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CICTE Informe 39

Counter-Terrorism Activities

Panama to host CICTE VII

At the October 27 Preparatory Meeting at the OAS for the Seventh Regular Session of CICTE, the Government of Panama announced that Critical Infrastructure Protection will be the topic for the dialogue of Heads of Delegations. CICTE VII will be held at the Hotel El Panama Conference Center in Panama City from February 28-March 2, 2007. More details, including a draft Declaration of Miraflores, will be presented at the Preparatory Meeting at the OAS on November 27.

Panamanian officials have held two meetings of experts to prepare the topic. Panamanian officials from all branches of the government met October 23-25 2006 to prepare a detailed Panamanian Initiative to guide internal and external discussions. At a second meeting of Panamanian officials October 30-31 with a group of invited experts from Brazil, Colombia, and the U.S., Panamanian Vice Chancellor Ricardo Duran stated that “the geographical position of the country, the crossing of ships of all nations of the Panama Canal, the constant and permanent migration, and the international banking center make Panama a strategic and vulnerable point.” Such conditions lead us to “promote strategies to safeguard and protect these infrastructures, in conformity with international laws and cooperation among other OAS Member States.”

Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism

Thirteen nations gathered in Rabat, Morocco, issued a Statement of Principles October 30 to confront the grave international threat of nuclear terrorism by endorsing the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, a joint initiative announced in July by U.S. President Bush and Russia's President Putin. The nations committed to develop partnership capacity to combat nuclear terrorism on a determined and systematic basis, consistent with national legal authorities and obligations they have under relevant international legal frameworks, notably the Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its 2005 Amendment, United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1373 and 1540. They called on all states concerned with this threat to international peace and security,

to make a commitment to implement them on a voluntary basis. Global Initiative Partners will reconvene in February 2007 in Turkey to seek broader participation by other countries who share the Initiative's goals.

India, EU seeking closer cooperation against terrorism

India and the 25 members of the European Union are seeking closer cooperation against international terrorism. The EU's coordinator for Counter Terrorism, Gijs de Vries, visited India the first week of October, to explore possibilities of further cooperation on counter-terrorism. The second India-EU round of security dialogue against international terrorism will be held at the end of this year. Steps to enhance counter-terrorism cooperation were high on the agenda of talks when Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh attended the India-EU Summit in Helsinki at the beginning of October.

The March 2004 bombings in Madrid and the July 2005 bombings in London have given new momentum to the EU's counter terrorism efforts. The EU has instituted several systems to prevent terrorism, including the creation of a Europol counter terrorism unit and a common European evidence warrant.

President Bush Signs Terrorism Measure

On October the 17th, President Bush signed U.S. legislation changing the system of interrogating and prosecuting terrorism suspects and setting rules for the trials of key al-Qaeda members in a step that he says will help protect the nation. The new law imposes tight limits on defendants' traditional courtroom rights, including restrictions on their ability to examine the evidence against them, to challenge their incarceration and to exclude evidence gained through witness coercion. The President said the extraordinary measures are justified by the extraordinary circumstances of the fight against terrorism.

Recent events

Sponsored by CICTE

- October 6-10: TSA National Program Development Workshop in aviation security in Belize.
- October 9-13: TSA National Program Development Workshop in aviation security in Antigua.
- October 16-20: TSA National Program Development Workshop in aviation security in Dominican Republic.

- October 23-27: TSA National Program Development Workshop in aviation security in Bahamas.
- October 27: CICTE VII Preparatory Meeting - First session, OAS, Washington DC
- October 30- December 2: Joint UNODC/CICTE technical assistance workshop on counter terrorism legislation, Costa Rica

Other Training and Meetings

- October 9-13: FATF Plenary, Vancouver, Canada.

Upcoming events

- November 6-8: Joint UNODC/CICTE technical assistance workshop on counter terrorism legislation, Mexico City.
- November 6-8: Third International Conference on Cyber Crime Investigation (ICCyber2006), Brasilia, Brazil
- November 13-17: TSA Course on Crisis Management, Jamaica
- November 25-28: Second Conference on Government Security, Brasilia (presentation by CICTE Secretariat)
- November 27: CICTE VII Preparatory Meeting - Second Session, OAS, Washington DC
- November 27-28: UN-LiREC regional conference on implementation of UNSCR 1540, Lima (presentation by CICTE Secretariat)
- November 27-28: Second Conference on Government Security - Brazilian Seminar on Critical Infrastructure (SecGov2006), Brasilia, Brazil
- November 30 -December 1: II International Intelligence Seminar on counter terrorism, Brasilia (presentation by CICTE Secretariat)
- December 7: UNICRI conference on “Enhancing Security for Massive Events,” UN, New York City (presentation by CICTE Secretariat)
- December 4-8 December: Inter-American Tourism & Recreational Facilities Security training, Level 2 Trinidad & Tobago.
- December 4-6: U.S. Department of Justice Cyber Crime CCIPS Program Workshop, Brasilia, Brazil
- December 5-13: TSA Basic Security Training, St. Lucia.

NEWS

- **U.S. Seeks More Leeway on Air Passenger Records**

The United States and the European Union agreed on October 6 to temporary rules giving U.S. law enforcement agencies easier access to air passenger data as part of measures adopted after the September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States. Because privacy rules in European countries tend to be more restrictive than in the U.S., negotiations to replace the existing 2004 rules nearly collapsed. However, the new agreement limits the information provided by airlines to the U.S. Customs and Border Service which will use the data to verify passenger names

against an American wanted list, notify the airlines prior to departure of the aircraft of any suspect passengers. The chief U.S. negotiator of the U.S./EU agreement, which is due to be replaced by a permanent accord after July 2007, said Washington would push for the right to hold data on passengers for longer than the current arrangement of 3-1/2 years, as well as for more flexible arrangements with Europe on how U.S. agencies can use personal records of air passengers to combat terrorism. (AP, Luxembourg, October 6, 2006)

- **Defeating Internet terrorists**

The Internet has become the "seductive hypermedia" for radical Islamic terrorists, with official and unofficial Web sites, forums and chat rooms that appeal to supporters worldwide. Most Web sites are intended to advance a group's propaganda to increase their supporting audience, while some have operational intentions. But how do we defeat such terrorism in cyberspace? An eclectic group of international experts in terrorist use of the Internet and graphic design specialists met recently in Israel's southern resort city of Eilat to formulate a comprehensive response campaign that deserves wide attention. As explained by Gabriel Weimann, of Israel's Haifa University, terrorists "narrow-cast" their messages to "trap" selected audiences of adherents. Taking this further, Boaz Ganor, of the Israeli Interdisciplinary Center, showed how the "captured" adherents are then indoctrinated into radicalization by emphasizing a problem, such as threats posed by a common enemy or humiliation suffered by Muslims at the hands of their adversaries. Emphasizing the religious obligation of Muslims to confront their enemies and the challenge to their faith is the common denominator that binds the audience into their new virtual community. Segments of this community are then activated into a variety of activities on behalf of the terrorist group, such as fund-raising, recruitment, training and warfare.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/commentary/20061007-104915-3656r.htm>

- **Passenger ships are vulnerable to terror attacks**

Cruise ships and ferry boats are more likely targets of terrorist attacks than the cargo containers that have been the focus of recent maritime security efforts, a prominent research group said October 13. But it also concluded that the risk of any type of attack involving maritime targets is relatively low, though other experts disputed that. Strikes against cruise ships and commuter craft could produce the high numbers of casualties and the publicity that terrorists seek, a study by the RAND Corp.'s Center for Terrorism Risk Management Policy concluded. Precautions already taken at the World Cruise Terminal in San Pedro include the availability of bomb detection dogs. RAND noted that despite the increased security at cruise ship terminals, however, few passengers are physically searched before boarding and luggage is seldom screened before it is transferred to staterooms. The ships also are vulnerable while anchored in foreign ports that often have little security, the study said.

<https://www.copleynews.com/>

- **VII conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas**

The Ministers of Defense and Heads of Delegation participating in the Seventh Conference of Ministers of Defense of the Americas in Managua, Nicaragua, 1-5 October 2006, emphasized the theme of hemispheric and sub-regional cooperation. The Declaration of Managua reaffirmed their “most vigorous condemnation of all forms of terrorism and transnational organized crime, including drug trafficking, corruption, trafficking in persons, money laundering and other crimes, and the need to confront these threats in a cooperative, decisive and comprehensive manner, as provided under each state’s respective constitutional order and national legislation and in international instruments, especially the OAS conventions currently in force and applicable to them.” The Ministers expressed their satisfaction “the extent to which Latin America and the Caribbean have fulfilled their desire to remain a zone free of nuclear weapons.”

http://actualidad.terra.es/nacional/articulo/vii_conferencia_reafirma_lucha_terrorismo_1124810.htm