

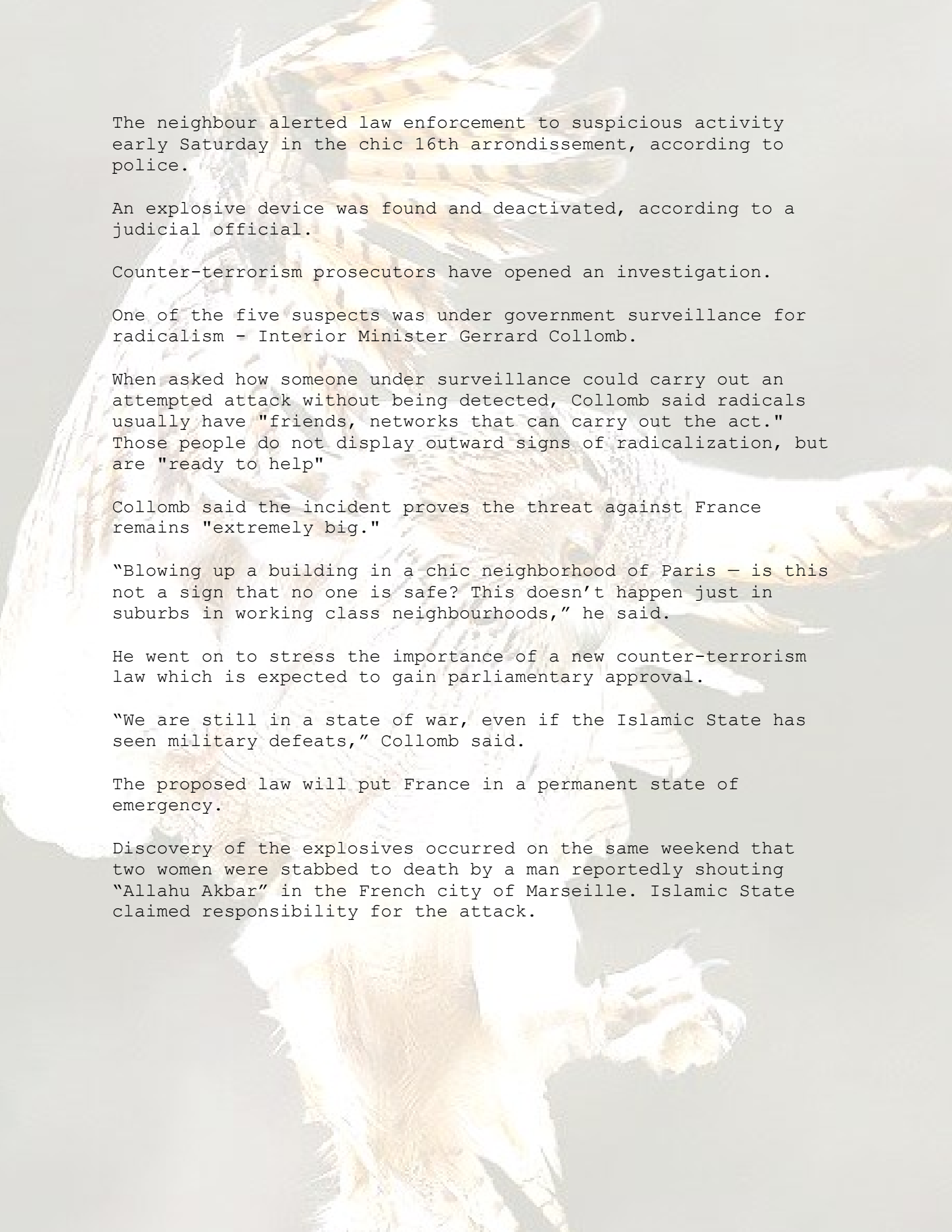
Secret Intelligence Service Relevant News Reports in Brief XVI

Five arrested after explosives found in apartment building in upscale Paris neighbourhood

03 10 2017



Five people were arrested after what appeared to be a failed bombing attempt in an apartment building in Paris, after a neighbour tipped off police. One of the suspects was under government surveillance for radicalism, according to the interior minister.



The neighbour alerted law enforcement to suspicious activity early Saturday in the chic 16th arrondissement, according to police.

An explosive device was found and deactivated, according to a judicial official.

Counter-terrorism prosecutors have opened an investigation.

One of the five suspects was under government surveillance for radicalism - Interior Minister Gerrard Collomb.

When asked how someone under surveillance could carry out an attempted attack without being detected, Collomb said radicals usually have "friends, networks that can carry out the act." Those people do not display outward signs of radicalization, but are "ready to help"

Collomb said the incident proves the threat against France remains "extremely big."


"Blowing up a building in a chic neighborhood of Paris - is this not a sign that no one is safe? This doesn't happen just in suburbs in working class neighbourhoods," he said.

He went on to stress the importance of a new counter-terrorism law which is expected to gain parliamentary approval.

"We are still in a state of war, even if the Islamic State has seen military defeats," Collomb said.

The proposed law will put France in a permanent state of emergency.

Discovery of the explosives occurred on the same weekend that two women were stabbed to death by a man reportedly shouting "Allahu Akbar" in the French city of Marseille. Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack.



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