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CICTE Informe # 21

Counterterrorist Activities:

Delegates at UNCTC Meeting of Regional and International Organizations Reaffirm Need to Implement International Conventions

Delegates at the fourth special meeting of the UN's Committee Against Terrorism (UNCTC) emphasized the need for a total implementation of treaties against the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons to complement world-wide anti-terrorist efforts. The meeting took place in Almatay, Kazakhstan from January 26th to the 28th, 2005. The delegates reaffirmed that it is imperative to combat terrorism in all its manifestations. The Executive Secretary of CICTE emphasized the need to integrate security concepts into development projects financed by international financial institutions.

Atlantic Storm Simulation Shows Lack of Preparedness for a Bioterrorism Attack

Great discrepancies in national stocks of vaccine would place serious strains on international efforts to confront a biological terror attack using smallpox agents. This was the principal conclusion of participants in Atlantic Storm, a simulation exercise held in Washington, D.C. January 14. Current and former senior officials from nine governments and international organizations participated in the exercise that was organized by the Center for Biosecurity of the University of Pittsburg Medical Center, the Center for Transatlantic Relations of Johns Hopkins University, and by the Transatlantic Biosecurity Network. The exercise was geared towards fostering a better understanding of the political and strategic stakes associated with bioterrorism and to generate international political support needed to improve existing response capabilities.

Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia Proposes Formation of an International Center to Combat Terrorism

The Prince made his proposal at a four-day international Counter-Terrorism Conference hosted by the Saudi Government in Riyadh February 5 - 9. The center would focus on the worldwide exchange of information in a manner that would be compatible with the rapidity of events to be able to prevent attacks before they happen. Some delegates responded by saying that it would be better for security agencies to exchange information

bilaterally. All the countries in attendance agreed that more discussion over the center would be necessary before any final decisions are made. Both the Brazilian and Canadian National Points of Contact, Marcos Pinta Gama and Ruth Archibald respectively, attended the meeting.

CICTE Participates in Commonwealth Workshop on Counter-Terrorism Training

The workshop was organized by the Caribbean countries of the Commonwealth Secretariat and took place between 7th and 11th of February, with the collaboration of experts from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Antiterrorism Divisions of Canada, the United States, and Ireland, and CICTE. At the workshop the following topics were addressed: terrorist crimes; financing of terrorism as treated in international conventions; investigation and intelligence techniques; penal prosecution; mutual legal assistance and extradition. The CICTE presentation addressed the Interamerican Convention against Terrorism and CICTE contributions to its application. The Government of St. Kitts and Nevis hosted the event, and fiscal and investigative agents from twelve countries: Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Dominican Republic, Belize, Grenada, Guyana., Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, and St Kitts and Nevis participated.

Other Recent Events:

- 9-11 February: Plenary Session of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), Paris, France
- 16-18 February: Fifth Regular Session of CICTE; Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
- 16 February: III Meeting of CICTE National Point of Contact, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

Future Events:

- 28 February – March 1st: First INTERPOL Global Conference about terrorism prevention, Lyon, France
- 14-18 March: Regional Course of Port Security for the Andean Region, Guayaquil, Ecuador
- 10-11 March: “National Workshop on Implementation of the International Counter-Terrorism Conventions and the Inter-American Convention Against Terrorism” - Managua, Nicaragua
- 14-16 March: Workshop “International Cooperation on Criminal Issues in the Fight Against Terrorism”, San José de Costa Rica
- 17 March: “National Workshop on Implementation of the International Counter-Terrorism Conventions and the Inter-American Convention Against Terrorism”, San José de Costa Rica

Recent Developments in the News:

- According to *La Jornada* of December 19th, **Mexico and Guatemala are looking to create a common front to combat terrorism.** The meeting of the High Level Security Group (GANSEF) laid out the lines for basic action to create the Coordination of Bilateral Early Alert and Response (COBART) whose fundamental objective will be to confront terrorist threats along the common border. The two countries also discussed the importance of creating new mechanisms to guarantee the rights of Guatemalans who illegally enter Mexico. The two governments also agreed that they should also coordinate with the governments of El Salvador and Honduras to combat the Salvadorian gang, mara salva trucha, which has caused many problems in the region.
For more information: www.jornada.unam.mx/2004/dic04/041219
- *MSNBC* reported on January 19th that **the World Health Organization (WHO) has begun to create a stockpile of two hundred million doses of smallpox vaccine.** Smallpox is a very contagious disease, without a cure and which was supposedly eradicated in 1979, but today various groups fear the possibility that terrorist cells can obtain and release the virus. The WHO has asked the international community to begin to prepare themselves for a possible bioterrorist attack. The WHO will be in charge of creating a reserve of five million vaccines and the rest will have to be stockpiled by individual countries. See previous item on Atlantic Storm.
For more information: www.msnbc.msn.com/id/6844161
- *El Heraldo* informed on December 28th that **Honduras has ratified the Interamerican Convention against Terrorism,** becoming the twelfth state to ratify it. Honduras has also ratified the Interamerican Convention against the Fabrication and Illegal Trafficking of Fire Arms, Munitions, Explosives, and other Related Materials (CIFTA). The congress approved the respective agreements on February 10th, (mediante) 4-2004 and 5-2004, respectively.
- According to *Port Security News* of February 8th **four countries of the western hemisphere will be included in the US Container Security Initiative (CSI).** The four countries, the Bahamas, Chile, Honduras, and Venezuela, will form a part of the \$5.4million project that has placed US Customs inspectors in ports all over the world. They monitor shipments that seem to be high risk before they approach the North American coasts. By the year 2006 seven new countries will be included in this initiative. The purpose of this project is to strengthen port capacity in high risk areas that do not have the resources to assure port infrastructure and buy new technology.
- *CNN World News* reported on February 6th that **an Al-Qaeda linked website has appeared in Canada.** The page has its base in Kelwona, British Columbia, and is called Supporters of Shareeah. It is the only Canadian webpage that is identified

as terrorist. Canadian officials are investigating the page and say they have no information on how the page came to be. The page speaks of five people who are instrumental for their cause, especially Sheik Abdullah Azzam- who is Osama Bin Laden's mentor.

For more information: www.cnn.worldnews.printthis.clickability.com

- On February 9th *Univision.com* informed that **Chancellors from Central America agreed to a project to create a sole passport for the region.** The chancellors also met in Honduras to prepare the meetings of Central American presidents programmed for February 15th in Guasaule (Honduras-Nicaragua border) and on the 25th in El Poy (Honduras- El Salvador border).

For more information: www.univision.com/contentroot/wirefeeds/world/1672549

New Documents on OLAT:

- Model Law on Extradition by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- Anti-Terrorism Act, 2004 enacted by the Parliament of the Bahamas
- Combating Cyber terrorism, 2005 written by the Line 56: the E-business Executive Daily
- Resolution 1456 by the United Nations Security Council
- Resolution 1377 by the United Nations Security Council
- Law on Fight Against Terrorism, 1991 enacted by the Turkish Government
- Terrorism in Turkey and Turkey's Experience, January 2005, by the Ministry of the Interior and the General Directorate of Police of the Republic of Turkey

New Books

- America and the World in the Age of Terror: A New Landscape in International Relations Daniel Benjamin, ed.