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A CHRONOLOGY OF TERRORIST ATTACKS AND OTHER CRIMINAL  
ACTIONS AGAINST MARITIME TARGETS

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## PREFACE

As part of its continuing research on subnational conflict, The Rand Corporation has compiled a number of chronologies of terrorist and related criminal activity. A reflection of increased concern that terrorists will turn their attention to maritime targets, we have received numerous requests for our list of incidents involving harbors, offshore platforms, and ships at sea.

It is certain that the following chronology does not include all incidents that have taken place. Some events are not reported and exchange of information is limited. We would, of course, welcome information about further incidents or activity.

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## CHRONOLOGY OF TERRORIST AND OTHER CRIMINAL ACTIONS AGAINST MARITIME TARGETS, 1960-1983

Growing terrorism worldwide has provoked increasing concern that terrorists may attack targets in the maritime environment. Security experts have warned that with the increasing importance of offshore facilities to the world's supply of energy, the vulnerability of marine facilities, and inspiration provided by fictional offerings like *The French Atlantic Affair*, *Shipkiller*, *The Devil's Alternative*, *Seawitch*, and *Firestorm*, terrorists will turn their attention to harbors, offshore platforms, and ships at sea.<sup>1</sup> Because of the requirement to capture headlines, terrorists are under constant pressure to do something new. While terrorist tactics have changed little, the spectrum of targets attacked by terrorists has steadily expanded. Moreover, security specialists have in the last five years noted an increase in criminal activity directed against ocean industries.<sup>2</sup>

### AMPLE TARGETS

Certainly, there are ample maritime targets: oil tankers, LNG carriers, cargo ships, passenger liners, fishing boats, ferries, naval craft, and pleasure boats. Harbors contain oil and LNG terminals, refineries, regasification plants, and huge petrochemical installations.

<sup>1</sup>See, for example, Robert Charm, "Terrorists See Offshore as Tempting Target," *Offshore*, January 1983; Robert W. Denton, "Protection of Offshore Energy Assets," *Naval Engineers Journal*, December 1976, pp. 87-91; John F. Ebersole, "International Terrorism and the Defense of Offshore Facilities," *U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings*, September 1975, pp. 54-61; ISIS Associates, Incorporated, *International Symposium on Maritime Security & Terrorism*, Arlington, Virginia, September 21-23, 1981; Merle MacBain, "Will Terrorists Go to Sea?", *Sea Power*, January 1980, pp. 15-24; Douglas G. Macnair, "Terrorism in the Maritime Environment," in *Terrorism and Beyond: An International Conference on Terrorism and Low-Level Conflict*, The Rand Corporation, R-2714-DOE/DOJ/DOS/RC, December 1982, and Douglas G. Macnair, "The Nature of the Beast: A Soliloquy on Maritime Fraud, Piracy, and Terrorism," *Journal of Security Administration*, June 1982, pp. 41-47.

<sup>2</sup>See, for example, ICC International Maritime Bureau, *International Terrorism: The Threat to Shipping*, Barking, Essex, United Kingdom, March 1983.

Underwater pipelines and cables cross the seabeds. In recent years, offshore installations for the exploration and production of hydrocarbons and seabed minerals have proliferated and are of growing economic importance.

Although maritime targets may be vulnerable, are they in fact attractive to terrorists? Certainly the seizure of a passenger liner, loader tanker, or offshore platform would be novel enough to capture world headlines, and could give the terrorists some leverage. The destruction of a refinery or terminal at a major port, the sinking of a ship blocking a harbor entrance, or the sinking of a naval vessel have high political value for the terrorists and could impose severe economic losses on their opponents. A terrorist seizure of an offshore platform or merchant ship also offers tactical advantages to the terrorists owing to the difficulties that security forces would have in mounting an assault.

Extortion involving threats against ships at sea, offshore platforms, or critical facilities--a growing area of ordinary criminal activity--could replace income derived from bank robberies, ransom kidnappings, and foreign patrons. Terrorist groups need large sums of money. Bank robberies entail great risks. Kidnappings are becoming more difficult and ransom payments in general are declining. Corporations faced with credible threats might be inclined to pay off rather than risk critical and costly facilities. Terrorists may also see in maritime targets a possibility to wage economic warfare by attacking port facilities, offshore platforms, shipping, or carrying out actions that may cause great ecological damage. Finally, as they have done in the nuclear domain, terrorists could attempt to exploit environmentalist sentiments, attacking, for example, ships carrying nuclear waste or contaminated soil.

## CONSTRAINTS

There are also certain constraints. Port facilities, offshore platforms, and ships at sea may be theoretically vulnerable but the ease with which moving ships can be boarded, platforms taken over, or refineries set on fire should not be exaggerated. Terrorists are not, for the most part, highly trained commandos. Taking over ships or

platforms may require more men than most terrorist groups generally have fielded. Moreover, although assaulting a large vessel that has been seized by terrorists poses tactical problems for security forces, holding a large vessel or oil platform against an assault poses major problems for terrorists. Authorities also can more easily cut off communications and isolate a ship or offshore platform from television cameras and all the paraphernalia of modern mass media than they can an embassy in a capital city. In short, increased terrorist attacks on maritime targets are not inevitable.

### PAST ACTIONS

Although terrorist groups have not operated extensively in the maritime environment, they have carried out a variety of actions: They have attacked 47 ships. They hijacked 11 ships. They sank (or totally destroyed) 12 sea-going vessels.

Since 1960, anti-Castro Cuban exile groups have been responsible for 25 attacks, mainly bombings. Various Palestinian groups were responsible for 9 incidents. Other groups include the IRA, Moslem separatists in the Southern Philippines, right-wing Christian extremists in Lebanon, Polisario guerrillas, Portuguese dissidents, Angolan rebels, and members of the Maltese National Front.

Not all terrorist groups operate in the maritime environment. Cuban emigres, Palestinian groups, and the IRA alone account for nearly 40 percent of the terrorist attacks recorded in this chronology. These groups are quite special. The Cuban groups were trained by the U.S. Navy in navigation and underwater demolitions. Earlier they had been armed and equipped by the CIA. Until 1968 the U.S. government supported a guerrilla navy that operated against Cuban ports and Soviet shipping in the Caribbean. The fleet comprised small, fast boats armed with 57mm recoilless rifles and machineguns. They were responsible for a number of attacks on Soviet shipping. Sometimes they also made mistakes at night and on one occasion sank a Spanish freighter.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup>For a fuller account of this campaign, see Warren Hinkle, William W. Turner, *The Fish is Red: The Story of the Secret War Against Castro*, New York: Harper & Row, 1981.

The Palestinian groups are large, well financed, have access to explosives and are well trained in bomb making. The PFLP has reportedly received underwater demolition training in the Eastern Bloc countries, and they certainly have access to shipping in the Mediterranean. The IRA is also comparatively large, experienced, well financed, skilled at making bombs, and some have also had military training. Other groups that have carried out attacks in the maritime environment include groups active in Western Africa and Southern Philippines. Both the coast of West Africa and the Southern Philippines have been traditional areas of piracy going back several centuries. The groups most likely to operate in the maritime environment in the future will be those who possess specialized explosives and naval skills, and have emerged from geographic regions where maritime skills are prevalent.

As the chronology shows, besides guerrillas and terrorists, attacks have been carried out by modern day pirates, ordinary criminals, fanatic environmentalists, mutinous crews, hostile workers, and foreign agents. The spectrum of actions is equally broad: ships hijacked, destroyed by mines and bombs, attacked with bazookas, sunk under mysterious circumstances; cargos removed; crews taken hostage; extortion plots against ocean liners and offshore platforms; raids on port facilities; attempts to board oil rigs; sabotage at shipyards and terminal facilities; even a plot to steal a nuclear submarine.

The events listed in the chronology provide an idea of the range of targets: passenger liners, freighters, tankers, a trawler, port facilities (primarily those associated with the transfer or refining of oil). Except for their size and inherent strength, these things are virtually unprotected. The events that have occurred also provide an idea of the adversaries' techniques and weapons: limpet mines attached by scuba divers, rockets fired from small speedboats, an explosives-filled freighter armed with 122mm rockets.



## CURRENT CAPABILITIES

Currently active terrorist groups possess a limited capacity for low-level maritime operations. The Palestinians possess the most developed maritime capability. Fatah reportedly had a small "navy" of *markabs* (500-ton vessels) operating out of Cyprus and the Lebanese port of Tripoli and sailing under various flags. The Palestinians have used these as "mother ships" from which they have launched fast boats and dinghies to land commandos and weapons on the Israeli coast. The 1975 seizure of hostages at the Savoy Hotel in Tel Aviv and the 1978 attack on a tourist bus north of Tel Aviv were carried out by Palestinian guerrillas who came ashore this way. In 1982, there were unconfirmed reports that Fatah had received four one-man submarines from Yugoslavia similar to the one-man submarines employed in World War II. Both the PFLP-GC and the PNF have Frogmen, reportedly trained in Yugoslavia. They are probably capable of operating underwater with open circuit systems (breathing air compressed in tanks, expelling the exhaust into the water). More advanced closed circuit systems recycle the exhaust and are preferable for military purposes not because they improve the divers' range or length of time underwater, but rather because they do not leave a revealing trail of bubbles on the surface. Closed circuit systems, however, cannot be used below 30 feet under the surface owing to the danger of oxygen poisoning.

In terms of explosives, limpet mines have been used by Palestinians as well as found attached to the hulls of ferries running between Spain and Morocco. An interesting use of technology is provided by the Basques who used an explosives-filled, radio-controlled model boat to damage a Spanish naval vessel.

Looking to the future, the growth of an offshore industry will bring with it a corresponding growth in offshore support and service industries and an increase in the number of helicopters, trained commercial divers, diver delivery vehicles, and manned as well as remotely operated submarine vehicles. Also, the rapid growth of sport diving has produced a number of technological developments that have extended the capacity of the individual diver and spread basic skills to a growing population. New craft including inexpensive high-speed

inflatable boats and surface effects craft add another dimension. Future adversaries, be they terrorists or ordinary criminals, may be able to acquire or draw on these specialized skills and technology to carry out operations against maritime targets.

## THE CHRONOLOGY

The following chronology lists 111 events involving guerrillas, terrorists, pirates, or ordinary criminals. We have tried to list all reported guerrilla and terrorist attacks. We know that we have not been able to list every incident of piracy or ordinary crime. Noting an increase in armed attacks on merchant vessels, a recent study by the International Maritime Organization listed 192 incidents of piracy between January 1981 and April 1983. Most of those occurred off the coast of West Africa or in the channels near Singapore.<sup>4</sup>

The chronology does not provide a reliable base for quantitative analysis. It is certain that the chronology does not reflect the total number of incidents. Bomb threats are common. Threats of a more serious nature are often not revealed for reasons of not wanting to raise insurance rates or provide inspiration to others. Extortion is a notoriously underreported crime. Sabotage by hostile employees is often disguised. Exchange of information is limited. The appearance of a growing number of incidents in the 1980s may in part simply reflect the growing volume of terrorist activity in the world. It may also simply reflect better reporting owing to increased interest in the problem. The chronology provides a picture of the kinds of things that have happened, not the frequency at which they are happening.

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<sup>4</sup>This information was kindly provided by officials of the ICC International Maritime Bureau in the United Kingdom.

## CHRONOLOGY OF INCIDENTS, 1960-1983

##19600304

CUBA. An explosion aboard a French freighter unloading explosives in Havana killed between 75 and 100 persons, and injured 200 more. Although no group claimed credit, the series of blasts which blew the ship apart were attributed to sabotage by anti-Castro groups.

##19600706

TRINIDAD. In Port of Spain, oil company workers on strike against Texaco Trinidad, Inc., opened storage tank valves, spilling 200,000 gallons of gasoline, kerosene, and oil into the sea.

##19610122

CARIBBEAN. The 21,000 ton Portuguese liner "Santa Maria" was seized when at sea by a group of 70 men, led by Captain Henrique Galvao, a Portuguese political exile and a leading opponent of Dr. Salazar's government. The liner was on a holiday cruise with over 600 Portuguese, American, Dutch, Venezuelan and Spanish passengers on board, among them many women and children. Prior to her seizure, the "Santa Maria" had called at Curacao and was to have touched at Florida before returning to Lisbon.

The takeover of the ship occurred at 01:30 when a group from among the passengers, armed with machine guns and hand grenades, assaulted the bridge of the ship, killing the Third Officer who was on watch at the time and resisted the assault, and injuring three other crew members.

Captain Galvao broadcast a radio message addressed to "all the newspapers of the free world" in which he said that the "Santa Maria" had been taken over in the name of the Independent Junta of Liberation led by General Humberto Delgado, "the legally-elected President of the Portuguese Republic who has been fraudulently deprived of his rights by the Salazar administration." (General Delgado had unsuccessfully contested the Portuguese Presidential election in 1958). Galvao went on to ask for the support of all free Governments and political recognition of "this liberated part of the national territory."

An international search involving ships from many navies was mounted to locate the "Santa Maria" which was eventually spotted by a U.S. naval plane and persuaded to alter course for Recife, Brazil where Galvao had negotiations on 31 January with a U.S. Naval Admiral and on 1 February with a Brazilian admiral. As a result the liner entered Recife on 2 February where the passengers and the majority of the crew disembarked. Galvao formally surrendered the ship to the Brazilian Navy on 3

February, having accepted the Brazilian Government's offer of asylum for himself and his followers. This was the first modern hijack at sea and lasted for 11 days.

##19620910

CUBA. A motor launch, piloted by members of Alpha 66, a Cuban exile group, attacked the Cuban port of Caibarien firing at the San Pascal, an old ship grounded on a concrete base and used for molasses storage, the British freighter "Newlane" and the "San Blas," a coastal freighter.

##19621008

CUBA. Anti-Castro Cuban exiles staged a raid on the Cuban port of Isabela de Sagua in Cuba. Approximately 20 attackers carried out their assault from the sea.

##19630318

CUBA. Two motor launches piloted by members of Alpha 66 and the Second Front, another Cuban exile organization, attacked the Lvov, a Russian freighter anchored at Isabela de Sagua, causing serious damage.

##19630327

CUBA. A motor launch piloted by an exile Cuban group called Commandos L (a spin-off group from Alpha 66), armed with a 20 mm Lahti cannon attacked the Russian freighter "Baku" in the port of Caibarien.. Closing on the Baku, the attackers attached a 50-pound limpet mine to the hull. The explosion sank the ship.

##19640913

CUBA. A vessel piloted by Cuban exiles attacked the Spanish freighter "Sierra Aranzazu" off the coast of Cuba with 57mm recoilless rifles and 50-caliber machineguns. The attack resulted in three deaths, 17 wounded, and heavy damage to the ship which had to be abandoned. The attackers had mistaken the Spanish freighter for a new Cuban freighter, the "Sierra Maestra."

##19680000

UNITED STATES. The U.S. Coast Guard intercepted Cuban exiles on their way to hijack and destroy the "26 de Julio," a Cuban merchant ship.

##19680229

UNITED STATES. Members of El Poder Cubano failed in an attempt to attack a Cuban ship.

##19680500

RED SEA. PFLP terrorists, a Palestinian group, carried out an assault

on the Liberian-registered oil tanker "Coral Sea." Terrorists on a speedboat fired 10 bazooka shells at the tanker, causing some damage but no casualties. The attack occurred in the Strait of Bab el Mandeb at the entrance to the Red Sea. It was intended to discourage tankers from using the Israeli port of Eilat on the Red Sea.

##19680524

UNITED STATES. The British cargo ship "Granwood," 25 miles from Key West, Florida, was extensively damaged by a bomb allegedly placed by El Poder Cubano members.

##19680530

UNITED STATES. El Poder Cubano was credited with bombing a Japanese ship the "Asaka Maru" near Tampa, Florida, causing \$100,000 in damage.

##19680601

UNITED STATES. The Japanese ship "Mikagasan Maru," in Galveston, Texas, was extensively damaged by a bomb allegedly placed by El Poder Cubano.

##19680800

UNITED STATES. At sea, 300 miles east of Miami, Florida, the British freighter "Lancastrian Prince" was the scene of an attempted bombing.

##19680808

UNITED STATES. A 311-foot British freighter "Caribbean Venture" was seriously damaged by an underwater explosion as she lay at anchor in Biscayne Bay, Miami, Florida. Several hours later, El Poder Cubano said it had planted the mine because Britain trades with Cuba. The vessel settled five feet in the water after the blast. There were no reports of injuries.

##19680916

UNITED STATES. El Poder Cubano terrorists, a Cuban exiles group, fired at the Polish freighter "Polancia" in Miami harbor.

##19700124

ISRAEL. Al Fatah and PFLP jointly claimed credit for the explosion of an ammunition truck unloading at a dock. Nineteen were killed, 36 injured.

##19710219

TURKEY. A U.S. Army passenger boat in Istanbul was damaged by a bomb. Another bomb was found in a second boat.

##19710426

MOZAMBIQUE. Members of the Armed Revolutionary Action claimed credit for an explosion on a Portuguese ship off the Mozambique coast; 23 crew members were killed.

##19720329

UNITED STATES. In Biscayne, Florida a Soviet research ship was bombed by the JCN, an anti-Castro Cuban group.

##19721201

CYPRUS. A plan by Black September Organization terrorists, (a Palestinian group) to hijack an Italian passenger ship between Cyprus and Israel was frustrated by police.

##19730304

LEBANON. The Greek charter ship "Sanya," carrying 250 U.S. tourists bound for Haifa, Israel, sank in Beirut harbor following an explosion on board. There were no casualties. An official investigation revealed that the explosion was caused by a device placed against the side of the ship below the waterline. The BSO (Black September), a Palestinian group, claimed credit for the incident.

##19730605

UNITED STATES. Los Angeles, California. An ex-Yankee baseball player, Gerald Edward (Gerry) Priddy, was arrested and convicted for attempting to extort \$250,000 from Princess Cruises by threatening to blow up a passenger liner at sea. The FBI reported Priddy had made several telephone calls to the Princess Cruise offices in Los Angeles demanding \$250,000 in exchange for the location of bombs hidden aboard the "Island Princess," at that time 200 miles south of San Diego off the coast of Baja California, and carrying 850 passengers and crew. The ship captain was notified immediately and a thorough search of the vessel got under way without alarming the passengers. When two cigarette pack-sized packages, wrapped in plain brown paper, were discovered, they were thrown overboard without being opened. The cruise continued to Mexico and back without incident.

Priddy was arrested by FBI agents as he attempted to pick up the money from a pre-arranged drop site in a trash can behind the building of his own advertising agency. On January 17, 1974, he was convicted and sentenced to nine months in prison, in spite of what he called extenuating circumstances in which he claimed a phantom telephone caller had threatened to kill his family unless he fronted for the scheme.

##19731230

UNITED STATES. Two bombs damaged the 573-ton "Mereghan II" as it awaited cargo at a Miami river dock. In a call to the news media, a man who identified himself as a spokesman for a Cuban liberation group in

Miami said the action was directed against the Government of the Bahamas for the murder of Cuban nationals. (This Cuban liberation group may be FLNC--Frente de Liberacion Nacional Cubana or the Cuban National Liberation Front, a Miami-based exile group responsible for several attacks in 1974.)

##19740131

SINGAPORE. Two Japanese belonging to the radical United Red Army (URA) and two Arabs of the PFLP (Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine) tried to blow up a Shell Oil Co. refinery, then seized eight hostages aboard a ferryboat and threatened to kill themselves and the hostages unless they were given safe passage to an Arab country. The terrorists had tried to blow up three oil storage tanks belonging to Shell Eastern Petroleum, a Shell International company, but only succeeded in setting one on fire.

##19740202

PAKISTAN. Three gunmen, members of a group called Moslem International Guerrillas, seized a Greek freighter in the port of Karachi. They threatened to blow up the ship and kill two hostages unless the Greek government freed two Arab terrorists who were being held in Athens under sentence of death for the August 5, 1973 attack at the Athens airport. After lengthy negotiations with Pakistani authorities and three Arab ambassadors, the attackers accepted a Greek government agreement to commute the sentences of the Athens terrorists. The three gunmen were flown out of Karachi on a special PIA flight to Cairo on February 3 and on to Libya the following day.

##19740302

FRANCE. The Pierre Overnay Brigade attacked the barge "Ouest France" while it was moored alongside the quay loaded with 300 cars. The left-wing group used crude fire bombs and destroyed 180 Renaults.

##19740500

UNITED STATES. Los Angeles. The "Caribe Star" was sunk in Los Angeles Harbor by a bomb placed on its sea chest. The 120 feet long former Catalina ferry had been sold to Arab interests and refitted as a luxury yacht. The Jewish Defense League claimed responsibility.

##19740409

PORTUGAL. Left-wing militants, the Revolutionary Brigades blasted the hull of the Portuguese troopship "Niassa." The hull of the vessel was holed in two places just above the water line and caused fires in the dormitories, but damage was slight. The blasts occurred as 1200 troops were lined up on deck for departure speeches. Prior warning had been given of the blasts.

##19740623

UNITED KINGDOM. The Band of Mercy set fire to the British vessel "Mizpah" and totally destroyed the 32 foot vessel. The group, calling themselves "animal lovers" explained that the reason for their attack was that the vessel was regularly used to hunt seals. The group threatened to step up their campaign by using explosives unless seal hunting was abolished.

##19740720

IRELAND. There was a bomb blast on board the motor ferry "Ulster Queen" in Belfast, after a warning telephone call had been made to a local newspaper by the Provisional Irish Republican Army. The blast caused little damage and no casualties.

##19740801

EGYPT. Unknown perpetrators placed an underwater bomb on the vessel "Alcazar" from Singapore. The explosions resulted in 44 meters of bilge keel buckling and distorting.

##19741007

ARGENTINA. The Argentine vessel "Mykinai" was seriously damaged by an explosive device placed on the lower starboard side. The perpetrators were not known.

##19741215

UNITED STATES. A bomb exploded at the Bahama Cruise Line offices in Miami, Florida, causing moderate damage but no injuries. The Latin American Anti-Communist Army, a name believed to be used by the FLNC (an anti-Castro group) to confuse authorities, claimed credit for the bombing.

##19741216

UNITED STATES. A bomb exploded in the Eastern Steamship Lines office in Miami, Florida, causing a small fire and minor damage. The company owns two cruise ships operating between Miami and the Bahamas, but it is American-owned and has no connection with the Bahamian government. According to the FBI, the bomb appeared to be different from those used in previous bombings by Cuban exile organizations. It appeared likely, however, that the incident was related to the previously stated intention of the FLNC (Frente de Liberacion Nacional Cubana) to direct its attacks against the Bahamian government.

##19750309

IRELAND. Over 30 incendiary devices were planted on fishing vessels in the harbor of Greencastle, Co., Donegal, Republic of Ireland, and fuel lines had been cut on some of them. Only two of the bombs exploded. Two trawlers were destroyed and a third badly damaged. The fishing



fleet were accused of gun-running for the Irish Republican Army by the attackers (Protestant Ulster Defence Association.)

##19750500

PERSIAN GULF. Oil tankers in the Persian Gulf were alerted to reports of a plot by Arab skindivers to hijack a ship, the General Council of British Shipping said.

##19750723

JAPAN. A Chilean training vessel and a Kobe University ship docked at the International Ocean Exposition in Okinawa were attacked by terrorists using Molotov cocktails. Two Chilean sailors were injured. Radical leftists were suspected.

##19750801

ARGENTINA. The Montoneros and the People's Revolutionary Army made lightning bomb attacks on the river port of Santa Fe, damaging a number of buildings.

##19750802

ARGENTINA. A pre-dawn guerrilla attack on the naval destroyer "Santissima Trinidad" resulted in some damage to the hull, keel and engine room of the vessel. Left-wing guerrillas, the Montoneros, planted explosives in the engine room while the destroyer was in a shipyard.

##19750804

UNITED STATES. A group called "Jaws" placed a bomb on the hull below the water line of the Bahamian vessel "Goldfinger II." The explosion blew a hole and caused the engine room to be flooded. Shortly after the attack a Spanish speaking woman claimed "The ship was bombed to punish the enemy and protest against the Bahamian Government's attitude towards American fishermen."

##19750926

PHILIPPINES. Thirty Moslem separatist rebels attacked the Japanese vessel "Suehiro Maru" while the crew was loading lumber in Zamboanga. The crew and five Filipinos were held hostage for three days. A demand was made for one million pesos. The ship's master was kidnapped and taken to a "Moro" village. It was reported owners of the vessel were prepared to pay the ransom. The ship and crew were released on the 29th of September.

##19751102

PUERTO RICO. Unknown perpetrators exploded two devices in the hull below the waterline of the Russian vessel "S.S. Maksim Gorkiy." The

ship was at anchor visiting the port of San Juan with cruise passengers on board at the time of the incident. The explosions ripped holes in the hull.

##19751107

PHILIPPINES. Six Japanese nationals were kidnapped from their fishing vessel off Basilan Island by ten armed men. All of the Japanese were released on December 6 after a settlement was reached between the Philippine government and the kidnappers, who probably were Moslem rebels.

##19751228

PUERTO RICO. A militant Cuban exile group claimed credit for a second attack against the "S.S. Maksim Gorkiy," the Russian cruise ship visiting the port of San Juan. A bomb was thrown on board injuring one crew member and causing slight damage to the ship. The attack was in protest against the Communist regime in Cuba. The first attack occurred on November 2, 1975.

##19760116

PORTUGAL. The Anti-Communist Action Front claimed credit for the explosion nearby the Russian vessel "Nadya Ribakovatye." Two bombs were thrown at the ship, one exploded in the water alongside, another damaged a nearby swing bridge. The ship was not damaged but left the port of Oporto without taking on any cargo. The attack was believed to be directed against communists in the port administration.

##19760212

BAHAMAS. The Russian vessel "Dzrordano Bruno" was attacked by gunfire from a small boat while anchored five miles from the island. No one was injured. Anti-Castro exiles have previously attacked Soviet ships and may have been responsible.

##19760326

INDONESIA. A Cambodian crew hijacked the Panamanian vessel "Vira II" while near Sebakor Island. The ship carried a cargo of 2,200 tons of fuel oil. The attackers shot the Singapore radio officer--the Indonesian master and first officer jumped overboard and were picked up by a passing motor boat. The vessel was apparently taken to Cambodia.

##19760405

UNITED STATES. A Cuban fisherman was killed during a machine gun attack on two Cuban fishing vessels in the Straits of Florida. Cuban exiles in Miami claimed credit.

##19760600

CUBA. Cuban exiles shelled a Soviet ship off the coast of Cuba.

##19760800

LEBANON. The Greek vessel "Tina" was sunk by three limpet mines. The attackers were believed to be members of a right wing Lebanese Christian Group. The vessel was partly loaded with cargo believed to be arms destined for the Al Fatah organization.

##19760916

UNITED STATES. A Soviet cargo ship docked at Port Elizabeth, New Jersey, was damaged by a bomb apparently planted by an anti-Castro refugee group. The explosion caused no injuries. A man claiming to represent a Cuban anti-Communist group, Omega 7, claimed credit for the attack. He said a frogman had attached the explosive to the bottom of the ship. The vessel had notified the Coast Guard a half hour earlier of a possible swimmer in the area.

##19761023

LEBANON. Three Greek vessels "Eko," "Riri," and "Spiro" were attacked at night by frogmen who placed limpet mines on the hulls of the vessels. The attackers were believed to be members of a right wing Lebanese Christian Group. All three vessels sank.

##19761200

UNITED STATES. A Liberian-registered oil tanker that ran aground on the Nantucket Shoals, 27 miles off the Atlantic Coast, may have been run aground deliberately according to the U.S. Coast Guard who reported that such a message had been received from a telephone caller who identified himself as a crew member of the ship. The incident caused the worst Atlantic Coast oil spill in history. The information was referred to the Liberian maritime office in New York which promised to investigate. The tanker was 10 miles off course. None of her 38 crewmen and officers was injured.

##19770516

ANGOLA. A black guerrilla movement, the Cabinda Enclave Liberation Front, said that it planned to blow up the offshore drilling complex of the Gulf Oil Company in the Cabinda enclave of Angola and warned the company to evacuate its 200 British and American employees within three days.

A spokesman for the guerrilla group said the warning must be taken seriously because the movement had acquired ground-to-ground missiles in exchange for coffee and un-cut diamonds. "If we do not receive a reply from Gulf, the order will be given to destroy all pumping stations, rigs and installations as well as the docking quays," the communique released in Lisbon, Portugal said.

The guerrilla spokesman said the guerrillas were opposed to Gulf because it was giving the ruling pro-Marxist Angolan Popular Liberation Movement \$2 million daily in oil royalties "to maintain its control over Cabinda with Cuban help."

##19770600

CUBA. Attempts to attack Cuban patrol boats (Cuban Navy) at Grand Paredon Key, Cuba, by CORU, an anti-Castro group, were prevalent during the months of June, July, and August of 1977.

##19770722

PERU. A Cuban fishing boat, docked at a port near Lima, was bombed. All of the crew escaped unhurt, but the vessel was a total loss. The International Commandos of Zone 6 of CORU claimed in a Puerto Rican newspaper to have carried out the attack with two magnetic explosive mines, but there is no evidence to support this claim.

##19771114

AFRICA. The Algerian-backed Polisario Front guerrillas attacked a Spanish trawler with mortar and machine-gun fire, and seized three Spanish fishermen. The guerrillas used a rocket-armed inflatable speedboat in the attack. The guerrilla movement is fighting against the Moroccan and Mauritanian annexation of the former Spanish Sahara and claimed they had seized the trawler because it had "violated the waters of the Sahara republic to pillage its maritime riches." The guerrillas announced on November 25 that they would release the three Spanish fishermen.

##19771121

AFRICA. The Danish vessel "Lindinger Ivory" on the Lagos Coast, was attacked by pirates. The captain was killed and five other members of the crew were injured. No political motivation was revealed.

##19780430

PHILIPPINES. The "Don Carlos" was boarded by armed members of a Moslem Separatist rebel group of the South Philippines. The cargo was off-loaded and the 37 crew and passengers were taken as hostages. The Don Carlos was set adrift and stranded at Santa Cruz Island. The boarders intercepted the vessel using four fast motor boats.

##19781003

ISRAEL. The sinking by the Israeli Navy of a bomb-laden freighter off the Sinai coast foiled a sensational Al Fatah terrorist plot that could have cost the lives of hundreds of vacationers. Apparently the guerrillas were launching a seaborne assault on Israel's Red Sea port of Eilat. Oil tank farms and the big oil pumping installations on the

Eilat-Ashkelon pipeline to the Mediterranean may have been the intended target of the unsuccessful operation. They planned to unleash 42 122-mm Katyusha rockets at the port of Eilat and simultaneously ram the 600-ton boat, crammed with more than three tons of explosives, onto the packed Eilat beach. The ship's keel would have exploded on impact with the land. The seven guerrillas were captured, the heavy armament was seized, and the ship was sunk after verbal orders to halt from an Israeli gunboat were ignored and several warning shots had been shot across its bow.

##19781005

UNITED STATES. A plot to steal a nuclear submarine and possibly destroy an eastern city with a nuclear missile was broken up by the FBI with the arrest of two men. The men planned to steal the "USS Trepang" from its base at New London, Conn., and turn it over to an unidentified purchaser in the mid-Atlantic. The plot was uncovered when the men approached an undercover agent in an attempt to recruit him as part of a 12-man crew to operate the submarine.

##19790000

PORTUGAL. U.S. environmentalists seriously damaged the whaler "Sierra" by ramming with a ship called "Sea Shepherd". The subjects were arrested but fled the country. They were believed to be members of the Fund for the Animals; Green Peace.

##19790300

UNITED STATES. A bomb threat against any vessel berthed at the Chelsea, Massachusetts terminal was determined to be a hoax.

##19790600

UNITED STATES. There was a bomb threat against any vessel berthed at the Chelsea, Massachusetts terminal. The caller stated a bomb would go off in the petroleum storage tank on Eastern Avenue. Hoax.

##19790600

UNITED STATES. Chelsea, Massachusetts. There was a bomb threat specifically directed against the "Gulftiger." The vessel was evacuated. A vessel search proved negative.

##19790723

PERSIAN GULF. American warships and security forces from Oman were put on alert to prevent the hijacking or sinking of an oil tanker in the Strait of Hormuz, the 50-mile wide entrance to the gulf. Authorities believed the attempt might be made on the 23rd, the anniversary of the 1952 Egyptian Revolution. The idea would be to disrupt, and thus threaten, the steady stream of tankers passing through the strait loaded with oil from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Abadan, Iraq or the United

Arab Emirates. The Palestine Liberation Organization was suspected of plotting such an action.

##19790726

THAILAND. Pirates stowed away aboard a Thai oil tanker when it left an Esso depot near Bangkok, then seized the ship at gunpoint and siphoned off about 80,000 gallons of diesel oil into a second pirate tanker. The captain of the tanker, "Chok-Anant," said the seven pirates overpowered his crew and held them at bay while a second tanker pulled alongside and siphoned off the fuel, valued at about \$75,000. The pirates destroyed his radio and sabotaged the engines before escaping on the second ship. The "Chok-Anant" drifted at sea until it was spotted off a harbor south of Bangkok.

##19791200

UNITED STATES. Beaumont, Texas. There was a bomb threat against the "Globe Venus" at the Mobil Oil Terminal. After partial search of the terminal and vessel the call was evaluated as a hoax.

##19800100

AFRICA. The 215,000-ton Liberian-registered tanker "Salem" sank off the west coast of Africa in mysterious circumstances. There was no oil slick making it unlikely that the ship had sunk with its oil still aboard. It was not until September of 1981 that the master of the tanker, and three other men, were charged with stealing the tanker's cargo of crude oil which had been insured with Lloyds of London for \$36 million. A judiciary spokesman in Piraeus, Greece, laid the charges against the captain of the tanker, two crew members and a Piraeus shipping agent.

##19800109

UNITED STATES. California. The Patriotic Skin Divers of America threatened to bomb the Soviet vessel "Nicolay Karamzin," and warned that the harbor of Sacramento was mined. Port authorities closed the harbor for three days.

##19800306

UNITED STATES. In Fort Lauderdale, Florida, a caller threatened to bomb the "Hermes" and "blow him apart." The British aircraft carrier lists England's Prince Andrew as a member of the crew. The caller could not be persuaded that the Prince was not aboard; so the entire 1200 man crew was evacuated and the vessel searched. A brick was found labeled "Bomb by IRA."

##19800311

MAURITANIA. The 236,000-ton Spanish supertanker "Maria Alejandra"

exploded and sank off Mauritania, West Africa. Thirty-six of the 43 persons on board were lost. The ship was in ballast and was only three years old with modern safety equipment.

##19800403

SENEGAL. A Liberian-registered supertanker, the 238,889-ton "Mycene," owned by the Mycene Shipping Company of Monrovia, sank off the coast of Senegal, Africa's westernmost point. One crewman was missing and 32 were rescued by a Dutch ship.

##19800522

AFRICA. The Spanish flag trawler "Garmomar" was seized and grounded by Polisario guerrillas off the coast of Western Sahara. The vessel was a total loss.

##19800616

BELGIUM. Demonstrators smashed the navigational and radio equipment on the nuclear waste ship "Andrea Smits" while it was taking on radioactive waste to dump in the Atlantic Ocean. Several of the anti-nuclear protestors were hurt in the clash and eight demonstrators were arrested. On 13 June 1980, the same vessel was blockaded in a canal by Dutch protestors near Ijmuiden, the Netherlands.

##19800604

AFRICA. The Portuguese flag trawler "Rio Vouga" was boarded off the coast of Western Sahara by Polisario guerrillas who kidnapped the crew.

##19800702

AFRICA. The Moroccan flag trawler "Cap Juby II" was bombarded and attacked by Polisario guerrillas off Morocco. The vessel was abandoned and was a total loss.

##19800712

THAILAND. A group of refugees who had fled Vietnam because of continual harassment by the Communist Vietnamese were attacked four times by sea pirates on the high seas. In the last attack, the pirates took the motor from the boat, causing it to drift in the ocean for 3 days and nights. Finally a Thai fishing boat came upon the group, and towed the boat into the Pattani River where the refugees were given medical treatment and placed in a Vietnamese detention center in Songkhla Province.

##19800929

AFRICA. The Spanish flag fishing vessel "Sarita" was boarded off Mauritania by Polisario guerrillas who kidnapped the crew.

##19800929

AFRICA. The Spanish flag trawler "Costa de Terranova" was boarded off Mauritania by Polisario guerrillas who kidnapped the crew.

##19801029

ITALY. A Libyan ship in for repairs at the port of Genoa almost sank following the explosion of a device that had been attached to the hull below the water line. The Maltese National Front was suspected of the attack.

##19810207

IRELAND. Irish Republican Army gunmen boarded the British coal ship "Nellie M," moored off the Donegal coast and exploded bombs that left the vessel partially submerged. A crewman said the terrorists warned them that other British vessels entering Irish waters would suffer the same fate. The seven masked men with rifles and pistols had commandeered a pilot launch and forced the crewmen of the coal ship into a lifeboat. No one was reported injured.

##19810706

PHILIPPINES. The Filipino coaster "Illana Bay I" was hijacked by local terrorists near Cotabato City. The Master was forced to proceed to another destination where the cargo of rice was unloaded. The Master was reportedly stabbed to death, and several passengers wounded for refusing to assist in the unloading.

##19810725

UNITED STATES. Greenpeace activists attempted to board a Shell oil rig, 177 miles off the coast of Cape Cod, Mass., to explain their opposition to drilling during a Shell news conference on the rig. Shell denied the group access to the drilling platform. Greenpeace officials sought to explain their fear that the drilling, which had been delayed for six years, would result in oil spills endangering the nearby Georges Bank, home for much of the world's supply of cod, haddock and food fish. Shell spokesman said Georges Bank is a relatively low-risk geological formation for oil spills.

##19810804

PHILIPPINES. An unnamed ferry was attacked by 50 members of the Filipino Communist New People's Army of Samar Island. Five people were killed and four wounded.

##19810822

IRAN. Iran's monarchists launched a terrorist campaign of their own



against the Khomeini regime. They hijacked on high seas a missile patrol boat purchased by the Iranian Navy from France. The seizure of the "Tarbarzin" took place off the coast of Spain while the boat was en route to Iran. The 25-man attack was led by ex-Admiral Kamal Habibollahi, former commander-in-chief of the Imperial Navy under the Shah. The monarchist or "Azadegan" (freedom) movement is headed by the former commander-in-chief of the Iranian armed forces, General Bahram Aryana.

##19810926

AFRICA. The Portuguese fishing vessel "Porto Ceu" was attacked by Polisario guerrillas off the Western Sahara Coast. One fisherman was killed, and three others wounded.

##19811000

UNITED STATES. California. A caller said that a bomb had been placed on one of several attending vessels at the Texaco Platform "Habitat" (9 miles SE of Santa Barbara). No bomb was found after platform and vessel searches.

##19811002

SPAIN. A powerful bomb knocked a six foot hole in the hull of a destroyer while it was moored in Santander. The ship was the flagship of the Cantabrian fleet. No one was injured as a result of the blast, which was claimed by the Military Wing of the Basque secessionist ETA. A caller stated that there would also be a bombing aimed at a ship at sea.

##19811102

FRANCE. French Navy divers disarmed a bomb attached to the hull of a British research ship. Officials said most of the 120 crew members of the Royal Navy hydrographic vessel "Hecate" docked in Nantes for three days were evacuated before dawn after a slight explosion was heard on the dock where it was moored. Divers then went searching and discovered a bomb containing 2.2 pounds of plastic explosives on the ship's hull just below the waterline. The cause of the first blast was not discovered. An anonymous caller later told the press that he represented the "Bobby Sands group" which had planted the device "to support the political and military combat of Irish republicans for freedom and national independence."

According to *Risks*, November 1981, INLA (Irish National Liberation Army) was responsible for this attempt.

##19820101

PHILIPPINES. The strafing of a Japanese-owned tanker by Philippine air force planes was "an accidental and unfortunate accident resulting from lack of communication," according to the two governments in a joint

statement in September 1982. The Philippine government had previously charged that the 5,307 ton chemical tanker "Hegg" was carrying weapons to Muslim separatists in the southern Philippines.

##19820102

LEBANON. A Lebanese-registered oil tanker was rocketed while loading Iraqi crude at an oil terminal in the northern Lebanese port city of Tripoli. The tanker sailed out of the range of fire, but not before the shelling caused a fire on the ship's deck that was quickly extinguished. One oil storage tank on the 20,778-ton "Babanaft" had been hit and was set ablaze. The tanker sailed to Greece to undergo repairs. No group claimed responsibility for the bombing, but there have been frequent clashes between pro-Iranian and pro-Iraqi Lebanese Moslems since the two countries went to war in September of 1980.

##19820117

SINGAPORE. Mariners transiting waters in the approaches to Singapore, and especially the Strait of Malacca in the vicinity of Phillip Channel, were advised to use extreme caution because of recent attacks on vessels by pirates. Reportedly, over the past year there have been 29 incidents of piracy in the Phillip Channel, the narrow, five-mile sealane 13 miles south of Singapore, in Indonesian waters. The channel is the only passage for ships going from west to east through the Strait of Malacca into the South China Sea. Pirates in the waterways use fast motorboats to pull alongside vessels in the channel, then use ropes and grappling hooks to board the ships. The attacks have usually come at night, and though the pirates are mainly looking for valuables such as cash and jewelry, it is the supertankers which have been the most vulnerable. Heavily laden, these ships sit low in the water and slow down considerably to make their way through the narrow channel. At this point they are easily boardable.

Singapore is the third-largest oil refining center in the world, and the threat of disruption to the orderly operation of shipping lanes or the safe anchorage of ships in Singapore's harbor strikes hard at the city-state's economic long-range plans for growth of shipping and refining.

##19820223

IRELAND. Twelve Irish Republican Army guerrillas seized a British cargo vessel in Lough Foyle, a sea inlet that separates the Irish Republic from the British-ruled province of Northern Ireland. The guerrillas cast the crew adrift in a lifeboat and blew up the ship. No one was hurt. The outlawed IRA Provisionals said they were responsible for the attack on the 1,200 ton "St. Bedan," loaded with coal and bound for London. The crew later told police that the masked guerrillas threatened to fire rockets at other British ships sailing into Irish waters.

##19820309

LEBANON. Explosives blew up a Lebanese cargo ship at the Palestinian guerrilla-controlled port of Tyre. The blast occurred despite severe security precautions by local armed elements. There was no estimate of damage; authorities noted that the ship had been followed for quite a while into Lebanese waters by an Israeli gunboat. The Israeli military denied any responsibility for the attack.

##19821226

PHILIPPINES. The Filipino ferry "Santa Lucia" was damaged at Pagadian by an explosive device placed by the Moro National Liberation Front. Two people were killed and 50 injured.

##19820400

UNITED STATES. New York. There was a bomb threat against the "Queen Elizabeth II" in New York Harbor. A caller stated there were three plastic bombs aboard the vessel, which was already under way. A search proved negative.

##19820400

UNITED STATES. California. About forty members of the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade (RCYB) demonstrated at the berth of the "Bessegen," a British ship in San Francisco Harbor. Several British crewmen were accosted. Several members of the RCYB boarded the vessel and struck down the British colors. Boarders were arrested by local police. The demonstration was broken up by firehoses manned by "Bessegen" crewmembers.

##19820616

BRAZIL. The Liberian supertanker "Hercules" was ordered to leave the port of Rio de Janeiro because it had a bomb on board. Twenty-eight crewmembers abandoned the ship for security reasons. The ship was to have been repaired in a yard in Rio de Janeiro, but the captain, Henzo Battagliarin, found the bomb and reported it to Brazilian authorities who decided to dispatch the tanker to the high seas until the bomb was defused or removed.

##19820624

UNITED STATES. Armed FBI agents and Coast Guardsmen raided a Liberian-registered oil tanker off the coast of Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, arresting 24 crew members who had threatened to kill the ship's captain and release 290,000 barrels of oil into the ocean unless the ship's Greek owners paid them union-scale wages. The raid, which occurred in international waters at the request of the Liberian government, followed 29 days of hostility between the captain and crew that eventually ended in mutiny. The tanker "Ypapanti" had been refused entry into the port of Philadelphia because it lacked proper safety equipment; at that point the crew took the captain and 11 of the ship's officers hostage. The 24

mutinous Pakistani and Indian crewmen were removed from the tanker and placed in custody until they could be returned to their homeland. American assistance in such cases is provided for in treaties with Liberia regarding marine pollution.

##19820700

UNITED STATES. Seattle, Washington. There was a bomb threat against the "Princess Marguerite," a Canadian ship in Puget Sound. This passenger ferry vessel with 549 passengers and 88 crew was the target of multiple bomb threats. The vessel, under way from Seattle to Victoria, British Columbia, returned to Seattle where an extensive search was conducted. No bombs were found. After the vessel got under way again, another series of threats were received but ignored by the vessel. The Coast Guard responded with vessels and aircraft as a precautionary measure, and established a safety zone around the vessel when it returned to Seattle for searching.

##19820706

ALASKA. Several crewmen aboard the Coast Guard cutter "Boutwell" sabotaged the vessel to leave it wallowing in the North Pacific as part of a bizarre scheme to hijack a marijuana-laden sailboat it was towing. The plot fell apart after the damage was discovered and a crewman confessed, at the same time implicating another crewman. The two had planned to put on wet suits and board the sailboat "Orca" which had been seized June 20. Another crewman in a wet suit was found drowned after a seven-hour search. It is not known at present whether or not he was implicated in the sabotage.

##19820800

UNITED STATES. Public protests and acts of disobedience, including boat blockades and harassment of the submarine USS "Ohio" by small boats, occurred during the "Ohio's" port call at Bangor, Washington. An extremely large-scale Coast Guard operation was required to safeguard the "Ohio's" transit.

##19821227

AFRICA. Five pirates in a speedboat boarded a Swedish cargo vessel Monday night off Lagos, firing shots and slightly wounding the second mate before making off with rolls of cloth, the ship's owners reported.

\*\*January 1983. In January a warning went out to U.S.-flag shipping sailing in the Mediterranean, Indian Ocean and the South Sea to take precautions against pirates, particularly when within a distance from land that could be navigated by small craft.

##19830100

UNITED STATES. California. There was a bomb threat against the

construction barge "Challenger I," 8 miles south of the Long Beach harbor entrance. The barge was involved in the installation of the Chevron Oil Platform "Edith" and is a 636 crane barge. The construction of "Edith" was the subject of a labor dispute between local pile drivers union and Chevron because of use of foreign labor at the construction site. A search revealed no bomb. The Coast Guard responded as a precautionary measure.

##19830100

UNITED STATES. California. There was a bomb threat against the Coast Guard Support Center in Alameda. No bomb was found.

##19830113

FRANCE. Greenpeace's "Sirius" was seized by French officials when it prepared to interfere with a Japanese freighter entering the harbor. The freighter was carrying nuclear waste. On the 18th, 2,000 protested the impoundment.

##19830131

UNITED STATES. Four Korean sailors, incensed at being denied shore leave for 15 months, seized control of a 500-ton freighter, the Coast Guard reported. The men took control of the Panamanian freighter "Eastern Nav," complaining that they had been mistreated by being kept at sea for so long. They destroyed the galley, broke dishes and damaged the bridge. No injuries were reported. The "mutiny" occurred near Key West, Florida.

##19830223

IRELAND. Twelve Irish Republican Army guerrillas seized a British cargo vessel in a sea inlet, cast its crew adrift in a lifeboat and blew up the ship. No one was hurt in the incident in Lough Foyle, an inlet that separates the Irish Republic from the British-ruled province of Northern Ireland. The outlawed I.R.A. Provisionals claimed responsibility.

##19830321

JAPAN. The USS "Enterprise," a carrier, sailed into Sasebo port accompanied by a flotilla of protest craft. In 1 boat 6 people were arrested when they lobbed a smoke bomb at Japanese government craft attempting to keep protest boats at a distance.

##19830400

UNITED STATES. New York. There was a telephoned bomb threat against the carrier "HMS Hermes," in New York Harbor. A search, including underwater search by vessel's divers, was negative. The Coast Guard responded with a small boat to provide waterside protection until the vessel departed later the same day.

##19830500

UNITED STATES. California. There were bomb threats on two successive days at the Coast Guard Base in San Francisco. No bombs were found.

##19830805

FALKLAND ISLANDS. An ultranationalist Argentine group called the Artigas-Giachino command claimed responsibility for an explosion that took place on board the Danish ship "Kraka" moored in Port Stanley, capital of the Falkland Islands. The explosion caused a fire on board the ship which was unloading granite blocks that were to be used to build a monument to British soldiers who died in the Argentine-British conflict over the islands.