



Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE)

Organization of American States (OAS)

COUNTER-TERRORISM ACTIVITIES

Aviation Security Training



The Aviation Security Program was very active during the month of September, organizing three training programs in the Caribbean region. Advanced Aviation Security Training was conducted in St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Vincent and the Grenadines while St. Lucia received Crisis Management Training.

As part of the Secretariat's monitoring and evaluation initiative, CICTE's Project Manager for the Aviation Security Program attended the Crisis Management Training in St. Lucia. The interactive, performance-based workshop was designed to provide mid-level to senior aviation-management and

other government officials with the knowledge and skills needed to develop and implement sound crisis management procedures. The program was very well received and reports from the Security Managers from both the George FL Charles and Hewanorra International Airports stated that they found the tools learned to be a quite useful contribution to their Crisis Management Planning exercises.

The instructors from the Transport Security Administration (TSA) provided excellent service and kept classroom discussions, not only informative, but lively and interesting. Overall the program can be viewed as a success and to the benefit of the people of St Lucia and the region.

The CICTE Secretariat is developing its training program for 2008 and considering some adjustments in course offerings. We would welcome additional feedback from Member States that have received Aviation Security training, particularly on which courses were most useful and which courses would be most needed in the coming years. Contact Program Manager Hayda Wallen: (202) 458-6951; hwallen@oas.org.

The CICTE Secretariat undertakes a follow-up legislative technical assistance mission in the Dominican Republic.

On September 13th and 14th, the CICTE Secretariat and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) undertook a Legislative Technical Assistance mission in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The participants were legislators involved with the processing and content of the Dominican Republic draft Law against Terrorism. The purpose of the mission was to learn about the status of the draft, to analyze the viability of formulating suggestions in order to adapt the law to the universal requirements and standards, to show the proposed changes, and to present the modified version for the consideration of the sponsor of the law, Deputy Pelegrin Castillo. The event was a successful continuation and culmination of the mission completed on July 3-7, 2006, carried out at the request of the Government of the Dominican Republic. The suggestions of the experts were fully appreciated and incorporated into the new draft, which was reintroduced in Congress in September, following conclusion of the mission.



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Editorial

Advancing Counter-Terrorism Efforts in the Hemisphere



One year has passed since I assumed the position of Secretary of CICTE on October 1, 2006. Using this anniversary as a milestone in the Secretariat's development, I am inaugurating a new editorial series for our monthly CICTE Newsletter. Our intention is to provide occasional commentary on subjects of interest to CICTE Member States.

Looking back, it is remarkable how far we have come in one short year. We have focused our Secretariat efforts on three broad objectives under the CICTE Work Plan: supporting the meetings of the CICTE Member States; providing technical assistance and institutional capacity-building; and promoting international cooperation. There is no question that we have doubled our technical assistance and capacity-building programs in the past year—having trained over 3,645 participants in 70 courses. Moreover, we have strengthened our international cooperation with over 30 other international, regional, and sub-regional organizations, as well as the private sector. This significant increase in activity is the result of our new project management focus. Our 10 programs in six program areas—border controls, critical infrastructure protection, terrorism financing, legislative consultations and assistance, crisis management exercises, and policy development and coordination—are based on CICTE mandates and goals and objectives. All project activities are being developed to help achieve those goals and objectives.

We have been blessed in the Secretariat with excellent staff—both those seconded by their governments in keeping with the CICTE tradition and regular OAS staff and contractors. We have been able to increase the efficiency and speed with which we fulfill our mandates and, in keeping with the requirements of donors, make our project proposals more comprehensive. As a result, every project we have proposed to the internal OAS Project Evaluation Committee has been approved—a 100% success rate.

Our success in the future depends on a clear strategic vision of where we are going, continued excellent team work with a professional Secretariat staff, and support from the CICTE Member States. The Secretariat was created in 2002 to serve the needs of the Member States and has grown into a very modern Project Management organization in the process. I am very proud to head this dynamic unit and hope you will join me in commending the Secretariat staff.

Sincerely,



Dr. Carol S. Fuller
Secretary
Inter-American Committee against Terrorism

COUNTER-TERRORISM ACTIVITIES

Fifth South American Executive Policing Conference

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) held its Fifth South American Executive Policing Conference on the topic of "Public Security" in Rio de Janeiro September 10-11. The conference was inaugurated by the Governor of the State of Rio de Janeiro, Sérgio Cabral Filho, the Director of the Federal Police and regional representative of IACP in South America, Luiz Fernando Corrêa, and the Secretary for Public Security of Rio de Janeiro, José Mariano Benicá Beltrame, and coincided with the 7th Interseg--the International Exposition Fair for Technology, Services and Products for Public Security. Over 700 participants attended the sessions and Fair, which were held at Rio Centro, the largest conference center in South America and the site of many of the Pan American games held in July 2007. Police executives had the opportunity to share experiences, new strategies and methods of coping with issues related to crime, national and international knowledge and view state-of-the-art technology regarding public safety at the Exposition. Presentations included such topics as community policing, crime geoprocessing, cyber security, and public security integration at the 2007 Pan American games. CICTE Secretary Dr. Carol Fuller delivered the opening address on the topic of "Terrorism and Crime: Responding to a Changing World."

CIP V Meeting—Session of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Port Security



Within the framework of its strategic partnership with the Inter-American Commission on Ports (CIP), the CICTE Secretariat was invited to participate in the session of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Port Security—which was part of the CIP V Meeting—that took place in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil, on September 11, 2007. The main aim of the TAG session was to present an overview of port security in the region, as well as the existing technical assistance initiatives in this area, and to reach agreement on the distribution of work and objectives of the TAG for the forthcoming months. Within this framework, the CICTE Secretariat gave, through a presentation, a general perspective of its functions and programs, focusing specifically on its Port Security Program. The 34 Member States were invited to participate at the CIP V Meeting, in addition to representatives from permanent observers and the private sector.

The audience included international experts, as well.

“First Crisis Management Exercise on Port Protection” in the Port of Buenos Aires

The CICTE Secretariat, in collaboration with the “Prefectura Naval Argentina”, and within the strategic partnership with the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) and the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP) of the Organization of American States, the US Coast Guard, the US Department of State and Transport Canada, undertook the “First Crisis Management Exercise on Port Protection” in the Port of Buenos Aires, Argentina, on September 12-14, 2007. The main objective of the tabletop exercise was to effectively assess the complex nature of the response capacities and mandates of each of the entities involved in a crisis situation within a port facility in order to promote discussions that might eventually deal with vulnerabilities in port facilities security plans. The participants of the event were officials of the “Prefectura Naval Argentina” from the different areas with responsibilities in a crisis management situation. Observers attended from Mexico (1), the United States (2) and Uruguay (3), as well as from the private sector.



CITEL's Permanent Consultative Committee

The Permanent Consultative Committee of the Inter-American Committee on Telecommunications (CITEL) met in Mendoza, Argentina, September 24-28, 2007, including working groups focusing on Technology; Policy and Regulatory Considerations; Network Operation and Service Provisioning; and Development. The CICTE Secretariat was invited to attend the meeting and to give a presentation to update CITEL's attendees on its Cyber Security Program and on the status of the Inter-American Network of CSIRTs. The meeting was an important opportunity to stress the commitment of the OAS and the complementary efforts of its different bodies to increase awareness of cyber security within the region; to study security aspects related to the development of a network of communications and its role in supporting other critical infrastructures; to understand the role of the private sector in securing the communication network; to become familiar with the domestic and regional approaches required in the Americas Region on this matter; and to assess the current work being undertaken in the OAS, ITU, and other fora on issues pertaining to the security and critical infrastructure of communication networks across the region. CICTE's Cyber Security Program Coordinator, Romulo Dantas, addressed participants on behalf of the Secretariat.



OAS/REMJA and US Department of Justice Regional Cyber Crime Workshop

A Working Group of the OAS/REMJA (Meeting of Ministers of Justice of the Americas) and the U.S. Department of Justice organized a Regional Cyber Crime Workshop in Bridgetown, Barbados, September 11-13 2007. The principle themes were Computer Crime Investigations and Forensics; Development of a 24/7 Network Capability; International Legal Cooperation; and the G-8 24/7 High Technology Crime Network. CICTE's Cyber Security Program Coordinator, Romulo Dantas, made a presentation on the Secretariat's program.



EU Counter-terrorism Strategy

Franco Frattini, European Commissioner responsible for Justice, Freedom and Security of the European Union (EU), addressed the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, September 5, 2007, on the issue of "EU Counter-terrorism Strategy." This Fall, the Commission will adopt a package of services focused on prevention and preparation, consisting of an EU Action Plan on the security of explosives, a proposal for an amendment of the Framework Decision on terrorism to deal with terrorist use of the internet, and an EU Passengers Name Record (PNR) policy. Additionally, the package will contain a report on the evaluation of the implementation by the Member States of the Framework Decision on terrorism. The EU Action Plan is a follow-up to the 2005 Commission communication on this topic and aims to respond to the repeated call from the European Council and JHA Council meetings to improve the explosives situation in Europe. Some of the 50 recommendations to be proposed include:

- oThe setting up of an EU Explosives database at Europol with links to the responsible services in the Member States;
- oAn early warning system so that these services are informed quickly, for example when explosives have been stolen or a new terrorist modus operandi is discovered.

CICTE Crisis Management Training



The Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), in furtherance of the mandates of member states on Aviation Security, conducted a 5-day training course on **Crisis Management** in Antigua & Barbuda, July 9-13, in collaboration with the United States Transportation Security Administration (TSA). The interactive, performance-based workshop was designed to provide mid-level to senior aviation-management and other government officials with the knowledge and skills needed to develop and implement sound crisis management procedures. Case studies, interactive discussions and comprehensive exercises were used by TSA Instructors Hank Morse and John Reese to illustrate effective crisis management concepts and principles. An evaluation of the workshop was conducted by CICTE Secretariat Specialist Francine Hanna. (Photo: Calvin Grigg). For more information [click here](#).

APEC TEL Workshop on Cyber Communications and cyber incident response



The Information and Telecommunications Working Group of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC TEL) is offering a Cyber Security Exercise Workshop October 22-23 for its members during the 36th meeting of APEC TEL in Santiago, Chile. The workshop will address the value of exercises in establishing, testing, and improving communications and cyber incident response as well as how to conduct exercises. Participants have been asked to submit case studies to reflect their experiences. After the workshop, all case studies will be incorporated into an APEC TEL paper on cyber security exercises and work

will begin to reach a common understanding of cyber security exercises among interested APEC economies.

Voluntary participation from OAS Member States is welcome. The CICTE Secretariat is increasingly coordinating with various APEC entities on cyber issues, including APEC TEL and APCERT. For more information and to register for the workshop, contact: Jordana.Siegel@dhs.gov.

II Cyber Security and Cyber Crime Workshop



The Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) is organizing the II Cyber Security and Cyber Crime Workshop that will be held in Miami during November 5th to 9th, 2007. To date, 28 Member States have confirmed their participation in the workshop that will be held at the United States Secret Service (USSS) offices in Miami. The overall objectives of this workshop are to: increase awareness of the cyber threat to OAS Member States from organized transnational criminal and terrorist groups; build the capacity of OAS Member States to comply effectively with the requirements to combat threats to cyber-security; and strengthen a culture of cyber security within OAS Member States by broadening a network of regional contacts and exchanging expertise and data. The Secretariat's capacity building activities in this workshop are aimed specifically at assisting OAS Member-States to establish a national (CSIRT) and to facilitate the expansion and consolidation of the

Inter-American Network on Cyber Security, in compliance with the Inter-American Integrated Cyber Security Strategy. The establishment of a governmental CSIRT is one of the key recommendations of the Strategy and the Secretariat was charged with assisting OAS Member States in this endeavor.

The workshop is designed to cover segments at the policy and technical levels, and to increase collaboration and strategic partnerships between participating OAS Member States and private corporations and Academia to better protect critical infrastructures from the cyber threat. For more information contact Mr. Romulo Dantas, RDantas@oas.org.

“Homeland Security, Terrorism, and the Caribbean” – special session of the U.S. Congressional Black Caucus Conference, September 27, 2007

On September 28, Assistant Secretary General Albert Ramdin spoke on multidimensional security at the 2007 Annual Legislative Conference Issues Forum of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. The session was attended by over 100 representatives of the African American community from across the United States. The issue addressed, under the leadership of Congresswoman Yvette Clarke (D-NY), was “Homeland Security, Terrorism and the Caribbean” with a focus on Third Border, Container Security and Megaports Initiatives.

Ambassador Ramdin opened the session with a review of the security challenges to the region which include illegal trafficking in drugs, weapons trafficking, transnational organized crime, the emergence of non-state criminal networks, economic dislocations and natural disasters.

He noted that the OAS is actively involved in confronting each of these challenges through an updated security agenda that was launched by the OAS Member States at a 2002 meeting in Barbados. OAS programs within this framework are the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacture of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials (CIFTA), the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), activities of the Department of Public Security, and new initiatives to strengthen cooperation among national governments and international organizations.

Ambassador Ramdin concluded by making six proposals to stimulate discussion during the session. He proposed that: law enforcement be strengthened; intelligence sharing increased; international ramifications of national threats be recognized; government officials recognize that close international cooperation does not threaten national sovereignty; cooperation between the Caribbean nations and the US states bordering the Caribbean region be enhanced; and, finally, that investment in social policies to combat criminality and poverty, especially among youth, be significantly increased.

The session included presentations by diplomats from Barbados and Jamaica as well as specialists on ports security, economic development in the Caribbean, Haiti, crime prevention and security cooperation. It was followed by a lively question and answer period.

RECENT TRAINING AND CONFERENCE EVENTS

Month	Days	Event	Venue
September	9-11, 2007	International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), South American Executive Policing Conference	Rio De Janeiro, Brazil
	10-14, 2007	Meetings of the Technical Advisory Groups (TAG) of the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP) and Fifth meeting of CIP	Salvador de Bahia, Brazil
	10-14, 2007	US Department of Justice and OAS/REMJA Regional Cyber Crime Workshop	Bridgetown, Barbados
	10-14, 2007	Crisis Management Training (Aviation Security)	Saint Lucia
	10-20, 2007	Aviation Security Training	Saint Vincent & the Grenadines
	12-14, 2007	Port Security Crisis Management Exercise Sponsored by CICTE in partnership with CICAD, CIP, Transport Canada, US Coast Guard, the US State Department and the Argentine Naval Prefecture	Buenos Aires, Argentina
	13-20, 2007	CICTE-UNODC Legislative technical assistance mission and specialized training for prosecutors, judges and law enforcement officials on international cooperation and counter-terrorism	Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
	13-20, 2007	CICTE - UNDC Legislative Technical Assistance Mission & Specialized Training	Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
	14-17, 2007	High-Level Meeting on Victims Of Terrorism, organized by OSCE	Vienna, Austria
	24-28, 2007	CITEL XI Meeting of the Permanent Consultative Committee I: Telecommunications	Mendoza, Argentina
	24-28, 2007	International Organization on Migration in-country assessment	Saint Vincent & The Granadines
	Sep 25-Oct 5, 2007	Aviation Security Training	Saint Kitts & Nevis
	November TBC	CICTE - UNDC Legislative Technical Assistance Mission	Suriname
	November TBC	CICTE - UNDC Legislative Technical Assistance Mission	Bahamas



UPCOMING EVENTS

Month	Days	Event	Venue
October	10 - 13, 2007	Pre-assesment mission in critical infraestructure protection and consultation with government of T&T	Trinidad & Tobago
	15-19, 2007	Crisis Management Training (Aviation Security)	Saint Vincent & the Grenadines
	16-19,2007	"Specialized Regional Training on International Cooperation Related to Terrorism Cases and Criminal Matters. Organized by UNODC and CICTE"	Lima, Peru
	16-18	Regional Workshop on "Frameworks for Cybersecurity and Critical Information Infraestructure Protection (CIIP)"	Buenos Aires, Argentina
	17-19, 2007	13th Meeting of the Committee on Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER)—Council of Europe	Strasbourg, France
	26, 2007	First Session of the Preparatory Meeting of the Eighth Regular Session of CICTE	Washington D.C, U.S.
	Oct 29- Nov 2	Crisis Management Training (Aviation)	Saint Kitts & Nevis
	Oct 29- Nov 2	Customs and Immigrations assessments on security training	Guyana
	29-31, 2007	Fifth Special Meeting of the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee with International, Regional and Subregional Organizations: "Prevention of Terrorist Movement and Effective Border Security"	Nairobi, Kenya
November	1 - 2,2007	Conference on Disasters - Recipes and Remedies. Organized by The New School of Social Research	New York, United States
	5-9, 2007	II Cyber Security and Cyber Crime Workshop	Miami, USA
	5-9, 2007	Crisis Management Training (Aviation Security)	Grenada
	5-9, 2007	Customs and immigrations follow-on security training	Trinidad and Tobago
	12-16, 2007	Crisis Management Training (Aviation Security)	Guyana
December	3, 2007	Second Session of the Preparatory Meeting of the Eighth Regular Session of CICTE	Washington D.C, U.S.
February	11,2008	Third Session of the Preparatory Meeting of the Eighth Regular Session of CICTE	Washington D.C, U.S.
March	3-4,2008	Meeting of Experts to Evaluate the Pilot Project on Security of Tourism and Recreational Instalations	Washington D.C, U.S.
	5-7,2008	Eighth Regular Session of CICTE	Washington D.C, U.S.
	5,2008	"Sixth Meeting of National Points of Contact"	Washington D.C, U.S.
*NOTE: Training events that have not yet been confirmed by the host country do not appear on this list.			

NEWS

Army Captures Cartel Leader in Colombia

Bogota, Colombia – Colombian soldiers captured drug lord Diego Montoya hiding in the bushes in his underwear on Monday, September 10. Montoya, 49, who was found on a farm in Valle del Cauca province in western Colombia, is believed to be head of the Norte del Valle cartel and responsible for 1,500 killings in his career, officials say. The cartel is believed to have shipped hundreds of tons of cocaine to the United States within the last twenty years, helping earn them the reputation as the country's most dangerous drug ring. Colombian authorities are calling the arrest the biggest drug war triumph since the killing of Medellín cartel leader Pablo Escobar in 1993. Montoya, who put up almost no resistance to capture, awaits questioning by Colombian officials before being extradited to the United States. Defense Minister Juan Miguel Santos used the capture to send the warning to currently active drug traffickers that "this is the future that awaits you." For more information [click here](#).

New Terrorism Case Confirms That Denmark Is a Target



COPENHAGEN, Sept. 16 — After three terrorism cases in less than two years, including an alleged bombing plot broken up this month, intelligence officials say tiny Denmark is on the front line in the battle against Islamic terrorism in Europe.

"Even though we've prevented one terrorist attack, we know that there are still people in Denmark and abroad that have the capacity, the will and the ability to carry out terrorist attacks in Denmark," Jakob Scharf, the head of Danish intelligence, said in an interview in his office here.

He was referring to predawn raids on Sept. 4 that resulted in the arrests of eight suspects, two of whom are still in custody on terrorism charges and are accused of planning a bombing attack.

American authorities helped Danish security officials locate the suspects through electronic intercepts from Pakistan, just as they did in arrests the same day in a bombing plot in southern Germany, intelligence officials in Washington said. They said one of the men in the Danish case received instruction within the past 12 months in explosives, surveillance and other techniques at a terrorist training camp in Pakistan near the border with Afghanistan. (Photo: NY Times) For more information [click here](#).

Javier SOLANA, EU High Representative for the CFSP, appoints Mr Gilles de KERCHOVE as EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator

Javier Solana, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) of the Council of Europe, has decided to appoint Gilles de Kerchove, a senior European civil servant from Belgium, as the new EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator.

Mr. de Kerchove was, until his appointment, Director at the Council Secretariat in charge of police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters and in this capacity worked closely with Mr. Gijs de Vries, the former EU counter-terrorism coordinator from Holland who resigned in March.

In this new function, Mr. de Kerchove will coordinate the work of the Council of the EU in the field of counter-terrorism, maintain an overview of all the instruments at the Union's disposal, closely monitor the implementation of the EU counter-terrorism strategy, and ensure that the Union plays an active role in the fight against terrorism.

Mr Solana noted that recent events showed that we must never relax in preventing and fighting terrorism. The meeting of the EU Justice and Home Affairs Ministers held yesterday confirmed the need to step up the implementation of the EU counter-terrorism strategy. For more information [click here](#) and [here](#).



With 300,000 names on list, terrorist center always on alert



WASHINGTON (CNN) -- About a hundred times a day, from anywhere in the world, a phone call comes in that sounds something like this: I think I've got a terrorist suspect here, can you check it out?

Answering those calls are dozens of operations specialists in a highly secure center in a classified location in northern Virginia. With access to the government's secret terror watch list, their job is to make sure nobody on the list falls through the cracks.

CNN got a firsthand look inside the Terrorist Screening Center recently -- but not until a security officer who accompanied the TV crew at all times bellowed to the hub of the center's operation, "Unsecure!" to make sure any classified information was protected from view.

For the first time publicly, officials told CNN the consolidated watch list has 300,000 names.

Previously, the government had confirmed the center's database had 700,000 records, explaining that one person could be listed by several names or aliases. (Photo: CNN). For more information [click here](#).

Thwarting Terrorists: More to Be Done

On Wednesday September 26, 2007, Harvard's Project on Managing the Atom and the Nuclear Threat Initiative publish their annual report on security of nuclear weapons and materials around the world. The good news in "Securing the Bomb 2007" is that much progress has been made toward upgrading security for nuclear stockpiles. The bad news is that the essential ingredients of nuclear weapons exist in hundreds of buildings in more than 40 countries, and terrorists are actively trying to get a nuclear bomb or the materials to make one.

As early as 1993, al-Qaeda attempted to buy highly enriched uranium in Sudan. Seized documents from Afghanistan detail al-Qaeda's efforts to gain nuclear materials there from 1996 to 2001; Osama bin Laden has called getting the bomb a "religious duty." In Russia, Chechen terrorist teams carried out reconnaissance at two secret nuclear weapon storage sites in 2001.

If terrorists could get enough highly enriched uranium or plutonium, it is frighteningly plausible that they could make a crude nuclear bomb, capable of incinerating the heart of any major city. Some of the multitude of buildings worldwide that hold the ingredients of nuclear weapons have excellent security -- but some have little more than a night watchman and a chain-link fence. For more information [click here](#).

Spain and Portugal agree to create joint investigation teams to strengthen their battle against ETA

Spain and Portugal signed an agreement October 2, taking advantage of the informal meeting between the Interior and Justice Ministers of the European Union taking place in Lisbon, to strengthen their cooperation in their fight against ETA by creating joint investigation teams, composed of police, prosecutors and judges from both countries. According to this agreement, Madrid and Lisbon are "conscious of the threat posed by terrorism" and are "impelled to do what is necessary. The investigative team is directed by the respective judicial authorities along with law enforcement officials and competent security services in Spain and Portugal. They target specific objectives in the context of difficult and complex investigations that demand coordinated action arranged by both states." Both countries will guarantee "total collaboration and contribution of human and material resources from the competent forces and security services, for an effective performance". For more information [click here](#).

Man arrested in alleged bomb attempt in Vienna

VIENNA, Austria - A 42 year old unemployed Bosnian, Asim C, was arrested October 1 in an apparent plot to bomb the U.S. Embassy in Vienna. His bag contained grenades, plastic explosives and bits of metal set off a detector at the embassy entrance, which is fortified and guarded by U.S. Marines. The suspect appeared confused and in the past received psychiatric care, Austrian officials said. On October 2, authorities arrested a second Bosnian suspect, Mehmed D., 34, and that the would-be bomber had contacted the embassy before the attempt.

Investigators said both men were citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina and lived in Tullin, 15 km west of Vienna. According to Erik Buxbaum, Austria's general manager for public security, police found about a pound of explosives during a search of Asim C.'s home. He added that similar material was used in the former Yugoslavia.

The motive for the bombing attempt remained unclear and it is too early to speak of an Islamist background," Buxbaum said. For more information [click here](#).

Germany terror plot suspect on run in Britain

Scotland Yard counterterrorism detectives caught on September 30 the man, who escaped from Germany after a plot to explode bombs at Frankfurt airport and a U.S. airbase. The collective power of the bombs would have exceeded those in Madrid and London in 2004 and 2005.

The plot was foiled on September 4 when three men were arrested at a rented holiday apartment near the central German town of Kassel. Police recovered chemicals and bomb-making equipment which investigators believe would have led to the biggest loss of life since the 9/11 attacks in America six years ago.

About 10 other members of the gang were said by German prosecutors to have escaped and one is now in Britain. The arrested three — two of whom were German nationals who had converted to Islam — were alleged by prosecutors to be members of an Al Qaeda splinter group called the Islamic Jihad Union. For more information [click here](#).

Kirchner condemns Iran's president

Argentina's president denounced Iran's lack of cooperation in solving a terrorist attack on a Jewish center.

Nestor Kirchner in his speech on September 25th, 2007, to the United Nations General Assembly denounced the lack of Iranian cooperation in solving the 1994 terrorist attack on the AMIA Jewish center in Buenos Aires.

"I want to stress here, in the United Nations headquarters, that unluckily and until today, the Islamic Republic of Iran has not collaborated with the Argentine Justice," Kirchner said. For more information [click here](#).

U.S. and Venezuela talked about mediation by Hugo Chávez of the humanitarian agreement

Nicolas Maduro, the chancellor of Venezuela, and Thomas Shannon, Assistant Secretary of the U.S. State Department, met October 1, according to the diplomatic mission of Venezuela to the United Nations.

Shannon and Madura "analyzed in depth the state of their bilateral affairs and reviewed current international events, such as the mediation work of President Hugo Chavez for a humanitarian agreement between the government of Columbia and the FARC rebels," says an official comunique of the Venezuelan Mission.

This was Maduro's first meeting with a high-ranking North American official since he assumed his position in August 2006. According to the comunique, the meeting was very "cordial" and Shannon "showed interest in visiting Venezuela on a date to be agreed upon by the two governments". For more information [click here](#).



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