



INFORME #11

December, 2003

Counter-Terrorism Activities

REMJA Cyber Security Workshops To Be Held in 2004

At the October 23 meeting of the CITEI, CICTE and REMJA regarding the OAS cyber security strategy, REMJA representatives announced three regional cyber legislation workshops in 2004. These workshops will support the OAS cyber security strategy and will be held with respect to recommendations of the REMJA Group of Government Experts on Cybercrime. The topical focus of these sessions has also been expanded to include law enforcement cyber investigative capacity building. The first session will be held for Central American countries in Mexico City, Mexico in January 2004 and the second for South American countries in Santiago, Chile in March 2004, with a third workshop for Caribbean countries coming in early summer 2004 in a yet undetermined location.

Also at the meeting, CITEI of the OAS announced that they will be holding a conference in Quito, Ecuador in March 2004, and extended invitation to both CICTE and REMJA representatives.

UNODC Meeting Participants Offer Recommendations On Extradition and Terrorism
Participants in the recent Training Workshop on Extradition in Terrorism Cases (including a representative from the CICTE Secretariat), held by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Siracusa, Italy on December 4, 2003, submitted to the body a list of recommendations and observations formed both at and before the meeting, based on the review of several actual case studies from various jurisdictions. Recommendations included a call for all states to establish the jurisdictional bases required in the various U.N. counter-terrorism protocols for eliminating safe havens for terrorists, and for states to undergo critical and objective self-examinations of their extradition structures and remain open to any procedural changes necessary for producing sufficiently effective, prompt and consistent results. Participants also expressed displeasure with the complexity of and impediments to the extradition process in many countries, and its Expert Group emphasized “the need for appropriate safeguards concerning the critical role of intelligence agencies and information in the extradition process.”

UN Security Council Says More Cooperation Needed in Anti-Terror Effort
A report by the special committee of the UN Security Council designed to oversee the implementation of measures against al-Qaeda, the Taliban and their associates charged that the political resolve to contain terrorist cells and participants have been lackluster, and that a lack of international cooperation is hindering attempts to cut off these groups from their supporters. The committee has found that the flow of money and weapons to

al-Qaeda has not been significantly stemmed, especially in the Middle East, and that states have largely failed to enforce the two-year old U.N. travel sanctions on persons linked to al-Qaeda. While calling states' commitment to the embargo and other U.N. counter-terrorism mandates "disappointing," the committee recognized that the group's major financial activity has shifted to states in Africa, the Middle East and Southeast Asia that may "lack the resources or the resolve to closely regulate non-traditional funding sources."

Uruguay Hosts Inter-Parliamentary Forum on Defense and Security

The Uruguayan House of Deputies and the Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies held the first Inter-Parliamentary Forum for South America on Defense and Security Issues in Montevideo in December. Legislators from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Paraguay and Peru joined their hosts for discussions on a variety of defense and security issues including terrorism.

3+1 Talks in Asuncion

Representatives of the governments of Paraguay, Brazil, and Argentina along with the United States met in Asuncion, Paraguay to discuss and analyze preventive actions against terrorism in regards to Tri-Border Area security. Significant items in the communiqué include the confirmation that no operational terrorist activities have occurred in the region, a reaffirmation of the efforts of the four governments to cooperate and share information, and to improve efforts on border control and security in the region. CICTE will be involved in supporting customs and financial intelligence unit training for the region. The complete text of the communiqué is available on the CICTE web page.

Dangerous Goods Training

CICTE, in cooperation with the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration, will conduct a Dangerous Goods Training course for aviation professionals February 9-13 in Miami. This first course will be conducted in English and is aimed at those officials in the Caribbean region responsible for overseeing the handling of dangerous materials carried on civil aviation. The point of contact in the CICTE secretariat for the course is Ms. Antoinette Lucas-Andrews (alucasandrews@oas.org).

Recent Developments in the News

According to the *New York Times*, the U.S. is planning to toughen the security requirements of the cargo shipping industry by requiring companies to install electronic tamper sensors and use reinforced metal seals on steel-box containers. The directive, called the "smart box" program, has been introduced as a new way to keep terrorists from trying to ship nuclear weapons or other destructive materials into the United States. The plan is expected to greatly improve cargo security at minimal cost to the government and shipping industry, but companies who choose not to install the sensors and use the seals

on their current cargo stocks will be required to undergo time-consuming customs inspections when their cargo enters American ports. The World Shipping Council, the shipping trade association, is withholding comment until results have been returned from this plan's pilot program.

El País of Spain reported that a group of presumed terrorists en route to Argentina have been detained in Bolivia, following weeks' of intelligence reports to Argentine officials regarding the possibility of terrorist attacks on the country's institutions, embassies or foreign delegations. Argentine Minister of Defense José Pampuro confirmed the detention, describing the suspected terrorists as "six Morrocans attempting to travel to Argentina with intentions that are still under investigation." The arrests were made after an alert from French security officials engaged in what is called "Operation Ramadan."

An article from *Reuters Newswire* reported that a Lebanese man accused of attempting to obtain financing for Middle Eastern terrorist groups has been extradited from Brazil to Paraguay. Assad Ahmad Barakat, who was found in the Brazilian city Foz do Iguacu, is accused of suborning criminal activity and criminal association. He has had an international warrant for arrest against him since October 2001, and is suspected of serious ties to a faction of Hezbollah centered in the Tri-Border Area of Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina.

According to *Vasco Press* in Spain, French police have detained a supposed chief of command of the Basque terrorist group Euskadi ta Askatasuna, or ETA. Gorka Palacios Aldai, 29, was arrested in the southeast of France, along with three other ETA members, two more of which are suspected leaders in the separatist group. Police suspect that their detainee participated in the assassination of Lieutenant Colonel Jesús Blanco in the January 2000 attack that shattered the group's 16-month ceasefire. Gorka Palacios is also suspected of participation in various explosives attacks in Andalucía and País Vasco.

Also in the *New York Times*, a Greek anti-terrorism court convicted members of the November 17 terrorist cell for participation in a "killing spree" that has claimed the lives of 23 individuals. At the end of the nine-month trial of 19 defendants, four, including the lone woman, were acquitted, although both the group's mastermind and main hit man will be among the 15 sentenced for thirty years' worth of terrorist attacks. The group is said to have "mixed hard-line Marxism with Greek nationalism," and its victims included American, Turkish and British diplomats, along with prominent Greek political and business figures.

Counter-Terrorism Meetings and Events

- January 15-16, Third Preparatory Meeting for Fourth Regular Session of CICTE, Washington, DC
- January 28-30, 2004 Fourth Regular Session of CICTE (Including Meeting of National Points of Contact) Montevideo, Uruguay.
- March 2004: CITELE Meeting in Quito, Ecuador

New Documents on OLAT

- “Human Rights, the United Nations and the Struggle Against Terrorism: Regional Approaches to the War on Terrorism (Africa).” Statement by Prof. Ibrahim A. Gambari, UN Under-Secretary General and Special Advisor on Africa,
- “Biological and Chemical Terrorism: Strategic Plan for Preparedness and Response.” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services
- “Establishing the European Network and Security Strategy.” Commission of the European Communities
- “Las 8 Recomendaciones Especiales Contra el Terrorismo: Notas Interpretativas, Mejores Practicas, Guia de Detección de Transacciones Sospechosas.” GAFISUD
- “MEJORES PRÁCTICAS INTERNACIONALES: CONGELAMIENTO DE ACTIVOS TERRORISTAS.” GAFISUD
- “NOTA INTERPRETATIVA Adoptada en el XV Plenario de GAFI (Octubre de 2003).” GAFISUD
- “Informe Quinquenal.” Unidad de Investigaciones Financieras (UIF), Bolivia