

CICTE Informe #8

August 2003

Counter-Terrorism Activities

CICTE Holds First National Points of Contact Meeting

CICTE held its First National Points of Contact Meeting on July 14-15 in Washington. The meeting established a basis for communication and the exchange of information between professional level counter-terrorism officials of the Member States. Agenda topics included training initiatives under the auspices of CICTE, communications tools available to the NPCs, status of the CICTE work plan, and the role of the NPC. Twenty-five of the thirty-four NPCs attended the meeting, as well as representatives of the other nine Member States. A full report on the meeting will follow shortly.

OAS General Assembly Passes Three Resolutions on Terrorism

The OAS General Assembly passed three resolutions relating to terrorism at its Thirty-Third annual meeting in June. The first recognizes that each Member State must take measures to ensure a secure cyber network. The issue of cyber security will be considered in the Committee on Hemispheric Security in coordination with CICTE, CITELE, and REMJA. A second resolution deals with protecting human rights while countering terrorism. It calls for states to adopt the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, thus taking all possible measures to counter terrorism while adhering to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The final resolution called for support for the work of CICTE and called on Member States to increase support for CICTE through implementing the Convention, and giving financial and/or personnel support to the Secretariat.

Panama Ratifies Inter-American Convention Against Terrorism

The Panamanian Congress has recently ratified the Inter-American Convention Against Terrorism, pending deposition at the OAS. Panama now joins Antigua and Barbuda, Canada, El Salvador, Mexico, Peru, and Nicaragua as ratifying parties.

Counter-Terrorism Meeting and Events

- September 3-5, the Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence (CSTPV) at St. Andrews University, Scotland together with SIA, Security and Intelligence Advising, have organized an international conference on terrorism in the Tri-border region. The conference will take place in Puerto Iguazu, Argentina. The meeting provides the specialized audience a unique opportunity to participate in a program that will analyse the real situation in the region and its consequences for the future of the continent. If you wish to participate, please contact events@siacorp.com. Registration runs until August 10th, 2003.

- September 8, FATF Terrorist Financing Working Group meets in Madrid, Spain.
- September 9-12, the Inter-American Commission on Ports will hold its Third Annual Meeting in Merida, Mexico.
- October 7, CICTE is sponsoring a special counter-terrorism meeting with the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee and other regional and sub-regional organizations at OAS Headquarters in Washington, DC .
- October 20-23, CFATF Plenary in Antigua and Barbuda
- October 29-30, U.S. Maritime Security Expo will be held at the Jacob Javits Convention Center in New York City.
- November 18-19, The FATF-XV experts meeting on money laundering and terrorist financing typologies will take place in Oaxaca, Mexico. The meeting will be chaired by Mrs. María de la Concepción Patiño Cestafe, Head of the Mexican Financial Intelligence Unit. The meeting will include three workshops (*Wire transfers and their relation to terrorist financing, Non-Profit Organizations and their relation to terrorist financing, and Money laundering vulnerabilities in the insurance sector*), along with two other topics that will be discussed by the experts group as a whole (*Politically exposed persons and Gatekeepers*).

Recent Developments in the News:

The *Buenos Aires Herald* published an article about NATO efforts to curb terrorists' use of ships sailing the Mediterranean Sea. The program called "Operation Endeavor" began in October 2001, and has monitored nearly 30,000 ships since its initiation. Recently, NATO naval forces boarded a ship that carried 680 tons of dynamite that was suspected to belong to terrorists. "Active Endeavor" has stepped up its efforts after receiving information about suspicious vessels.

The Montevideo daily, *Observador*, reported the extradition to Egypt of suspected terrorist Al Said Hassan Mohammad Ali Mokhles on July 7. Mokhles is accused of an attack at Luxor, which killed more than 70 tourists. The extradition was completed on condition set by the Uruguayan Supreme Court that Al Said would not be condemned to the death penalty or life imprisonment.

The New York Times reported that the Shining Path terrorist movement launched its biggest strike in four years this month by ambushing a marine and army patrol. The strike killed three soldiers and two civilians. Shining Path is now linked to drug traffickers and has increased its ability to launch strikes against Peru's national forces.

The Washington Post reported on a new type of hacker who taps into corporate phone networks. These hackers use the networks to make long-distance calls to Internet service providers in other cities or overseas. Thus, they can work anonymously because the service providers think that the activity is originating from the victim company. The hackers run up phone bills and are able to access corporate information for their benefit. The Department of Homeland Security identified corporate phone network hacking as a growing trend.

New Documents on OLAT

- Mexican Legislation Currently in Force Regarding the Offense of Terrorism (English/Spanish versions)
- Anti-Money and Asset Laundering Law, Guatemala (English/Spanish versions)
- Regulation of the Anti Money And Other Assets Laundering Law, Guatemala (English/Spanish versions)
- Draft: Law to Prevent and Repress the Financing of Terrorism, Guatemala (English/Spanish versions)
- Model Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Cooperation in the Exchange of Financial Intelligence Related to Money Laundering, Egmont Group (English/Spanish versions)
- Chit Fund Businesses (Prohibition) Ordinance, Hong Kong
- Peruvian Legislation on criminal acts against the nation
- OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, African Union
- G8 Principles for Protecting Critical Information Infrastructures, United Nations
- Summary Record of the Meeting of the FATF Plenary June 18-20, 2003
- Final Document of the Financial Intelligence Units Meeting of the 3+1 mechanism (Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, and United States) about the Tri-Border