedom Fighters [CFF], a rebel group formed in July 1977. The men, who were armed with handguns, a rocket launcher and an anti-tank weapon, were about to attack the Sokimex Petroleum company, which is affiliated with the ruling Cambodian People's Party [CPP].

(U) Four policemen were killed in a bomb attack in China's northern autonomous region of Ningxia on 24 April. The incident occurred in the capital city of Yinchuan. No one has been arrested and there were no claims of responsibility for the killings. Moreover, there were no indications of political motivation behind this attack. Since the beginning of this year, there have been 12 reported bombings, causing the deaths of 35 people and injuries to 121 others. Several of the bombings have been the result of personal grievances

and a few have occurred during the commission of crimes such as bank robberies.

[2] ~~(S/NF)~~ Expected Developments: There are no specific threats to DoD interests in the Pacific Command Area of Responsibility. Protests, with a potential for violence, are expected in the run-up to the Philippine Senate voting on the Visiting Forces Agreement treaty next month. Civil unrest, sometimes resulting in violence, will likely continue in Indonesia. Although US interests have not been specifically targeted, destabilization could adversely effect the security environment in Indonesia. In Sri Lanka, continued attacks by the LTTE against economic targets is anticipated. There is no evidence the LTTE is targeting DoD interests in that country. Low-level terrorist actions in China, Nepal and Papua New Guinea will be directed against domestic targets and are unlikely to affect US interests.