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ELF threatens imminent attacks after radioactive material goes missing

Group demands action on renewable energy, transportation and green industry

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WASHINGTON, Dec 16 (Reuters) - Federal authorities are searching for radioactive material stolen from a U.S. inventory. Officials said the missing radium sources could be used in multiple radiological devices, commonly called dirty bombs. Their whereabouts are unknown.

A demand letter claiming to be from the Earth Liberation Front, or ELF, circulated overnight. It said the group holds the material, warned that attacks are imminent and demanded federal action on renewable energy, transportation and green industrial development. Officials have not verified who sent the letter.

The letter said ELF would detonate bombs in Los Angeles, New York City, Washington, Miami, Chicago, Atlanta, Austin, Phoenix and Boston, and at the Statue of Liberty, unless its demands are met. Federal officials have not located the material.

The threat comes two days after Chinese President Xi Jinping was killed at the G20 summit in Doral, Florida. The National Counterterrorism Center has identified an ELF splinter cell as a preliminary suspect in the attack. Congress is scheduled to debate the American Patriots Loyalty Act later Wednesday.