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CICTE Newsletter 42

Counter-Terrorism Activities

Security Council to step up action to keep deadliest weapons away from terrorists

The United Nations Security Council will intensify its efforts to bring together concerned organizations working to keep weapons of mass destruction from falling into terrorist hands, the president of the 15-member body said February 23 following a daylong debate on the issue. “The Security Council affirms its determination to promote increased multilateral co-operation as an important means of enhancing States’ implementation of resolution 1540,” Peter Burian of Slovakia said, referring to the measure adopted in 2004 aimed at preventing countries from supplying any forms of support to operatives that “attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery.”

For more information: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=21668&Cr=terror&Cr1=>

Interviews for passport applicants

People applying for a new British passport will have to attend a face-to-face interview from April as part of a drive to cut identity fraud, the government said on Saturday February 17. The Home Office said it will help tackle crime but critics condemned the move as intrusive and unnecessary, saying it would make everyone a suspect. More than 600,000 new applicants each year will have to visit a special passport office and answer questions about themselves for 10 to 20 minutes to confirm their identity. “The point is to prevent fraudsters stealing other people's identity,” the Home Office said in a statement. “Everything gathered that is additional to the initial application form will be destroyed shortly after the interview.”

For more information: http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/latest/tm_method=full%26objectid=18636563%26siteid=89520-name_page.html

Panama to Host Three OAS Meetings

On February 5, Panamanian Representative to the OAS, Ambassador Aristides Rojo, signed agreements at OAS Headquarters with the Secretary General on behalf of the Government of

Panama to host three important OAS meetings: 1) the thirty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly to be held in Panama City from June 3 to 5, with “Energy for Development” as the central theme for the Dialogue of Heads of Delegation; 2) the Seventh Regular Session of CICTE from February 28 to March 2, to focus on Critical Infrastructure Protection; and 3) the First Meeting of the Committee of the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities, slated for February 28 to March 1.

CICTE holds its Seventh Regular Session in Panama

CICTE celebrated its Seventh Regular Session in Panama City, Panama, from February 28 to March 2, 2007. The meeting brought together high-level government officials from around the Americas to discuss “Critical Infrastructure: Policies, regulations, and hemispheric cooperation”. CICTE delegates assessed progress in combating terrorism in the countries of the region and examined policies, strategies, and measures to strengthen hemispheric and international cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

Panama’s Vice-President and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Samuel Lewis Navarro, delivered the keynote address during the Inaugural Ceremony presided by outgoing CICTE Chair, Ambassador Camilo Ospina, Permanent Representative of the Mission of Colombia to the OAS. OAS Secretary General Jose Miguel Insulza also addressed the CICTE participants. Panama’s Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ricardo Durán Jaeger, and Ambassador Camilo Ospina delivered remarks at the opening ceremony.

Several experts addressed the participants on the central topic for discussion during the meeting, including the Chair of the Counter Terrorism Task Force of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), Ambassador for International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, Mr. Park Sang-Ki; Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Protection of the Department of Homeland Security of the United States of America, Mr. Robert Stephan; and Executive Director of the Executive Directorate of the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the United Nations Security Council, Ambassador Javier Ruperez.

The fifth meeting of CICTE’s National Points of Contact (NPC) took place on the morning of February 28. The recently appointed Assistant Secretary for Multidimensional Security, Ambassador Alexandre Addor-Neto, and CICTE Secretary, Dr. Carol Fuller, addressed the meeting. Representatives agreed that this unique system for communication and coordination between the Secretariat and the NPCs is working well, and discussion focused on ways to make even further improvements.

All events took place in the conference center of Hotel El Panama.

For additional information or questions concerning the meeting, please contact CICTE Secretariat Specialist and Committee Secretary, Ms. Gillian Bristol (gbristol@oas.org; 202 458-3509), or see the CICTE webpage for the official documents: www.cicte.oas.org.

For more information http://www.oas.org/OASpage/press_releases/press_release.asp?sCodigo=E-057/07

Secretary General Clarifies Position on the Tri-Border Areas

On the occasion of the Seventh Regular Session of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), held recently in Panama, the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), José Miguel Insulza, offered remarks to the press on the subject of the meeting. In this regard, the Secretary General clarified that his intention “was to reassure the public regarding the nonexistence, as far as our information is concerned, about new centers of terrorism in the region.”

Insulza added that “in general, these comments were reported correctly; however, due to the interpretation given by some media sources to a reference I made to the situation in the Paraguay-Brazil-Argentina Triple Frontier, I must reiterate that no information exists at the OAS that would affirm the presence of terrorist activity or organization in that border region.”

For more information http://www.oas.org/OASpage/press_releases/press_release.asp?sCodigo=E-070/07

Special OAS Meeting on Man Portable Air Defense Systems (MANPADS)

The OAS Committee on Hemispheric Security will host a special meeting on Thursday, March 8, at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C., on national and regional strategies for mitigating the threats associated with weapons known as Man Portable Air Defense Systems (MANPADS). OAS) will bring together experts from government and civil society to discuss). Speakers at the event will include representatives from the ICAO, the United Kingdom Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Federation of American Scientists.

MANPADS are short-range surface-to-air missiles that can be carried and fired by a single individual. Because they are easily concealed and transported, such weapons are attractive to terrorists, criminals and other non-state actors and thereby pose a unique and significant threat to the international community, particularly to international civil aviation. Although precise numbers are difficult to obtain, it is believed that 500,000 MANPADS are in existence in the world today, thousands of them illegally.

A special mobile exhibit was also on display on C Street, to the side of the main OAS building, on the day of the meeting. Experts from the U.S. Department of Defense were on hand to answer questions concerning the display, which included actual MANPADS and information on how they work.

For more information http://www.oas.org/OASpage/press_releases/press_release.asp?sCodigo=AVI-017/07

ICC CWC 2007 a Caribbean watershed

The start of the March 5-6 Warm-up series for ICC Cricket World Cup 2007 will be an “important signal for the region”. Speaking March 4 on the eve of the first salvos of the tournament, ICC CWC 2007, Managing Director & CEO, Chris Dehring, stated that the Caribbean is “at the cusp of history” and that “in just a few hours, all of the hard work by the many people who have been a part of this Cricket World Cup journey will begin paying off”.

“We are already showing that we can deliver to world-class standards. All 16 teams arrived safely in the Caribbean and collectively received all of their 1,400 bags without incident. This level of service is what must happen as are matter of course over the coming two months. There has been so much hard work and many sacrifices by many people for the past ten years. Now, the region is at the cusp of history and it will be a pleasure to watch this great story unfold.”

The International Cricket Council (ICC) Cricket World Cup 2007 will be played throughout the Caribbean region from 5 March - 28 April 2007. The games, including warm up fixtures, will be held in nine countries: Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines, St Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Guyana, Grenada, and Antigua and Barbuda. The opening ceremony for the ICC Cricket World Cup will be on 11 March 2007. The official website for the Cricket World Cup is: www.cricketworldcup.indya.com

For more information

http://cricketworldcup.indya.com/DisplayArticleDetails.aspx?xf=pressreleases,Cricket,2007,March,News_20070305_16

Ministerial Conference to be held in the Dominican Republic

The Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (TPB/UNODC) and CICTE, in collaboration with the Government of the Dominican Republic, are organizing a Ministerial Conference for Caribbean States on “International Cooperation against Terrorism and Transnational organized Crime.” The conference will be held in Santo Domingo, from March 19-22, 2007. The purpose of this initiative is to provide the participant Member States with a forum for reviewing their progress towards becoming parties to the universal and regional legal framework against terrorism and against transnational organized crime, as well as to address the issues related to international cooperation.

The conference will be divided into technical and ministerial segment. The technical segment will build on the expertise of national officials as well as international experts, specialized officials from UNODC, OAS/CICTE, and other relevant international organizations and distinguished panelists. The ministerial segment will take place on March 21-22.

For more information, contact the CICTE Secretariat: Johanna Salah (jsalah@oas.org) or Ignacio Ibanez (CICTEcons1@oas.org).

Recent events

Sponsored by CICTE

- February 5-9: ITRS specialized training Pilot Project Level II, Barbados.
- February 5: CICTE VII Preparatory Meeting - Third Session, OAS, Washington D.C.
- February 28 – March 2: Seventh Regular Session of CICTE, Panama City, Panama.

Other Training and Meetings

- February 1-14: Port Security training by HPA, St Kitts and Nevis.
- February 7-9: APCERT annual conference, Langkawi, Malaysia (presentation by CICTE Secretariat)
- February 12-16: UNICRI conference on “Enhancing Security for Massive Events,” Cartagena, Colombia (presentations by CICTE Secretariat, the Permanent Mission to the OAS of Trinidad and Tobago, and the Caribbean Operations Planning and Coordination Staff (COPACS) for the Cricket World Cup)
- February 19-22: Joint CICTE/CICAD training: “First Seminar on Terrorism Financing,” Bogota, Colombia.
- February 22-23: Ministerial Subcommittee on Resource Mobilization for Crime and Security (presentation by CICTE Secretariat)
- February 23-24: International Security Advisory Group on Cricket World Cup, Barbados.
- February 25-28: TSA basic security training course, Antigua and Barbuda.

Upcoming Events

- March 19-22: TPB/UNODC – CICTE/OAS joint Ministerial Conference, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

NEWS

- **Concerned at terrorism in Iraq, Security Council calls for end to violence**

Following reports of a recent chlorine gas attack as well as the numerous bombings in the Baghdad area which have killed and injured many civilians and others, the United Nations Security Council roundly condemned all terrorist attacks in Iraq and reminded States of their obligation to prevent them. “The members of the Security Council urge an end to the violence in the country,” Ambassador Peter Burian of Slovakia, which held the Council’s revolving presidency in February, said in a press statement.

For more information: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=21655&Cr=iraq&Cr1=>

- **New tensions over Iran’s nuclear plans**

The UN’s nuclear agency, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), reported that the deadline of 21 February had passed with no Iranian action. “Iran has not suspended its enrichment-related activities,” the IAEA stated. Update 26 February: adding to the tense atmosphere is an article in the New Yorker magazine from Seymour Hirsch who says that the Pentagon has been told to draw up a bombing campaign against Iran that could be launched at 24

hours' notice. Hirsch also says that the United States is undertaking clandestine operations against Iran and the Lebanese group Hezbollah as part of its wider Middle East strategy of gathering support among Sunni Arab countries to try to limit Iran's influence. The Pentagon responded by saying that the “The United States is not planning to go to war with Iran. To suggest anything to the contrary is simply wrong, misleading and mischievous.”)

For more information: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/6379611.stm

- **Security Council condemns deadly India-Pakistan train bombing**

On February 20, the UN Security Council condemned the February 19 “terrorist” attack on the Delhi-Lahore 'Friendship Express,' in which 67 people were killed and nearly 20 injured, reiterating that no cause can justify terrorism and welcoming the commitment of both India and Pakistan to proceed with dialogue. “The members of the Security Council condemn the terrorist bombing of the Delhi-Lahore ‘Friendship Express’ carried out on February 19...[they] express their deepest sympathy to all injured and their condolences to the families of the victims,” Ambassador Peter Burian of Slovakia, which this month held the Council’s revolving presidency in February, told reporters.

For more information: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=21627&Cr=terror&Cr1=>

- **Home-grown al Qaeda plots increase**

More than 2,000 home-grown al Qaeda terrorists are plotting suicide attacks in Britain, the Sunday Telegraph newspaper reported, citing a secret intelligence document. The security threat is at its highest level since the September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States and the planning of attacks against British targets will increase further in 2007, the “Extremist Threat Assessment” document said, according to the newspaper. “The scale of al Qaeda's ambitions towards attacking the UK and the number of UK extremists prepared to participate in attacks are even greater than we had previously judged,” the Sunday Telegraph quoted the document as saying. Britain suffered its worst peacetime attack in July 2005 when four British Islamists blew themselves up on London's transport network, killing 52 commuters and wounding hundreds.

For more information: http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/latest/tm_method=full%26objectid=18674357%26siteid=89520-name_page.html