



September 2004

CICTE Informe #18

Counterterrorism Activities

Canada Hosts OAS Symposium on Border Management

Senior interior, customs, immigration, justice, transportation, law enforcement and security officials discussed border management, cross-border and law enforcement cooperation, and critical infrastructure protection issues in the hemisphere. The symposium included a combination of presentations and interactive workshops, as well as on-site presentations at the Vancouver International Airport, the Port of Vancouver, and the Pacific Highway/Blaine border crossing. Experts from Canada, the United States, and Mexico presented the North American perspectives on border management issues; and hemispheric partners, including the Caribbean Regional Security System, Brazil, Chile, Guatemala and Nicaragua made presentations on their own cross-border management and cooperation experiences. The symposium provided an opportunity for participants to share the current “state-of-affairs” and best practices in border management activities across the hemisphere.

Recent Events

- September 21-23: *REMJA Group of Governmental Experts on Cyber- Crime Workshop* (Santiago, Chile)
- October 4-8: *Inter-American Port Security Program for MERCOSUR* (Buenos Aires, Argentina): This course will focus upon the International Code for the Protection of the Ships and Harbor Installation, as well as evaluations. It has the objective of providing assistance in order reduce security vulnerabilities of the installations, harbor infrastructures, movement of loads, and multimodal teams passing through the ports of the region.
- October 5-7: *Workshop for the Formulation of Legislation to Implement Anti-Terrorism International Instruments and the Inter- American Convention to Combat Terrorism* (San Jose, Costa Rica) : This workshop will be offered by specialist who will assist in the review and possible revision of anti-terrorism laws in Colombia, Equator, Guatemala, Honduras, Dominican Republic and Venezuela to harmonize this legislation with international instruments and

particularly with the Inter- American Convention Against the Terrorism, drafted by the OAS, the twelve United Nations Anti- Terrorism Conventions and the United Nations Resolution 1373.

Future Events

- November 1-12: *Air Transport of Dangerous Goods Course* (Kingston, Jamaica): This course is a follow-up of the workshop on Dangerous Goods which was held in Miami, Florida in February 2004. It is designed to increase awareness of the vulnerability in port security and provide aviation security personnel with the knowledge and skills necessary to improve cargo inspection tactics.
- November 8-12: *Crisis Management Course for Air Security Personnel* (Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago): This ICAO-conducted course is designed to provide management personnel with the knowledge and skills needed to develop sound crisis management procedures. The course targets staff in mid and senior- management positions whose jobs require them to respond to acts of unlawful interference occurring within the state.

Recent Developments in the News :

On August 28, *El Colombiano*, reported that Medellin metropolitan police found 250 grams of ammoniac dynamite, 3 meters of a detonation cord, 2 electric detonators, and 65 centimeters of conventional fuse. **As a result of this incident, police are making a concerted effort to improve their anti-terrorism tactics.** According to the authorities, these explosives were going to be used to bomb an energy tower near the municipality of Caldas.

On September 10, the *Miami Herald* reported that two Tanzanian **citizens were arrested in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on suspicion of planning an attack on the US consulate.** The US embassy in Brasilia declined to comment, but the according to the Sao Paulo paper o Estado de Sao Paulo, a respected local newspaper, the Tanzanians had pictures of the US consulate and were linked to a suspicious envelop found in a bus station containing pictures of the consulate and describing potential vulnerabilities.

According to the *New York Times* on September 3, a final verdict in the trial on the 1994 bombing of a Jewish center, AMIA, was reached in Argentina 10 years after the attack occurred.. The judges cited lack of proof for not condemning the five men accused. During the proceedings, **the accused were charged as accessories, and having a “local connection” to Islamic extremist groups.** The American Jewish Committee said that the “Iranian connection” needed to be further explored in order to begin efforts to solve a similar attack in 1992 on the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

According to the New York Times, on September 14, in response to the terrorist attacks that killed 430 people in the past three weeks in Russia, Russian President Vladimir Putin

announced a radical restructuring of Russia's electoral system and several funding increases for security agencies. **A new anti-terrorist agency is going to be created, as President Putin declared the battle against terrorism as the country's No. 1 priority.** Russia is trying to mobilize quickly for the fight against terrorism.

In a report in the *Antigua Sun*, on September 13, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda released information on their **new National Security Counselor who will be in charge of all internal and international security matters.** Mr. Alec Vernderpoole who is currently acting as Director of the National Office against the Drugs and Money Laundering (ONDCP) has been selected to undertake subjects related to terrorist threats and national security measures. Mr. Alec Vernderpoole will also maintain his current portfolio.

The Director of the State Civil Protection of the State of Leon in Mexico, Jorge Camacho Rincón, inaugurated the **International Training Course of Advanced Trauma, Tactical Medicine and Management of Emergencies and Disasters.** This course, according to a Mexican Government news source on September 3, will train around 70 people such as doctors, emergency specialists, and licensed nurses. Subsequently, a follow-up course will be given for paramedics, firemen, police and other related professionals since new terrorist threats have emerged in those fields. This course is one of the first steps taken by Mexico to prepare its people for a possible bio-terrorist attack.

For further information go to:

<http://gobierno.nl.gob.mx/SalaPrensa/Entrevistas/Septiembre2004/03Septiembre/03-09-04>

According to the *New York Times* on September 18, a **suspected member of the latest generation of the Italian Red Brigades guerrilla group has begun to reveal information** to authorities under pressure. Such information has included hiding places, secret codes, accomplices and crimes. These confessions may help to dismantle the organization and prevent further terrorist attacks. Government officials are optimistic that the new information will lead to more arrests and will stop a group whose violence has overwhelmed Italy for decades.

New Documents in OLAT

- Notes about the Second supplementary report submitted by Chile pursuant to Security Council resolution 1373 (2001)
- CTSIMEX 1 Report. Post exercise report of CICTE's exercise conducted for the Government of Barbados in June 2004.

New Books on Terrorism

1. *Nuclear Terrorism: The Ultimate Preventable Catastrophe* by Graham Allison (2004)
ISBN 0-8050-7651-4

In this urgent call to action, Graham Allison, one of America's leading experts on nuclear weapons and national security, presents the evidence for two provocative, compelling

conclusions. First, if policy makers in Washington keep doing what they are currently doing about the threat, a nuclear terrorist attack on America is likely to occur in the next decade. And if one lengthens the time frame, a nuclear strike is inevitable. Second, the surprising and largely unrecognized good news is that nuclear terrorism is, in fact, preventable. In these pages, Allison offers an ambitious but feasible blueprint for eliminating the possibility of nuclear terrorist attacks. *From the publisher: Barnes & Noble*

2. *Understanding Terror Networks* by Marc Sageman (2004)

ISBN 0-8122-3808-7

Marc Sageman challenges conventional wisdom about terrorism, observing that the key to mounting an effective defense against future attacks is a thorough understanding of the networks that allow these new terrorists to proliferate. Based on intensive study of biographical data on 172 participants in the jihad, *Understanding Terror Networks* gives us the first social explanation of the global wave of activity. *From the publisher: Barnes & Noble*

3. *Against all Enemies: Inside America's War on Terror* by Richard A. Clarke (2004)

ISBN 0743260244

Richard A. Clarke, former counterterrorism czar, national security counselor to three presidents (including Democrat Bill Clinton), and a trusted member of Bush's own advisory staff until May 2003, talk about strategies in the war in terror and the recent administration. *The Barnes & Noble Review*