DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

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Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council

NEWSLETTER

HOMELAND SECURITY
ADVISORY SYSTEM



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Shared security challenges in a globalized world



Minister Teo said that the core security challenges facing many countries today are transnational in a very real sense. This interdependence therefore, means that states have to work together on a more integrated and effective response. He outlined three of what he called the most pressing transnational security challenges that relate to globalisation. The first challenge is the vulnerability of networks. Globalisation is founded on networks, which are conduits for the flow of goods, energy resources, capital, information, and ideas around the

world. These transnational networks are so ubiquitous and so much a part of our daily lives that it is quite easy to take them, and the security that underpins their smooth operation, for granted. However these networks are vulnerable to disruption. A second challenge is how globalisation has allowed groups with ill intent to link up, franchise the methods of terrorism, and transfer the necessary technology, funds, expertise and experts across continents. The third security challenge of globalisation is a consequence of the backlash from groups unable to grapple with the wrenching effects of modernisation, and the counter-ideology that this has fuelled. They regard globalisation as a Trojan horse harbouring insidious foreign influences and even foreign hegemony. Their solution is to create a radically different world order based on extremist ideologies and using acts of terrorism to destroy the symbols of the modern world. This is the essence of the transnational terrorist threat that confronts many of our countries today.

The most recent development along these lines is the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), which is actively building a global web of partnerships aimed at interdicting illicit shipments of WMD or related material on the basis of current international and national laws.

Full story: http://rsi.com.sg/english/newsline/view/20050405183829/1/.html
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83d1691779aee385a16dd8bd386831b2.html

Symposium: Nuclear Outlaws

http://www.frontpagemag.com/Articles/ReadArticle.asp?ID=17561

US warns Philippines south could become "new Afghanistan"

Manila officials concede militant factions within the 12,000-member MILF are giving sanctuary and even training facilities to the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), the alleged Southeast Asian proxy of the Al-Qaeda militant Islamic network, as well as the Mindanao-based Abu Sayyaf group (ASG).

"The threat remains and, frankly, in some ways, it is growing. The number of JI that are there, the links between JI and MILF factions and ASG may even be increasing."

Full story:

 $\underline{\text{http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle.asp?xfile=data/theworld/2005/April/theworld_April244.xml\§ion=theworld} \\$

U.S. official raises concern over terror in Malacca Strait

The vice commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, Vice Adm. Terry Gross, warned Friday that a recent spate of successful pirate attacks on ships in the Malacca Strait could "inspire" terrorists to mount a sea-based operation. There are concerns that the pirates might be "showing the terrorists where opportunities exist," Gross told reporters. The Malacca Strait, flanked by Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore, is only 500 nautical miles in length and 9 nautical miles wide at its narrowest point but is one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world. More than 50,000 commercial vessels ply the strait each year. Coupled this to the fact that Indonesia is also home to Jemaah Islamiyah, a militant group touted as the Southeast Asia wing of the al-Qaida terror network, concerns have arisen that ships plying the Malacca Strait could be used as floating missiles to bomb ports or cities.

Full story: http://asia.news.yahoo.com/050408/kyodo/d89b6v100.html

Another Russian revolution?



In a country with a popular president, a growing economy and a fragmented and weak opposition, Russia does not seem ripe for the kind of revolt that toppled governments in Georgia, Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan over the past 17 months. But as Lenin once said, "a revolution is a miracle," and the Kremlin and its political opponents seem bewitched by the possibility of one. "If we do not manage to consolidate the elites, Russia may disappear as one state," Dmitri Medvedev, the Kremlin chief of staff, said this week in a rare interview with the Russian magazine Ekspert. "The breakup of the

Soviet Union will look like child's play compared to a government collapse in modern Russia." In my opinion, everything that happened in Ukraine shook Russia," Ivan Mostovich, 25, Nashi's press secretary, said in an interview. "Young people began to discuss and think about Russia's direction. The main goals of our movement are modernization, democracy and patriotism."

Full story: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A38431-2005Apr8.html

Two indicted on charges of blasck market operation

A federal grand jury indicted two Lexington men who federal prosecutors say carried on a black-market operation in baby formula, over-the-counter drugs and health and beauty products.

Full story: http://www.kentucky.com/mld/kentucky/news/local/11340795.htm

U.S. seeks access to bank records to deter terror

The initiative, as conceived by a working group within the Treasury Department, would vastly expand the government's database of financial transactions by gaining access to logs of international wire transfers into and out of American banks. Such overseas transactions were used by the Sept. 11 hijackers to wire more than \$130,000, officials said, and are still believed to be vulnerable to terrorist financiers. Government officials said in interviews that the effort, which grew out of a brief, little-noticed provision in the intelligence reform bill passed by Congress in December, would give them the tools to track leads on specific suspects and, more broadly, to analyze patterns in terrorist financing and other financial crimes. The provision authorized the Treasury Department to pursue regulations requiring financial institutions to turn over "certain cross-border electronic transmittals of funds" that may be needed in combating money laundering and terrorist financing.

Full story: http://www.nytimes.com/2005/04/10/national/10terror.html?

Soldiers ambushed in Arauca

At 1830 on April 6, suspected Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) rebels ambushed and killed 17 soldiers from the 47th Anti-Guerrilla Battalion of the Colombian Army's 5th Mobile Brigade Division in northeastern Arauca province. The incident occurred in the rural Corosito area on the highway between Tame and Fortul in the western part of the department. The area is about 60 km (40 miles) south of Saravena and the Venezuelan border. Both the FARC's 10th Front and the Domingo Lain Front of the National Liberation Army (ELN) operate in the region. The attackers detonated mines and then opened fire on the convoy. The gunmen reportedly shot some of the wounded victims in the head during the 10-minute encounter. The army dispatched troop reinforcements to search for the attackers and there were reports of clashes overnight.

COMMENT:

Arauca is a vital oil-producing department on the Venezuelan border. In March, the U.S. government donated 10 helicopters to the Colombian military to monitor and prevent attacks on the Cano Limon pipeline and energy infrastructure in the region. Since the beginning of the year, FARC insurgents have staged a number of high-profile attacks that have claimed the lives of more than 70 soldiers throughout the country. On March 23, 12 marines died during an attack on a military convoy near the Peruvian and Ecuadorian borders. The largest number of casualties this year occurred on Feb. 1, when FARC rebels killed 16 soldiers and injured 25 others during an attack on a marine post in the coastal town of Iscuande in southwestern Narino department. Two days later, eight soldiers and a civilian died in a mine attack on a bridge near the Ecuadorian border in Putamayo department. The FARC has also been responsible for a number of recent bombings and sabotage attacks targeting infrastructure throughout the country. President Alvaro Uribe maintains that the FARC is in a tactical retreat that effectively started two years ago, but the frequency and intensity of recent attacks has raised questions about this position, as well as concerns about the potential for more violence in areas where there are multinational business interests.

Secret Service warns of counterfeit U.S. currency

U.S. Secret Service representatives in Guatemala City on April 6 confirmed during a conference that there are large amounts of counterfeit U.S. currency in this Central American country. Most of the fake money apparently comes from Colombia and Honduras and helps to finance illegal activities, such as drug trafficking.

COMMENT:

Guatemalan authorities and currency exchange professionals estimate that about four in every 10 dollars in Guatemala are counterfeit. Colombia remains a major, if not the largest, producer of false U.S. currency in the world. On April 2-3 Colombian police seized USD 2.3 million in counterfeit currency in separate raids in Cali and Medellin

Trial opens for Islamic scholar accused of stirring up Muslim extremists

A charismatic Islamic scholar and respected scientist who was "like a rock star" to young Muslims denounced the United States as "Islam's greatest enemy" and induced some of his followers to take up arms against U.S. forces, a federal prosecutor charged Monday. The accusations, made in the opening arguments of a federal trial of Ali al-Timimi, a 41-year-old U.S. citizen from Fairfax County, Va., are at the crux of the government's case, which will test key free-speech protections of the First Amendment. Five days after the Sept. 11 attacks, "with the World Trade Center still smoking," al-Timimi told six young Muslims over dinner that it was "time to go abroad, join the jihad and fight against the United States," Assistant U.S. Attorney Gordon Kromberg told the jury, using the Arabic term for "holy war."

Full story: http://www.kansascity.com/mld/kansascity/news/nation/11310330.htm

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