



CICTE Informe #4

March, 2003

Counter-terrorism Activities

OAS Permanent Council Condemns Bogota, Caracas Bombings; Cites FARC

The OAS Permanent Council condemned the recent terrorist bombings in Bogota and Caracas. Permanent Council Resolution 837 specifically condemns the 7 February Bogota bombing and the FARC calling for “pursuing, capturing, prosecuting, punishing, and, when appropriate, expediting the extradition of the perpetrators, organizers, and sponsors of this act, in accordance with the internal legal framework of States and international treaties.” Full text available on the CICTE Web site at www.cicte.oas.org.

CICTE Chair Addresses UN Counter-Terrorism Committee

Sra Maria Eugenia Brizuela de Avila, Foreign Minister of El Salvador and Chair of CICTE, spoke to a gathering of over 60 regional and international organizations on the “Role of Regional and Sub-Regional Organizations in strengthening global counter-terrorism capacity” CICTE at a 6 March meeting chaired and organized by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee. CICTE was the only regional organization invited to make a presentation.

UNCTC Chair, British UN Permanent Representative Sir Jeremy Greenstock called CICTE the model for other regional organizations to emulate. At his request, CICTE will host a follow-up meeting for regional organizations at the OAS headquarters this summer.

FATF Approves New Recommendations; CICTE Granted Observer Status

At its February plenary, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) approved Interpretive Notes on Terrorist Financing Special Recommendations 6 (Alternate Remittance Systems) and 7 (Wire Transfers). These notes provide additional guidance on implementing these recommendations. Also approved at this meeting was the FATF XIV Typologies Report. This report contains extensive information on financing activities including the illicit trade of precious metals and diamonds used to support terrorist operations. These documents are available via the CICTE OLAT Database at www.cicte.oas.org/olat or from the FATF website at www.oecd.org/fatf.

At the same meeting, CICTE was granted observer status with the FATF and will continue to be involved in the formulation and dissemination of best practices regarding terrorist financing. The next meeting of the Terrorist Financing Working Group is scheduled for early May.

Reporting Update

21 of 34 Member States have submitted the reports to CICTE required by General Assembly Resolution 1877 (XXXII-O/02). States desiring further information should contact Mr. Joaquin Galvez in the CICTE Secretariat at jgalvez@oas.org or by phone at 202-458-3524.

Upcoming Conferences and Meetings of Note

- Apr 22-24: "Bio-Criminalization: Preventing Bio-Terrorism by Fortifying Legislation and Law Enforcement" Geneva, Switzerland. For more information contact Prof. Barry Kellman at bkellman@depaul.edu.
- Apr 29-30: The World Customs Organization Regional Conference for the Americas "Security and Trade Facilitation in the Supply Chain" Cancun, Mexico. www.wcoomd.org
- May 6-8: OAS Special Conference on Security, Mexico City, Mexico

Recent Developments in the News:

The *New York Times* reported that an Argentine judge has ordered international arrest warrants for four Iranian government officials in connection with the 1994 terrorist bombing of the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires that killed 85 people. The 400-page ruling issued 8 March is the first formal accusation of involvement by the Iranian government and Hezbollah in the incident.

On March 6, the *Miami Herald* reported that the Venezuelan national arrested in February at London's Gatwick Airport for smuggling a live grenade in his backpack on a British Airways flight had spent time in Afghanistan, Sudan, and other countries linked to international terrorism. Hazil Mohamad Rahaman is in jail on terrorist offenses in Britain. He is reported to have bought the grenade in Caracas for about \$125.

Business Day published an article on the new maritime security measures being applied by the United States to inbound cargo. As of 1 December 2002, US Customs requires electronic submission of export cargo manifest 24 hours before the vessel loads at a foreign port. New regulations imposed by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) call for vessels to be equipped with Automatic Identification Systems and for new identification procedures for merchant mariners. These regulations go into effect in July 2004 as modifications of the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Conventions. While these measures incur additional costs, the *Borneo Bulletin* measures will result in increased trade efficiency due to more rapid movements of cleared, low risk shipments and allow

greater amounts of resources to be dedicated to high-risk issues. The US Ambassador to APEC, Larry Greenwood is quoted as saying "By addressing terrorism not only do you get the benefit of more certainty, more stability, more investor confidence, the measures...also favor trade."

The Montevideo daily, *El Pais*, reported that documents found in the house of a captured ETA member discuss plans to attack Uruguayan interests in Spain and in Montevideo to punish Uruguay for its support of Spain's efforts to disrupt and arrest the Basque terrorist organization.

In November, several Uruguayan newspapers including *La Republica* and *Diario el Observador* published stories that the car of Customs Director, Victor Lissidini, was attacked by gunmen following threats made by Paraguayan CD counterfeiters. The threats grew out of the impoundment of two loads of virgin disks destined for the Ciudad de Este region of Paraguay. The joint operation of the Uruguayan and Paraguayan customs agencies has intercepted more than 1.2 million pirated music disks. Funds from this illegal activity are believed to be used to support Arab terrorist groups.

In February, the *World Money Laundering Report: Online* published an article on the seizure of undeclared cash at Canadian border crossings. Following Canada's enactment of Proceeds of Crime and Terrorist Financing Act of 2002, regulations were published that require declaration of currency movement across the border in excess of \$10000 Canadian dollars (CAD) however there is no restriction on movements of cash. The government is now able to seize undeclared movements. In the first five weeks of the new policy, more than CAD 2.75 million has been seized. One case involved CAD 800,000 hidden in the side panels of one van crossing from British Colombia to the US.

Brazilian newspapers are reporting that Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the recently captured al Qaeda operations planner, visited the Triple Frontier area in 1995. At the time, no warrants for his arrest were outstanding.