

**Statement of the Acting Director of Central Intelligence
to the Senate Committee on Appropriations
on the Intelligence Community's Role in Combating Terrorism**

13 May 1997

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to appear before the Committee to discuss the Intelligence Community's role in the overall U.S. strategy to combat terrorism. In opening let me stress three points:

- International terrorism is a major and growing national security concern;
- Meeting that threat requires an integrated response by our diplomatic, defense, intelligence, and law enforcement agencies;
- Finally, intelligence is vital to this effort.

Let me tell you what we face, Mr. Chairman, in attacking the terrorist target.

- First, terrorists guard their tactics, methods, and objectives more assiduously than any of the other targets we pursue.

- Second, international terrorists are extending their geographic reach around the world, including to the United States. I refer here to terrorist operations such as:
 - The World Trade Center bombing;
 - attacks against Israeli targets in South America by Lebanese Hizballah;
 - The military training center bombing in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia that killed five US citizens,
 - The truck bomb that killed 19 US service personnel at Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia,
 - and the murder of CIA employees just outside our own front gates.

- Third, terrorists are developing increasingly complex ways to support their operations. Frequently, they use multiple front companies or nongovernmental organizations to disguise their operations, and they have the means to move money, materiel, and manpower around the world.

- Finally, international terrorists are turning to ever more sophisticated methods of attack. We saw this in the Aum Shinrikyo use of nerve gas against commuters in the Tokyo subway two years ago. Potential terrorist use of chemical, biological, or other such weapons on a wider scale must be one of our highest priority concerns.

As this snapshot makes clear, Mr. Chairman, **our task is not just to unveil terrorist secrets; it is to stay a step ahead of the terrorist, who is constantly on the move and constantly seeking more advanced methods.**

Now, Mr. Chairman, let me review for you some key aspects of our approach.

Counterterrorism has been a subject of concentrated and focused effort by the Intelligence Community ever since the DCI Counterterrorist Center, or CTC, was established in 1986. CTC is not only the center of intelligence work on terrorism; it also embodies the effective interagency cooperation that is vital in counterterrorism.

- CTC includes personnel from CIA as well as eleven other departments and agencies.
- The components represented include intelligence agencies, such as DIA and NSA, law enforcement, such as the FBI and Secret Service, and policy-making agencies such as the State Department.
- One of the two deputy chiefs of CTC is a senior FBI officer.

By pulling all of these elements together, the Counterterrorist Center creates a whole that is greater than the sum of the parts. It harnesses all of the operational, analytical, and technical elements devoted to counterterrorism.

- The results through the years point to the soundness of this idea.
- The successes of this approach range from the uncovering of Libya's role in the bombing of Pan Am 103 to the thwarting of Ramzi Yousef's attempt to blow a dozen U.S. airliners out of the sky in the Far East during 1995.
- Moreover, CTC has worked with the State Department to provide extensive counterterrorist training to our allies. Over

18,000 individuals in 50 nations have been trained in counterterrorism over the past decade.

We are enhancing the capabilities of CTC and of other Intelligence Community elements with new counterterrorist initiatives launched during the past year. These initiatives were begun by DCI Deutch and benefited from additional resources the Congress provided at the outset of the current fiscal year. They touch upon each of the things we do in counterterrorism, including human and technical collection of intelligence, analysis, warning, and response.

- For example, we have created a new Terrorism Warning Group whose sole mission is to make sure that civilian and military leaders are alerted to specific terrorist threats.
- We have created additional all-source analytical positions, to improve our in-depth understanding of terrorist groups.

- We have expanded technical collection operations, so that we can stay ahead of the terrorists' own improvements in their communications and use of other technologies.
- And, we are expanding our human intelligence operations, including a substantial increase in CIA operations officers working overseas against the terrorism problem.

The intelligence on terrorism that we provide to our sister agencies ranges from the warning information that I just mentioned to intelligence on the behavior of state sponsors of terrorism. The latter supports the Department of State's diplomatic efforts to bring the policies of our allies toward certain state sponsors of terrorism into harmony with US policy.

- We also assess the capabilities--and the willingness, where that is an issue--of other states to combat terrorism.
- And, we collect and assess information on terrorists' tactics and techniques--what

they might use against us in any attack today, and what we are likely to face from them in the future.

- In this regard, we work very closely with other agencies, such as the Secret Service and the Federal Aviation Administration, that are responsible for security countermeasures designed to protect specific individuals or facilities.

Let me put special emphasis on our support to law enforcement--particularly the FBI. Intelligence performs three important functions in assisting law enforcement agencies in applying the rule of law to international terrorists.

- Intelligence on individual terrorists has, on numerous occasions, prevented a terrorist from reaching our shores--or, upon reaching it, has enabled the Immigration and Naturalization Service to stop the person.
- Intelligence supports criminal investigations that determine culpability for terrorist acts. It does so by using our foreign intelligence

resources to assist the FBI in following up any lead that points overseas. As I mentioned, it was intelligence that uncovered Libya's role in the Pan Am 103 bombing. And it was intelligence from CIA and the FBI that uncovered the Iraqi attempt to assassinate Former President Bush in Kuwait in 1993.

- Finally, intelligence assists the FBI in finding terrorists who are hiding abroad. No intelligence officer will ever have the direct satisfaction of putting handcuffs on a fugitive, because that is not part of our charter. But on eight occasions since 1993, CTC has provided pivotal assistance to law enforcement officials in rendering foreign terrorists into US hands, for prosecution in US courts.

Our assistance to law enforcement extends not only to US law enforcement agencies, but to foreign ones as well. We have numerous counterterrorist partnerships with foreign intelligence, security, and police services. These liaison relationships are a major source of information and insight to us. In return, we can assist foreign authorities in bringing a fugitive

terrorist to justice; we have done so five times in the last three years.

In all these activities, we are guided by one overarching strategic goal; to get at the terrorists' activities as early as possible in the cycle of terrorist planning and preparation.

Ultimately, our goal must be to increase the President's options for dealing with terrorists -- to provide not only the intelligence required to retaliate against them but also the intelligence needed to prevent and disrupt their operations before danger turns to disaster. Working in close partnership with our colleagues in law enforcement and other parts of the government, we are making steady progress on these goals.

Let me close with a simple statement that I'm sure summarizes the view of my colleagues here as accurately as it espesses mine: **for those who would attack the United States or its people, there will be no guaranteed safe haven anywhere in the world.**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would be glad to discuss

these topics in greater detail in executive session.