

# Informe #9

September 15, 2003

## Counter-Terrorism Activities

### MacArthur Foundation to Spend \$50 Million on Security Research

The MacArthur Foundation announced that it will donate \$50 million over the next six years to increase scientists and researchers focus on national and international security issues. The foundation will finance ten tenured positions and 100 other jobs in nine universities for researchers, engineers, and scientists in chemistry, biology, physics, mathematics, and public policy. Grants will also be provided to several international research institutions to support work on eliminating chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons.

### U.S. Will Use Biometrics Data in Visas as Early as 2004

The United States will begin issuing visas and other documents with biometric technology to foreign visitors as soon as October 26, 2004. The biometric chip technology is based on an international standard set in May by the International Civil Aviation Organization. The technology will save data onto a magnetic strip or data chip that provides face scan, iris scans, and fingerprints. The data can then be read on a machine at border checkpoints and airports. The U.S. has also requested that the 27 countries whose citizens can travel to the U.S. without visas must begin issuing passports with the data by October 26, 2004, or they will lose their special status. The U.S. State Department plans to place a chip in all new U.S. passports by 2006.

### Aspen Institute Memo Calls for More Bioterrorism Research

At of leaders and experts for the Aspen Institute Strategy Group, Center Director Kenneth I. Shine called for more research on bioterrorism. Mr. Shine presented a memorandum pointing out the need for medical research in areas that were relatively neglected until recently, such as surveillance epidemiology, medical modeling, vaccines against biological toxins, and bioforensics. He stressed the need for a “dual use strategy” that will enable public health officials to deal more effectively not only with a bioterrorist attack, but also with naturally occurring infections. The memorandum can be found on the Aspen Institute’s website at the following address:

<http://www.aspeninstitute.org/AspenInstitute/files/CCLIBRARYFILES/FILENAME/0000000360/ASG BiologicalSecurity.pdf>

## Panama Augments Counter-Terrorism Legislation

New additions to Panama's anti-terrorism laws aim to strengthen the penal code and to define more clearly the legal consequences of various crimes against the country's 'collective security.' According to the new addenda, participants in groups or armed bands that intend to subvert constitutional order who 'produce alarm, fear or terror' in the general population will face 15 to 20 years in prison if convicted of criminal activity involving incendiary, explosive or toxic materials. The same sentence is applicable to those found guilty of financing or laundering money commissioned for those activities. Other additions reference prison sentences for aiding and abetting those involved in terrorist activities, and the penalties for intentionally damaging embassies or diplomatic missions in such a way that personal injury is imminent.

## Mid-East Terrorism Engages Brazil

The after effects of violence in the Middle East were felt in Brazil as the country mourned the death of Sergio Vieira de Mello, the UN's top envoy in Iraq and a casualty of the terrorist bombing of UN headquarters in Baghdad on August 19. As a much-respected member of Brazil's Foreign Service, Vieira de Mello was honored posthumously with a National Badge of Honor and his body was transported back to Brasilia in a plane designated for the President by the Brazilian Air Force. While still mourning Vieira de Mello, the Brazilian Government condemned the terrorist attack on Israeli civilians in Jerusalem, also on August 19.

## Counter-Terrorism Meeting and Events

- September 8: FATF Terrorist Financing Working Group meeting in Madrid.
- September 9-12: the Inter-American Commission on Ports hosts its Third Annual Meeting in Mérida, Mexico.
- September 29-October 1: APEC Smart Borders Conference in Vancouver, BC.
- October 7: CICTE sponsors a special counter-terrorism meeting with the UN and other regional and sub-regional organizations in Washington, D.C.
- October 20-23: CFATF Plenary in Antigua and Barbuda.
- October 20-23: Harvard's BioSecurity 2003 Conference, Washington, D.C. The conference is designed to bring together policymakers and leaders in the areas of government, defense, science and technology, academia, and medicine, to formulate workable solutions to the threat of bioterrorism. Visit the website, <http://www.biosecuritysummit.com/>, to register.
- October 29-30: U.S. Maritime Security Expo will be held at the Jacob Javits Convention Center in New York City.

- November 18-19: FATF-XV experts will meet in Oaxaca, México to discuss money laundering and terrorist financing typologies. The meeting will include three workshops (“Wire transfers and their relation to terrorist financing,” “Non-Profit Organizations and their relation to terrorist financing,” and “Money laundering vulnerabilities in the insurance sector”) and two panel discussions on politically exposed persons and gatekeepers.

### **Recent Developments in the News**

*The Washington Post* issued a report on Attorney General John D. Ashcroft’s recent campaign to increase support for the USA Patriot Act. The act significantly increased the ability of the FBI and the Department of Justice to monitor suspected terrorists has been criticized for violating civil rights. Two civil liberties groups have filed formal suit and 150 local governments have passed resolutions against certain parts of the legislation. The Justice Department’s campaign now includes a Web site, [www.lifeandliberty.gov](http://www.lifeandliberty.gov), to disseminate information about the law. The Patriot Act does not come up for Congressional review until 2005.

Another *Washington Post* article reported that a new strain of the e-mail virus “Sobig.F” began spreading rapidly to thousands of computers on August 19. The virus attacks Windows users via e-mail and file-sharing networks, and it leaves a Trojan horse that uses the victims’ email address to send spam. Sobig.F often carries the e-mail subject line “Re: Details” with the message “Please see attached file for details,” or other subjects such as “Thanks” and “Wicked Screensavers.” The infected computer will disseminate the virus among the PC user’s contacts by sending emails with the “sender” field completed with other name from its own address book. The virus is timed to self-destruct after two weeks.

*The New York Times* reported that Enaam Arnaout, a Muslim charity leader linked to Osama bin Laden, was sentenced to more than 11 years in prison by an Illinois Federal District Court judge. Arnaout, who headed the Benevolence International Foundation headquartered in Palo Hills, IL, was charged with racketeering for diverting thousands of dollars from his charity to Muslim terrorists in Bosnia and Chechnya. The judge also ordered Mr. Arnaout to pay \$315,624 in restitution and suggested that he give it to the United Nations for refugee work.

In another *New York Times* story, New York City officials said the August 14 blackout provided an *ad hoc* drill for a possible terrorist attack. The blackout gave city officials the opportunity to review emergency procedures and to test their current system against the challenges that a large-scale evacuation would present. The Office of Emergency Management has been working on a citywide evacuation plan for more than a year, keeping in mind the many different types of terrorist attacks.

Also in the *New York Times*, the U.S. State Department has decided to postpone for one year implementation of plans to require Western Europeans and Asians traveling to the United States to carry new, computerized passports that could be scanned at airports and

other U.S. border stations. Many of the travelers affected by this new regulation are citizens of countries that do not normally require a visa to enter the U.S. In order to allow these countries time to implement the new features and upgrade technology, the new rules will not be compulsory until October 2004.

*The Telegraph*, a British daily, reported that the FBI has uncovered information that al-Qaeda terrorists are plotting to hijack a plane in the United Kingdom and fly it into an important building there or in the U.S. intelligence sources suggests that the terrorists will attempt this plot within the next two months and that they are developing new weapon disguises to circumvent heightened airport security—the FBI reports that al-Qaeda may use items such as cameras to hide a weapon. The intelligence information was gathered from a raid on an al-Qaeda residence by U.S. officials.

Canada's *The Gazette* reported that the nineteen suspected al-Qaeda terrorists who were arrested on August 14 will remain in custody until the police investigation is complete. The men entered Canada pretending to be international students enrolled in the fake Ottawa Business College. Canadian officials say that 31 men are tied to this fake college. The suspects could be detained for another month under the Canadian anti-terrorism law that allows immigrants to be held for suspicion of threatening national security. Canadian officials were led to the men after noticing suspicious activities similar to those prior to the September 11, 2001 attacks. Some of the suspects were caught scouting the Pickering Nuclear Plant in Toronto at night, and one is a student at a local flight school that regularly makes passes over the nuclear plant. Other members were linked to the theft of radioactive material and to a fundraising front for al-Qaeda. Hearings are currently being held for the imprisoned suspects.

The Venezuelan website *Petroleumworld.com* published an article on U.S. concern about terrorism in Latin America. The article draws information from recent visits to the region by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and General Richard Myers, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. These U.S. officials are concerned with the nexus of guerrillas and organized terrorists in the region, particularly in Colombia.

*The Weekend Australian* reported that Hambali, a terrorist associated with *Jemaah Islamiyah*, was arrested recently in Thailand and turned over to the CIA. Investigators were able to track Hambali's exact location by intercepting a mobile phone call he made in which he gave his location. Hambali has been linked to various major terrorist attacks since 1995, and he is recently suspected of heading the Jakarta attack and planning to attack the meeting of APEC leaders in Thailand in October.

### **New Documents on OLAT**

- The Forty Recommendations from the FATF (English/Spanish/French Versions)
- Preventing, Punishing, and Eliminating Terrorism in the Western Hemisphere: A Post-9/11 Inter-American Treaty by Enrique Lagos and Timothy D. Rudy

- Hospital Preparedness: Most Urban Hospitals have Emergency Plans but Lack Certain Capacities for Bioterrorism Response, U.S. GAO
- Terrorism and Human Rights- Working Paper 2003: Counter Terrorism Measures and their compliance with International Human Rights Law by Helle Degn -- Council of Baltic Sea States
- Planting Fear: How Real is the Threat of Agricultural Terrorism? By Galvin Cameron, Jason Pate, and Kathleen Vogel
- Biological Terrorism against Animals and Humans: A brief Review and Primer for Action By Donald L. Noah, Don L. Noah, and Harvey R. Crowder
- Agricultural Biowarfare and Bioterrorism By Mark Wheelis
- Fourth Annual Report to the President and Congress of the Advisory Panel to Assess Domestic Response Capabilities for Terrorism Involving Weapons of Mass Destruction, Ch. 7-Defending Against Agricultural Terrorism , RAND Corporation
- Biological Terrorism Targeted at Agriculture: The Threat to U.S. National Security by Rocco Casagrande
- Security Concerns for Microbiological and Biomedical Facilities by Chris Royse and Barbara Johnson
- Laboratory Security and Emergency Response Guidance for Laboratories Working with Select Agents by Jonathan Y. Richmond Ph.D. and Shana L. Nesby-O'Dell, D.V.M
- Regulation of Biological Science in the Terrorism Era by Barry Kelleman
- Draft Legislation to Combat Terrorist Acts and Terrorist Financing, CALP
- State Reports submitted to the United Nations CTC
- Final Report of the Workshop and Roundtable Discussion on Preventing Disease Weaponization: Strengthening Law Enforcement and National Legislation, The Program on Preventing Disease Weaponization