

2003 Evian Final Compliance Report Terrorism: Counter-Terrorism Action Group

Commitment

2003-150: “The G8 will create a Counter-Terrorism Action Group, to focus on building political will, co-ordinating capacity building assistance where necessary. Other states, mainly donors, will be invited to join the group. A representative of the CTC will be invited to CTAG meetings. Representatives from relevant UN bodies, IFIs and other regional and functional organizations will be invited to relevant meetings (first meeting to be held by July 15).”

Background

This commitment represents an effort on behalf of the international community — and particularly the G8 — to coordinate international counter-terrorism activities as a means of eradicating the root causes of terrorism world-wide and ensuring that a repeat of September 11, 2001 does not occur in the free world.

Assessment

Score	Lack of Compliance -1	Work in Progress 0	Full Compliance +1
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
Russia			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union*			+1*
Overall (not including EU score)			+1.00

Individual Country Compliance Breakdown:

1. Canada: +1

Canada’s commitment to combating terrorism was reaffirmed in statements following the Asia Pacific Economic Coordination (APEC) Summit in November 2003. Canada pledged to help with capacity-building in Southeast Asia, which included a pledge to “increase and better coordinate counter-terrorism activities, where appropriate, through effective collaboration, technical assistance and capacity building between APEC’s Counter-Terrorism Task Force, the Counter-Terrorism Action Group of the G8, the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee and other relevant international, regional and functional organizations,” (Action Group Against Terrorism, Statements by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spokesperson, November 18, 2003 www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/actu/article.gb.asp?n=38612). Canada was also present at the November 17, 2003, CTAG meeting in Paris (Ibid. This information was echoed in a phone conversation on January 9, 2004 with Cathleen Bryden of the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs International Crime and Terrorism Division.) This was confirmed in a phone

conversation on January 9, 2004, with Cathleen Bryden of the International Crime and Terrorism Division at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, who was also present at the first meeting in July 2003.

The Government of Canada has also taken concrete steps toward creating policies directed at strengthening border security of its marine ports and border checkpoints. The Budget for 2004 has allocated Cdn\$605 million to be distributed over the next five years for security³⁰⁰. These funds will be used to address security priorities in areas related to Counter-Terrorism measures such as intelligence enhancement, marine security, integrated threat assessments, cyber security, emergency response and enhanced co-ordination of systems. On May 7, 2004, the Government of Canada announced that it will assist Canadian ports with the cost of modernizing and strengthening their security systems and programs. The creation of “The Marine Facility Security Contribution Program” is scheduled to be a three-year, Cdn\$115 million, commitment to assist ports and port facilities with security enhancements.³⁰¹ In complying with new international security requirements, the Government of Canada has required ports and port facilities to have approved security plans in place and operational by July 1, 2004³⁰².

Also concerning transportation and border security enhancement, Canada has pledged to continue to strengthen and engage its North American partners in talks to broaden the Canada-US Smart Borders Action Plan to include other new areas of concern in countering terrorist activities, such as bio-security, food safety, cyber-security, and public health.³⁰³ On April 27, 2004, Deputy Prime Minister Anne McLellan announced Canada’s first comprehensive policy statement on national security entitled “Securing An Open Society: Canada’s National Security Policy.”³⁰⁴ This policy set out a strategy and action plan for Canada designed to address current and possible terrorist threats in the future. Some of these measures include: the creation of a permanent, high-level federal-provincial-territorial forum on national emergencies that will allow for regular strategic dialogue on emergency management issues between central organizations; the implementation of a National Security Advisory Council and; the creation of a cross-cultural Roundtable on Security, designed to more effectively engage Canada’s ethno-cultural and religious communities in the security dialogue.³⁰⁵

In terms of enhancing cross-border intelligence capabilities in the area of transport security, Canada has pledged Cdn\$10.31 million to implement a Passport Security Strategy, which includes facial recognition biometric technology on the Canadian Passport, in-line with international standards and those already in practice in the US.³⁰⁶ Canada has also stated that it will spend Cdn\$30 million and Cdn\$14.95 million to create an Integrated Threat Assessment Centre and Government Operations Centre to improve information sharing and dissemination of

³⁰⁰ Marine Security Contribution Program Announced, www.tc.gc.ca/mediaroom/releases/nat/2004/04-gc005ae.htm.

³⁰¹ Ibid.

³⁰² Ibid.

³⁰³ Government of Canada releases comprehensive National Security Policy, pm.gc.ca/eng/news.asp?id=186

³⁰⁴ Ibid.

³⁰⁵ Ibid.

³⁰⁶ Ibid.

threat information and better coordinate responses between various governments and international organizations.³⁰⁷

Finally, in terms of Canada's compliance with its 2003 G8 commitment towards Counter Terrorism, the Government of Canada has vowed to invest an estimated \$20.6 million Canadian into 24 new strategic projects of the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Research & Technology Initiative (CRTI), a Government of Canada initiative created to prepare for and respond to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats³⁰⁸. On April 26, 2004, the Government of Canada announced that twelve research and technology projects will receive \$18.4 million and twelve equipment acquisition projects will receive \$2.2 million.³⁰⁹ Therefore, Canada's actions in terms of enhancing bio-security, as well as its work to enhance other security areas such as marine and border security, cross border intelligence sharing and biometric identification on Canadian passports have illustrated Canada's compliance with its G8 commitment to a Counter-Terrorism Action Group G8 initiative.

2. France: +1

France has focused on the coordination of EU efforts and intelligence in attacking and weeding out terrorist activity. With the railway attacks in Madrid this past Spring, France has had to reevaluate its resources and current anti-terrorism strategy, given that it has the second largest rail network in Europe. Although its strategy is currently quite effective, there are a number of concerns that have arisen in recent months that will ensure its reevaluation. One is recent threats of Muslim terrorist activities because of the ban of the Muslim headscarf.³¹⁰

The second big concern is the recent wave of anti-Semitic behaviour in France. With Europe's largest Jewish and Muslim populations and growing concerns over the instability and hostility in the Middle-East, this is something the French authorities must seriously take into consideration.

3. Germany: +1

The Counter-Terrorism Action Group held its second session in Paris, on November 17, 2003. Germany participated in the CTAG sessions with the other G8 members as well as Australia and Switzerland.³¹¹ Germany has remained committed to counter-terrorism internationally. The German Bundestag [the lower house of the German parliament] agreed on November 5, 2003, to extend Germany's military commitment to operation "Enduring Freedom" for another year;³¹² the agreement entails the supply of up to 3,100 soldiers for the operation.³¹³ On September 29,

³⁰⁷ Ibid.

³⁰⁸ CRTI Announces \$20.6 Million for Counter-Terrorism Science and Technology
www.forces.gc.ca/site/newsroom/view_news_e.asp?id=1360.

³⁰⁹ Ibid.

³¹⁰ www.nationalreview.com/comment/feder200404260843.asp.

³¹¹ Ministère des Affaires étrangères, "Statements by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spokesperson," November 18, 2003 www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/actu/article.gb.asp?art=38612

³¹² German Federal Government and Chancellor (Bundesregierung), "Einsatz der Bundeswehr innerhalb von "Enduring Freedom," November 5, 2003, www.bundesregierung.de/Nachrichten-,417.65262/artikel/Einsatz-der-Bundeswehr-innerha.htm.

³¹³ Ibid.

2003, Germany handed over control of Task Force 150 to France. This force supports the war against international terrorism under the aegis of operation “Enduring Freedom”.³¹⁴ German Minister of Defence, Dr. Peter Struck, declared on November 7, 2003, that the “containment of international Terrorism is in the foreseeable future the central security challenge of all democracies”. Struck noted further that facing this challenge will require more than just a military component.³¹⁵ The minister added that political, financial, and social elements are a part of confronting international terrorism. The German role in Afghanistan is a key component of Germany’s commitment to the task of international cooperation against terrorism. German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer noted in a November 20, 2003, address at Princeton University, that the United Nations continues to play a “key role” in the fight against international terrorism.³¹⁶ Germany supports a concerted global effort to addressing the challenge of international terrorism. Dual support of the UN Counter Terrorism Committee [CTC], and the multilateral operation “Enduring Freedom” are convincing evidence of German compliance with the G8 commitment. However, the Federal government needs to increase its dissemination of public information pertaining to the role it plays in countering terrorism.

More recently, events in Europe have created a much more concerted vocal effort within Europe to organize against the threat of terrorism. The bombings on March 11, 2004 in Madrid crystallized for Europeans their collective vulnerability. Germany was on of the G8 States, that on May 11 at a meeting of G8 Ministers for justice and home affairs agreed on new means for greater co-operation and intelligence-sharing to tackle international terrorism, organized crime and corruption.³¹⁷ They agreed there to share information about lost and stolen passports and vowed to work together to secure borders, ports and skies to help thwart terrorism.³¹⁸ The G8 group also recommended that each country also should ensure it can legally use a variety of “special investigative techniques” such as wiretaps, audio and visual surveillance and interception of electronic communications.³¹⁹

4. Italy: +1

The Counter-Terrorism Action Group held its second session in Paris, on November 17, 2003. Italy participated in the CTAG sessions with the other G8 members as well as Australia and Switzerland.³²⁰ Under the guidance of the Italian presidency of the European Union [EU], the EU Commission has put forward several proposals aimed at eliminating legal loopholes in the EU regarding terrorist offences.³²¹ Furthermore, a declaration issued by the Italian EU Presidency on

³¹⁴ Ibid.

³¹⁵ German Federal Ministry of Defence (Bundesverteidigungsministerium), “Verlängerung von Enduring Freedom - Rede des Bundesminister für Verteidigung, Dr. Peter Struck, am 07.11.2003 im Reichstag (Bundestagsdebatte),“November 7, 2003, www.bmvg.de/archiv/reden/minister/031107_ef.php

³¹⁶ Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, “Fischer fordert neue strategische Allianz,” November 20, 2003, www.faz.net

³¹⁷ G8 nations agree closer security cooperation 12 May 2004: www.4ni.co.uk/nationalnews.asp?id=29029

³¹⁸ G8 pledges to co-operate in bid to thwart terrorists, Globe and Mail, May 12, 2004:

www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/ArticleNews/TPStory/LAC/20040512/WORLD12-2/TPInternational/Briefs

³¹⁹ www.firstcoastnews.com/news/georgia/news-article.aspx?storyid=18538

³²⁰ Ministère des Affaires étrangères, “Statements by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spokesperson,” November 18, 2003, www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/actu/article.gb.asp?art=38612

³²¹ EurActiv – Security & Defence, “Fight against terrorism,” November 6, 2003, www.euractiv.com/cgibin/cgint.exe?204&OIDN=2000466&-home=home

September 11, 2003, confirmed the EU's commitment to the fight against terrorism.³²² In recent months, Italy has received international media attention over a series of terrorist threats, attacks, and arrests of suspects. On June 24, 2003, authorities in Italy launched several police raids resulting in the arrests of six people suspected of ties to international terrorism.³²³ A terrorist attack on November 18, 2003, resulted in Italy suffering its single worst military loss since World War II. The attack killed 17 Italian soldiers in Iraq.³²⁴ Furthermore, prosecutors in Milan issued five arrest warrants against suspected militants on November 29, 2003.³²⁵ Although the terrorist attack of November 18, 2003 was a catastrophic loss for a country whose government supported the war in Iraq, and whose people largely opposed it, Italy has remained committed to international efforts that fight terrorism.³²⁶ The Italian government continues to support the U.S. led operation "Enduring Freedom" and remains active in the EU's regional counter-terrorism efforts. Italy has complied with its summit commitments pertaining to terrorism.

More recently, events in Europe have created a much more concerted vocal effort within Europe to organize against the threat of terrorism. The bombings on March 11, 2004, in Madrid crystallized for Europeans their collective vulnerability. Germany was one of the G8 States, that on May 11, 2004, at a meeting of G8 Ministers for justice and home affairs agreed on new means for greater co-operation and intelligence-sharing to tackle international terrorism, organized crime and corruption.³²⁷ They agreed there to share information about lost and stolen passports and vowed to work together to secure borders, ports and skies to help thwart terrorism.³²⁸ The G8 group also recommended that each country also should ensure it can legally use a variety of "special investigative techniques" such as wiretaps, audio and visual surveillance and interception of electronic communications.³²⁹

5. Japan: +1

Since the creation of the Counter-Terrorism Action Group (CTAG) at the Evian Summit, Japan, as a G8 member, has participated in both meetings of CTAG that have taken place so far.³³⁰ Japan has also reaffirmed its commitment to the work and success of the CTAG through various declarations and statements.

³²² The U.S. Mission to the E.U., "Declaration by the Italian EU Presidency on the Sept. 11 Anniversary, Sept. 11, 2003 www.useu.be/Terrorism/EUResponse/Sept1103EUDeclarationSept11.html" October 29, 2003

³²³ CNN World, "Six seized in Italy terror sweep," June 24, 2003, www.cnn.com/2003/WORLD/europe/06/24/italy.arrests/index.htm

³²⁴ The Guardian, 25 killed in Iraq blast, November 12, 2003, www.guardian.co.uk/Iraq/Story/0,2763,1083284,00.html

³²⁵ CNN World, "Italy terror suspects arrested," November 29, 2003, www.cnn.com/2003/WORLD/europe/11/29/italy.terror/

³²⁶ Associated Press, "Italy Vows to Keep Up Terror Fight," November 12, 2003 www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,102884,00.html

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³²⁷ G8 nations agree closer security cooperation 12 May 2004: www.4ni.co.uk/nationalnews.asp?id=29029

³²⁸ G8 pledges to co-operate in bid to thwart terrorists, Globe and Mail, May 12, 2004: www.theglobeandmail.com

³²⁹ www.firstcoastnews.com/news/georgia/news-article.aspx?storyid=18538

³³⁰ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France, "Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spokesperson," Paris, July 1, 2003. www.france.diplomatie.fr/actu/article.gb.asp?ART=35849 ; see also: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France, "Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spokesperson," Paris, November 18, 2003. www.france.diplomatie.fr/actu/article.gb.asp?ART=38612

In the context of the Second Japan-Russian Consultations on Counter-Terrorism, held in Moscow on June 23 and 24, 2003, Japan has emphasized “the need for the international community, under the leading role of the United Nations, to further consolidate its efforts for the prevention of international terrorism and in the fight against international terrorism.”³³¹ This demonstrated Japan’s understanding of the importance of close cooperation between the CTAG and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee (UNCTC) in the fight against terrorism. A further indication of this is the affirmation made by the Head of the Japanese Delegation, Ambassador in Charge of International Counter-Terrorism Takahiko Horimura of Japan’s intention to work towards strengthening counter terrorism measures at the bilateral level, but also within the framework of multilateral organizations and forums such as the United Nations, G8 (CTAG), APEC and ARF.³³² He also affirmed the importance of improving counter-terrorism capabilities in developing countries.³³³ This statement indicated the complementary nature of Japan’s counter-terrorism policy with the CTAG’s current work in the area of counter-terrorism capacity building in southeast Asia.

Japan’s commitment to the work of the CTAG as it relates to the UNCTC was also expressed by His Excellency Mr. Koichi Haraguchi, Permanent Representative of Japan at the United Nations. In a speech at the July 23, 2003, Public Meeting of the Security Council on Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts, he reiterated the importance of a show of political will on the part of the international community “to take forceful counter-terrorism measures, and to have the capacity to implement them.”³³⁴ He also stated that “it is increasingly more important that assistance for capacity-building be extended to developing countries, and Japan greatly appreciates the clearing-house function performed by the [UN]CTC in this regard.”³³⁵ Finally, he also reported that, “Japan, as a member of the G8 and CTAG, continues to cooperate in the activities of the [UN]CTC.”³³⁶ These statements indicate that the Japanese foreign policy line is congruent with the work of the CTAG. Japanese government statements in support of the work of the UNCTC and Japanese backing of G8-UNCTC cooperation such as those of Mr. Haraguchi mirror the mandate of the CTAG, which provides for cooperation with the UNCTC in the work of international counter-terrorism capacity building.

Also in accordance with the CTAG mandate, Japan has contributed to fostering multilateral cooperation between CTAG and regional organizations of which it is also a member, such as APEC. At the August 20, 2003 second meeting of APEC’s Counter Terrorism Task Force (CTTF) in Phuket, Thailand, Japan briefed the gathered diplomats on the outcomes of the first CTAG meeting in Paris, which took place on July 2, 2003.³³⁷ It participated, along with other G8 CTAG representatives, in reaching an agreement of cooperation between the CTTF and

³³¹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, “Joint Press Statement by Japan and the Russian Federation of the Results of the Japan-Russian Consultations on Counter-Terrorism.” www.mofa.go.jp/region/europe/russia/consult0306.html

³³² Ibid.

³³³ Ibid.

³³⁴ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, “At the Public Meeting of the Security Council on Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts.” Statement by H.E. Mr. Koichi Haraguchi, Permanent Representative of Japan at the United Nations. www.mofa.go.jp/announce/speech/un0307-3.html

³³⁵ Ibid.

³³⁶ Ibid.

³³⁷ Taiwan Institute of Transportation. “Report on the Second Meeting of the Counter Terrorism Task Force, Phuket, Thailand, 20 August, 2003.”

CTAG.³³⁸ As this agreement includes an invitation for CTAG to attend future CTTF meetings,³³⁹ it is an important one for the work of CTAG, as it will permit the latter to better coordinate its work in capacity-building within APEC countries, specifically southeast Asia. As a member of both APEC and the G8, Japan's contribution to CTAG in the context of such cooperation should prove significant.

In 2004, Japan continued its involvement in the CTAG and two further meetings that took place on February 20, 2004 and on April 16, 2004. Japan has also continued to foster multilateral cooperation between CTAG and APEC. At the 23rd APEC Transportation Working Group Meeting in Beijing, China, which took place from April 19 to 23, 2004, Japan participated in the discussions between CTAG and APEC on port and maritime security for the APEC countries.³⁴⁰ Moreover, Japan also attended and participated in the February 4-5, 2004, Bali Regional Ministerial Meeting on Counter-terrorism, as part of the CTAG mandate to support counter-terrorism efforts throughout the world. Other CTAG members also attended and participated.³⁴¹

6. Russia: +1

The recent assassination of Chechen President Akhmad Kadyrov at the Victory Day parade bombing has shown that terrorism is still a real and ever present threat to the Russian Federation. Russia has taken an active part in the establishment of the G8 Counter-Terrorism Action Group as a part of its national counter-terrorism strategy.

The Russian Federation has complied with its G8 commitment to build international political will and capacity to combat terrorism and the institution of CTAG. Addressing the press immediately following the Evian Summit, Russian Federation President Putin reiterated Russia's support for the new counter-terrorism body, saying "the Evian meeting on the whole will help strengthen the international antiterrorist coalition, for we understand that the success of the struggle against terror hinges directly on our unity and on the effectiveness of our combined efforts. Set up by a decision of the summit, the G8 group on antiterrorist actions is designed to become a serious instrument; its activities will be closely linked with the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the United Nations Security Council, the main coordinator for the efforts of the world community in this field. I must say that Russia is disposed to actively participate in the work of the new body, and it is only logical that the main focus on our part will be on the CIS space and the zone of operation of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization."³⁴²

In a statement released on June 23rd 2003, the Russian Federation (along with Japan) "affirmed the importance of improving counter-terrorism capabilities in developing countries. In this connection, the two sides shared the view on the importance of cooperation through the Counter-

³³⁸ Ibid.

³³⁹ Ibid.

³⁴⁰ 23rd APEC Transportation Working Group Meeting. "Counter Terrorism Task Force Report to SOM I Executive Summary," April 19-23, 2004. www.apec-tptwg.org.tw

³⁴¹ Co-chairs' Statement, Bali Regional Ministerial Meeting on Counter-terrorism. February 5, 2004. www.dfat.gov.au/icat/2004_conference/cochair_statement.html

³⁴² Russian President Vladimir Putin Remarks at Press Conference Following Group of Eight Heads of State and Government Meeting, Evian, France, June 3, 2003 (excerpted) Russian American Nuclear Security Council. June 3 2003. www.ransac.org

Terrorism Action Group (CTAG), the establishment of which was decided at the G8 Evian Summit.”³⁴³ CTAG was again welcomed by the Russian Federation at the 15th APEC Ministerial meeting in late October 2003. At the APEC meeting, the Ministers “welcomed the cooperative efforts of economies and APEC fora to develop targeted capacity building programs, responding to the specific needs contained in the Counter Terrorism Action Plans, to help developing economies implement Leaders’ counter-terrorism commitments. In this context, Ministers welcomed the possibility of technical cooperation, where appropriate, with IFIs and relevant international, regional and functional organizations, including the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee the G-8 Counter-Terrorism Action Group, ASEAN and the OECD Financial Action Task Force.”³⁴⁴

The Russian Federation, and all other APEC members agreed to “Increase and better coordinate our counter-terrorism activities, where appropriate, through effective collaboration, technical assistance and capacity building, and cooperation between APEC’s Counter Terrorism Task Force, the Counter Terrorism Action Group (CTAG) of the G-8, the United Nations Security Council Counter Terrorism Committee and other relevant international, regional and functional organizations.”³⁴⁵ Representatives from the Russian Federation were also present at CTAG’s second session on November 17th, 2003.³⁴⁶ Most recently Russia, along with the other G8 member nations, has agreed on new means of co-operation to fight terrorism. Meeting in Washington in May 2004, Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs from Russia and the other G8 member states agreed to work more closely together to combat international terrorism.³⁴⁷

7. United Kingdom: +1

Recent, terrorist activity in Spain has underscored the need in the United Kingdom for an effective strategy to combat terror. Following the March 11 terrorist train bombings in Madrid, London police chief Sir John Stevens said police had prevented terrorist attacks in the British capital but that “there is an inevitability that some sort of attack will get through”.³⁴⁸ Home Secretary David Blunkett has also said there is a “considerable danger” of a terrorist attack.³⁴⁹

One of the most effective ways to combat this threat of terrorism is through international co-operation. Following a meeting this May of G8 Ministers for justice and home affairs Hazel Blears, the U.K.’s Minister of State for Crime Reduction, Policing, Community Safety and Counter-Terrorism, stated there is a clear commitment throughout the G8 member countries to

³⁴³ Joint Press Statement by Japan and the Russian Federation on the Results of the Japan-Russian Consultations on Counter-Terrorism. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. June 2003. www.mofa.go.jp/region/europe/russia/consult0306.html

³⁴⁴ 2003 15th APEC Ministerial Meeting: Joint Statement Summary of Key Issues. APEC. October 2003. www.apecsec.org.sg/apec/ministerial_statements/annual_ministerial/2003_15th_apec_ministerial.html

³⁴⁵ Bangkok Declaration on Partnership for the Future. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation. October 21 2003. www.in.mid.ru

³⁴⁶ Action Group Against Terrorism: Statements by the [French] Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spokesperson. French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. November 18 2003. www.france.diplomatie.fr/actu/article.gb.asp?ART=38612

³⁴⁷ G8 nations agree closer security cooperation May 12th, 2004. www.4ni.co.uk/nationalnews.asp?id=29029

³⁴⁸ Britain appoints minister for counter-terrorism April 8, 2004 www.theage.com.au/articles/2004/04/08/1081326834605.html

³⁴⁹ Ibid.

work together to tackle terrorism and international crime.³⁵⁰ Blears said “Close co-operation is vital if we are to succeed against those people who seek to destroy our freedoms and way of life.”³⁵¹ After the Washington summit, this co-operation now includes “improved cross-border sharing of intelligence information to prevent and disrupt terrorist activity and to prosecute terrorists; effective use of advanced investigative techniques such as interception and undercover agents; measures to combat passport fraud; and an enhanced legal framework with states criminalising and prosecuting a range of terrorist activities, as the UK has achieved with the Terrorism Act 2000.”³⁵²

The United Kingdom has also committed to the G8 action plan to build international political will and capacity to combat terrorism and the establishment of a G8 Counter Terrorism Action Group to build this will and capacity. Counter-terrorism (CT) is the first (of six) thematic programs funded by the U.K. Foreign and Commonwealth Office’s (FCO) Global Opportunities Fund (GOF). Making the “the world safer from global terrorism and weapons of mass destruction” is the first of the FCO’s designated “highest strategic international priorities for the U.K.”³⁵³ and the GOF Counter terrorism program aims to uphold this pillar, having a stated program objective “[t]o support the FCO’s Strategic Objective No.1: To increase international capacity to Counter Terrorism (CT) and other threats in support of UK bilateral and multilateral security objectives.”³⁵⁴

The GOF CT program will, *inter alia*, “seek to support sustainable CT relationships with key countries to develop their long-term counter-terrorism capacity” by delivering providing them bilateral operational CT assistance.³⁵⁵ Also, the GOF CT program will provide “UNSCR 1373 CT Assistance: In support of the work of the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee, assistance programs are delivered to raise global standards of CT capacity in the areas of CT legislation, combating the financing of terrorism, charity regulation, border control and counter-proliferation.”³⁵⁶ The United Kingdom has committed to the program £3.2 million for fiscal year 2003/2004 and £6.2 million for fiscal year 2004/2005.³⁵⁷

At the second session (on November 17th 2003) of the newly formed G8 Counter Terrorism Action Group (CTAG), the two main issues on the agenda were: “the need in the South East Asian countries [for CT aide] and two, technical assistance in the fight against terrorism financing.”³⁵⁸ The United Kingdom was at these talks, and both South East Asian countries and

³⁵⁰ G8 Ministers agree anti-terror measures May 12th, 2004. www.pm.gov.uk/output/Page5791.asp

³⁵¹ Ibid.

³⁵² Ibid.

³⁵³ A Strategy for the FCO: Highlights. Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom.

www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1067967903739

³⁵⁴ Global Opportunities Fund: Counter Terrorism Program. Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom. Last Modified Dec 12 2003. www.fco.gov.uk

³⁵⁵ Ibid.

³⁵⁶ Ibid.

³⁵⁷ Ibid.

³⁵⁸ Action Group Against Terrorism: Statements by the [French] Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spokesperson. French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. November 18 2003. www.france.diplomatie.fr/actu/article.gb.asp?ART=38612

“combating the financing of terrorism” are key target areas/themes for the U.K’s GOF CT program.³⁵⁹

By supporting and working with the United Nations Counter Terrorism Committee and seeking to build CT capacity abroad, the United Kingdom is meeting its’ Evian commitments to help build up international political will and capacity to combat terrorism. These commitments are similar to many of the goals of the newly formed CTAG group.

8. United States: +1

The United States has made significant strides to fulfill their goals addressing terrorism. In a joint statement with the EU following the Evian Summit, the US committed to enhancing the coordination of intelligence with their allies, as well as speeding up the extradition of suspects and improving their capacities to share information on suspected terrorist bank accounts.³⁶⁰ Over the past year the US has also continued to promote the increased use of Special Investigative Techniques, including covert means, in order to gather information on suspected terrorists and terrorist affiliated organizations.³⁶¹ Using undercover agents, audio and visual recording devices as well as satellite imagery the US has sought to locate and dismantle terrorist cells worldwide that pose a threat to US national and international interests and security.

The US has also pushed for capacity building in South East Asia and committed US\$5.4 million towards combating money laundering and terrorist financing.³⁶² In the past two years, the US has frozen or seized nearly US\$200 million in terrorist assets and will likely continue to urge the targeting of specific groups, like Al Qaeda, as well as its supporters, such as Ansar-al-Islam in Iraq, Jemaah Islamiya in Indonesia, and other groups located in Southeast Asia in its efforts to combat international terrorism. APEC’s members also endorsed a US proposal to have APEC’s Counter-Terrorism Task Force collaborate with the G8 Counter-Terrorism Action Group (Ibid), the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee and other relevant international, regional and functional organizations.³⁶³

The US has re-affirmed its determination to prevent the infiltration of terrorists or their suspected supporters across American borders and has actively undertaken measures to increase border security measures and prevent the granting of refugee status to those who are deemed perpetrators, organizers or facilitators of international crimes. Finally, in an attempt to counter terrorist activity the US has continued to call for increased bi-lateral information sharing agreements and mechanisms between various border and transportation bodies on specific groups and individuals seeking asylum in G8 countries. Attempts at greater monitoring and the prevention of passport fraud and theft including the creation of internationally standardized

³⁵⁹ Global Opportunities Fund: Counter Terrorism Program. Last Modified Dec 12 2003. www.fco.gov.UK

³⁶⁰ President Bush, European Leaders act to fight Global Terror, www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/06/20030625-12.html, The Fight Against Terrorism, us.eu.int/dyandoc/news_search

³⁶¹ President Discusses Economy and Terrorism After Cabinet Meeting, www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/03/20040323-5.html 16 May 2004.

³⁶² Fact Sheet: New Apec Initiatives on Counterterrorism, usembassy.state.gov/Islamabad/wwwwh03102202.html

³⁶³ app1.chinadaily.com.cn/star/2003/1023/cn9-1.html; Canada — APEC www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/canada-apec_declaration-en.asp

regulations to better protect stocks of blank passports and develop better information sharing technology domestically between agencies has also been pursued vigorously.³⁶⁴ Furthermore, the US has continued to promote its Container Security Initiative that involves posting officers at foreign ports in an attempt to inspect and identify ‘high-risk’ shipments of goods before they are loaded and shipped to America.³⁶⁵

The US has also persisted in endorsing Project BioShield — a comprehensive policy to develop and make available modern and more effective countermeasures against biological agents — that was created a year ago. As a joint initiative between the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Health and Human Services the Program is intended to act as part of the US’s larger Counter-Terrorist strategy and more specifically to ensure that adequate resources exist to develop ‘Next-Generation Countermeasures,’ including ensuring that over the next 10 years that almost \$6 billion will be available to purchase new countermeasures for smallpox, anthrax, and botulinum toxin.³⁶⁶ Through these various and diverse actions, the US has clearly and consistently confirmed its support toward the struggle to combat terrorism.

9. *European Union: +1

The EU Interior Ministers met in late March to discuss economic measure, but these were overshadowed by terrorist concerns in the wake of the Madrid attacks.³⁶⁷ These terrorist attacks are a clear indication that increased intelligence-coordinating measures must be pursued, particularly given the vulnerability of railways, of which Europe has an extensive network.³⁶⁸

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³⁶⁴ Protecting America’s Seaports and Securing Cargo Shipments, February 5 2004, www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/02/20040205-4.html 12 May 2004.

³⁶⁵ President Bush Focuses on Seaport and Cargo Security in South Carolina, www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/02/20040205-7.html

³⁶⁶ Protecting Americans from the Threat of Bio-Terrorism A Key Initiative in the President’s 2003 State of the Union Message, www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/healthcare/protecting.html

³⁶⁷ www.cnn.com/2004/WORLD/europe/03/17/france.threats

³⁶⁸ www.economist.com/displayStory.cfm?story_id=2521745