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CICTE Informe 32

Counter-terrorism activities

Colombian President Uribe Addresses Sixth Annual CICTE Meeting in Bogotá

- Colombian President Alvaro Uribe called upon OAS Member States to continue the fight against terrorism affecting the hemisphere, at the sixth annual meeting of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) in Bogotá (Colombia) from March 22-24. Colombia was elected CICTE Chair for 2006-2007, and Panama Vice-Chair. At the meeting, Member States expressed their concerns regarding emerging threats such as attacks on financial systems, tourist areas, WMD, and digital networks. Colombian Foreign Minister Carolina Barco said the meeting offered “a suitable opportunity to ratify our common positions concerning this scourge and to reaffirm that no democratic State can remain indifferent to its clear threat.”

The text of the Declaration of San Carlos and the new CICTE work plan, as well as other conference documents, are available on the CICTE web page. (www.cicte.oas.org)

Counter-Terrorism Experts Train Royal Barbados Police Force

- Two experts from the Israel International Security and Counter-terrorism Academy (ISCA) recently concluded a three-day workshop for the Royal Barbados Police Force, in which information sharing on international events such as the 2007 Cricket World Cup, along with its vulnerabilities was among the main issues. The ISCA is composed of former senior members of several Israeli security agencies who are highly trained specialists.

For more information: <http://www.barbadosadvocate.com/NewViewNewsleft.cfm?Record=24857>

Bahamas Compliance Commission: We must Combat Terrorism Financing as well as Money-Laundering

- “When we talk about anti-money laundering we have to recognize that combating terrorist financing was recently added to that initiative,” according to Inspector Stephen Thompson of the Bahamas Compliance Commission. Thompson spoke to the Nassau Guardian Newspaper and highlighted the difference between money laundering and terrorism financing. He said that the latter is much more challenging because legitimate funds are being used to finance terrorists. The Inspector acknowledged that the Bahamas passed the Terrorism Act back in 2004, and stated that in order to remain successful; the Commission must be up to date. The Compliance Commission is an independent statutory authority responsible for enforcing compliance with the anti-money laundering rules and regulations found in financial legislation.

For more information: http://www.thenassauguardian.com/national_local/301238015696387.php

Argentina Central Bank President, Legislator, Calls for Anti-Terror Finance Law

- Argentine Central Bank President Martin Redrado and Senator Sonia Escudero, leader of a congressional committee on security and narco-trafficking, called on legislators to finalize the law criminalizing terrorist financing. Argentina needs to work on passing a law that criminalizes terrorist financing, since it has signed many treaties which call for such reforms. By doing so, Argentina will also comply with international standards set by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). Mr. Martin and Ms. Escudero spoke at a regional conference in Buenos Aires in December.

For more information: Dow Jones international news (March 9)

Recent Events

- 22-24 March, 2006: CICTE VI, Bogotá (Colombia).
- 23-24 March, 2006: Expert workshop on enhancing legal co-operation in criminal matters, in particular those related to terrorism, Vienna (Austria).
- March 26 – April 1, 2006: APEC/CNCERT, Beijing (China). The conference theme was "Network Security-Common Responsibility." Its mission was to strengthen the cooperation among economies in the Asia Pacific Region in the network security field, and to raise the capacity of addressing large-scale and cross-border security incidents on the basis of existent coordination and operation mechanism.
- March 27 – 31, 2006: Seminar on port management and safety: new port strategies in the global frame.
- March 27- April 7, 2006: HPA Port Security Training, Belize.
- 3-14 April, 2006: TSA Instructor Training in Bahamas.

- 3-7 April, 2006: Ministerial Conference/ CICTE UNODC, Panama City, Panama. The conference was addressed to eight Spanish speaking member states, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama. One of the key elements was the discussion and analysis of the agreements on national legislation concerning international cooperation in criminal matters related to terrorism. This provides grounds for Member States to make progress on ratifying the 13 International Conventions and Protocols related to the prevention and suppression of international terrorism.

Future Events

- 24-28 April, 2006: Seminar on maritime security, piracy and armed robbery against ships for the Caribbean sub-region (IMO), Trinidad & Tobago.
- 24-26 April, 2006: Seminar on “early indicators of terrorist activity”, Argentina.
- 24-26 April, 2006: REMJA VI, Dominican Republic.
- 27-27 April, 2006: Cyber Security and Cyber Crime Workshop, Miami – (USSS/CICTE)
- July 13-14, 2006: 2006 Latin American and Caribbean Cargo & Border Security Summit, Florida (USA).

Latest News

- **US Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff seeks to improve chemical plants security.** While addressing an American Chemistry Council Forum, Secretary Chertoff endorsed a Senate Bill which authorizes the Department of Homeland Security to shut down high-risk plants that failed to submit security plans. In January, the US Government Accountability Office, Congress's audit arm, concluded that the Department of Homeland Security lacked the authority to enforce security requirements. It also found that the success of voluntary measures was unclear and congressional action was needed.

For more information:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/03/21/AR2006032101476.html>

- **Argentina has passed a law** which modifies the banking system to improve the ability of financial regulators **to track down money laundering activities.** The new Act will enable the Financial Information Unit to demand that bank secrecy and tax information protections be lifted in money laundering investigations.
- **Colombian Defense Vice-Minister Hernan Sanin, and Guatemalan officials discussed drug trafficking and terrorism.** Mr. Sanin met with Guatemalan Defense Minister Francisco Bermúdez, National Police Chief Erwin Sperissen, Police investigations Chief Hugo Soto, and Governance Minister Carlos Vielman on March 28th to discussed drug trafficking and terrorism issues. Minister Vielman stated that “These talks are within the framework of cooperation that we already have with Colombia, a country with which we exchange information and training. The topics are the everlasting

ones: drug trafficking, terrorism and trafficking of persons”, said Mr. Vielman at the conclusion of the meeting.

For more information:

<http://www.europapress.es/europa2003/noticia.aspx?cod=20060329042840&tabID=1&ch=69>

- **Australia and the IMO signed two new agreements to enhance the security of maritime and offshore oil and gas facilities.** The protocols were adopted during an IMO diplomatic conference last October. Once they come into force, the protocols will create new offenses in Australia regarding the use of vessels for terrorist purposes and the use of oil and gas facilities for terrorist purposes. Australian Attorney General Mr. Philip Ruddock and the Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Mr. Efthimios Mitropoulos signed the agreements.

For more information: <http://www.upstreamonline.com/>