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Counter Terrorism Activities

U.N. Official Says Chemical Weapons Pose No. 1 Potential Terrorism Threat

“Chemical terrorism is a worry that goes beyond the concerns about existing stockpiles of chemical weapons by governments including the USA and Russia”, said Rogelio Pfirter, Director-General of the U.N.'s Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons during his trip to Malaysia while interviewing with The Associated Press. In fact, chemical terrorism has been considered by some countries as the number one threat. Therefore, Mr. Pfirter has urged the remaining countries (26), including North Korea, Myanmar, Cambodia and some Middle Eastern countries, to ratify the Chemical Weapons Convention of 1997. In doing so, such countries would have to not only regulate access to chemical weapons, but also make laws against its use.

For more information: Counter-Terrorism News Bulletin- 19 May 2005

EU Parliament Passes Money Laundering Bill

The European Parliament has approved a bill on money laundering aimed to not only deter, but make financing of terrorism a criminal offense across the EU for the first time, acknowledging that in the past; only some EU countries recognized such an offense. The bill, which is scheduled to come into effect in 2007, was approved by a vast majority. However, European finance ministers must approve the legislation on June 7. Although the original European Commission proposal required revealing the identity of all persons holding a 10% shares in the company requesting the payment, the European Parliament raised the threshold to 25%. The original European Commission proposal required any customers with important political functions to be scrutinized. The Parliament limited such action to customers from foreign countries. How this law will be enforced remains uncertain, nevertheless Parliament granted the Commission a four-year mandate to govern the new law.

For more information: Counter-Terrorism News Bulletin- 26 May 2005

Council of Europe Adopts Treaties on Fighting Terrorism

On 3 May 2005 the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe approved two new Counter-terrorism Conventions. The Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism and the Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the proceeds from crime and financing of terrorism, aim at preventing terrorist offenses by reducing access to resources. These Conventions will be implemented at both, immaterial level by criminalizing the terrorist action, recruitment and training, and financial level, by preventing the financing of terrorism.

The Conventions follow three recommendations proposed by the Committee of Ministers to member states: identity and travel documents, protection of witnesses and justice collaborators, and special investigation techniques, which will enhance the fight against terrorism as well as crime.

For more information: [Counter-Terrorism News Bulletin- 3 may 2005](#)

UN General Assembly Adopts Convention on Nuclear Terrorism

The UN General Assembly adopted the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism on April 13, requesting the Secretary-General to consider for signature starting mid-September 2005 throughout December 2006. It outlines nuclear terrorism acts along a wide range of violations such as those against power plants. The above mentioned Convention adds to the existing 12 universal anti-terrorism conventions, urging countries to ratify it in a brief period. Hopefully, thru this Convention, weapons of mass destruction will not be accessible to terrorists.

For more information: <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2005/ga10340.doc.htm>

Other Recent Events

- May 10-13: Regional Port Security Course for Mercosur Area, Port of Santos, Sao Paulo, Brazil. The main objective was to assess weather vessels and port installations were appropriately safeguarded. Through the exchange of thoughts and the practical exercises, the seminar concluded with several constructive recommendations.
- May 16-22: IMF-FIU Conference in Brasilia, Brazil. Focusing efforts on international protocols was the issue of the seminar, so that money laundering and financing of terrorism could be treated with judicial procedures, like in numerous countries.
- May 17 – 20: Association of Caribbean Police Chiefs meeting, St. Croix, USVI
- May 18: Behind Enemy Minds: Money Laundering Tactics and Terrorist Schemes; A web seminar meant to teach how to recognize new money laundering methods and suspicious activity, how to identify types of terrorist financing activities that draw red flags, and what the 9/11 commission said about identifying and tracking terrorist funds. Organized by Money Laundering Alert and moneylaundering.com.

- May 22-25: Conference on Legislation Action in the Eastern Caribbean Countries, St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The objective of the conference was to provide discussion among the Eastern Caribbean countries to share with one another in regards to the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism. Caribbean States presented their terrorism legislations, so that they could be studied in detail.
- May 31- June 3: APEC Maritime Security Working Group Meeting, Washington, D.C.
- June 14-16: port Assessment Training, St. Lucia.
- June 14-17: Regional Seminary on Customs Integrity, St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
- June 19-22: SOUTHCOM CT Exercise, Santiago de Chile, Chile.

Recent Developments in the News

- The *Homeland Security* magazine announced the 2006 fiscal year breakdown of the **Department of Homeland Security budget**. The current administration has suggested an amount of \$49.9 billion to spend on Homeland Security. An analysis shows that the federal agency plans to spend more money to guard against weapons of mass destruction, but less on first responders and ports. DHS plans to create a new interagency, the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, to protect the nation from nuclear and radiological threats, and intends to spend \$227 million on the new nuclear office out of its total budget. However, of the total DHS budget for the 2006 fiscal year, \$6.9 billion is directed to the U.S. Coast Guard pensions. The rest, \$34.2 billion is dispersed among DHS offices, which take \$25.2 billion and non-homeland security missions, such as natural disaster relief among others, takes the left over \$9 billion.

For more information: http://www.mcgraw-hillhomelandsecurity.com/homelandsdir/hs_hsq_current.jsp

- According to the *Homeland Security* magazine, the **US-VISIT program** is still at the very early stages of development. Currently, 115 airports, 15 seaports and 50 busy land borders are using the US-VISIT program, which is responsible for tracking arrivals of visitors into the US. Test sites for tracking departures are being conducted at four major airports and a seaport. One of the largest technological challenges encountered so far is the overall architecture that systems use to communicate with each other. Instead of having to access four or five different databases, a common database with secure platforms and the adequate software could improve reliability and efficiency. Getting all the US agencies to exchange data is another challenge.

For more information: http://www.mcgraw-hillhomelandsecurity.com/homelandsdir/hs_hsq_current.jsp

- According to the *UN News Center*, **UN counter-terrorism experts have praised Kenya's cooperation in the fight against terrorism**. The East African country is considering setting up a unit to combat the financing of terrorism and, EU Counter-

Terrorism Coordinator Gijs de Vries confirmed that the EU is ready to assist Kenya in this regard. The head of the above mentioned mission, Amb. Javier Rupérez, Executive Director of the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee's Executive Directorate, acknowledged Kenya's legislation on "criminalization of terrorism as well as instruments to control the financing of terrorism."

For more information: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=14160&Cr=terror&Cr1=>

New Books

- Digital Crime and Digital Terrorism by Tori J. Caeti, Kall Loper, John Liederbach, Robert W. Taylor, and Eric J. Fritsch. Prentice Hall, May 2005.
This book refers to crimes and terrorist acts from a digital standpoint. It relates theories addressing hackers, digital criminals, legal strategies, and in-depth coverage of investigations concerning digital crime and digital terrorism.
- Suppressing the Financing of Terrorism. A handbook for legislative drafting, by the Legal department of the IMF, 2003.
Practical handbook that provides primary examples of legislative quotes that can enable the reader to draft laws concerning the financing of terrorism. The book also provides information on international obligations and standards in the related area.
- Terror in the Mind of God. The global rise of religious violence, by Mark Juergensmeyer. University of California Press, 2003.
Although religion is a power that at times has involved in politics and economics, this world has experienced also religious involvement when it comes to terrorism. In this book, Juergensmeyer contemplates the relationship between religion and violence/terrorism.