

TERRORIST ATTACKS

Second Edition

TERRORIST ATTACKS

**A Protective Service Guide for Executives,
Bodyguards and Policemen**

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*To the precious memory of Yvonne
whose passing, at age twenty-one, has left a painful void
in the lives of all who knew and loved her.*

*be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life
(Rev. 2:10)*

FOREWORD TO THE SECOND EDITION

As long as mankind has kept records, there have been acts of terrorism. Early murderous rampages by one faction or another have either sought to rewrite history or bring about political and social change according to their own beliefs. Our own American Revolution began with acts of rebellion that we considered necessary to bring about the changes that would improve our quality of life and elevate our position from subjects of the Crown to independent American citizens. Since history is always written by the victor, had we lost the Revolutionary War, would our historic revolutionary heroes instead been branded as terroristic traitors?

However, as the centuries have gone by, terrorism has begun to take a more sinister and deadly turn. The targets of terrorist acts are no longer political entities or armies but private unarmed citizens. The physical acts of terrorism that have been sprung upon society during the twentieth century have involved the death of countless citizens and individuals with the sole and express purpose of attempting to further political causes of questionable worth or to promote personal financial gain. Following the end of the Second World War, communist ideals found root in many nations, and the former Soviet Union extended a helping hand to terrorist groups around the globe in an attempt to expand their control during the cold war years. However, the end of the Cold War did nothing to stem the tide of terrorism. Acts of violence by agents of various local political groups continue to rain death and destruction upon their fellow countrymen in an attempt to force governmental acceptance. In our own country, political dissidents have attempted to bring about change through violent action. During our response to the Oklahoma City bombing in April of 1995, I witnessed the result of an act of terrorism aimed at the American government while targeting U.S. citizens on our own soil. Other organizations of differing religious creeds believe that they have been directed by their spiritual leaders to rid the world of groups that don't follow their true doctrine. The bombing of the World Trade Center in New York and the Marine Corps barracks in Beirut were such events.

Now mankind is embarking on its journey into not only a new century but also a new millennium. As we end the twentieth century, violence continues to grow and the acts of national and individual terrorism abound. As emergency response personnel and those tasked with protection and prevention, our clear-cut duty is to prepare ourselves through training and education in order to fulfill our covenant with the people who entrust us with their lives and safety. This book is an educational tool that extends years of knowledge and shared experience to both the novice and expert alike. Through this passing of experience and knowledge, shared growth is

assured in the field of terrorist protection, and higher levels of competent response and prevention are extended to our fellow citizens.

John Welsch
Hazardous Materials Team Program Manager
City of Phoenix Fire Department

FOREWORD TO THE FIRST EDITION

Over the last 100 years or so, there have been surges of terrorism which have often followed four or five years after the ending of a war. This was certainly so after the two World Wars. A certain upsurge in the United States is probable following the Vietnam experience.

The so-called permissive society is a fertile field for the production of persons who are likely to turn to terrorism. The deliberate lowering of standards, ridicule of discipline, breakdown of family life, and denigration of the forces of law and order are all taking their toll. One of the most significant factors favouring a resurgence of terrorism in the 1980s is the emasculation of all significant intelligence gathering agencies in the United States and the refusal of Interpol to monitor and exchange information on politically-based crimes.

Recognising that one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter, the forces of law and order are caught between the Devil and the deep blue sea. The public has a right, however, to be protected from kidnap, extortion and political assassination whether committed in Belfast, Salisbury, Buenos Aires or Los Angeles, for any political or criminal reason, or by the mentally deranged.

The first line of defence against terrorism is a secure, coordinated intelligence system, properly funded and protected by the lawmakers from unwarranted and debilitating attacks (usually from the vociferous left) and backed by well-paid, trained, equipped, and motivated security services—whether police or military, depending on the scale of the problem.

However, in the final analysis, terrorism remains primarily a political problem. In the words of General Antonio de Spínola of Portugal, “the military (and police) can merely cast a net which will stabilize the situation, thus enabling the politicians to find a solution.”

The mechanics of protection against terrorism is well handled by Mr. Siljander, and this book is a valuable contribution to the contemporary security scene.

Brigadier General Paul Roos

INTRODUCTION TO THE SECOND EDITION

The second edition of *Terrorist Attacks* contains a reorganization of chapters with updated and greatly expanded information. The most notable expansions have been in the chapters on Surveillance and Countersurveillance, Surveillance Photography, Physical Security, and the Body Guard Function. The second edition should serve well as a learning tool and as a source of reference. Because of the complexity of the terrorist problem, both domestic and foreign, and because of the ever-changing terrorist arena, the reader should not confine his or her studies to this book alone but read all current information available on the topic. That is important because each writer views the topic from a different perspective and presents it accordingly.

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The authors would like to acknowledge and thank those people who have generously contributed to the second edition of this book: Mary Fredrickson, who typed the manuscript; Henry Wuollet, Former Phoenix Police Officer; Ryan Wuollet; Sean Connell, Phoenix Police Department; Steven Roser, Phoenix Police Department; and Judy Fleming, City of Phoenix.

R.P.S.
D.D.F.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS TO THE FIRST EDITION

No single book can possibly be all embracing; therefore, the reader must be encouraged to read a wide variety of material addressing this topic as all writings have something of value to offer. Reading several authors will provide one with many different viewpoints and perspectives that have resulted from each person's own unique experiences in this field.

This book is intended to be reasonably broad and practical in nature, to provide an overview that will give the reader ideas that he may incorporate into his own frame of reference and use in variation according to his own specific needs.

This book reflects a blending of the author's security-investigations and law enforcement background as well as the background of those with whom the author has collaborated during the course of this writing. Many people have offered much assistance towards this effort, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them.

Sincere thanks of appreciation are extended to Bob and Andrew Waggener; Chris and Sue Reed; W. Ron Olin, Lawrence, Kansas, Police Department; Jack Bjornstad, Southwest Safety & Supply, Inc., Phoenix, Arizona; Donald A. Rush, Private Investigator and owner of D. A. Rush Enterprises, Phoenix, Arizona; John Waaraniemi, Private Investigator; my brother Ken, who assisted by taking photographs and also assisted with the driving for the preparation of illustrations appearing in Chapter 5. Finally, I would like to offer a very special thanks to Lt. Howard Mitchell and Sgt. Gary Skeet of the University of Kansas Police Department, who have contributed so generously and significantly towards this endeavor. Their unselfish assistance has truly proven invaluable.

R.P.S.

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TERRORIST ATTACKS

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

Political terrorism is a technique that may be defined as *a violent criminal act designed to create fear in a community, or a segment of a community, for political purposes*. Note the three key elements in this definition:

1. "Violent criminal act."
2. "Create Fear" (extend the sphere of their influence).
3. "For political purposes."

Terrorism need not be politically motivated to be terrorism, however, since terroristic techniques may be employed to achieve other goals of a criminal nature rather than of a political nature.

Terrorism is not a new phenomenon; it has been used as a tool practically since the beginning of time. However, it has been on a dangerous upswing that probably will not soon reverse itself. To date, the European countries have been much harder hit by terrorist attacks than has the United States. However, terrorism, both imported and home grown, has struck out at America in recent years. There were many informed people who felt that America would feel its effects and that preparations should be made so that it can be dealt with in a reasonably effective manner, should the need arise. Time has proven their predictions.

If terrorism has not had as direct an impact upon the United States as it has had on many countries at the time of this writing, certainly there has been an effect upon America's multinational corporations and their executives living abroad. American businessmen in foreign countries do face a

certain risk from terrorist attacks in the form of abductions, bombings, and assassinations. The physical facilities, of course, are vulnerable as well, as time has proven.

This book is not intended to be a sociological analysis of international terrorism, but rather, it is intended to be a practical guide towards defending oneself or one's organization against a terrorist attack. Accordingly, this writing is more concerned with how a terrorist may strike and how those efforts can be prevented or thwarted. However, between the main text and the support material in the Appendices, the reader will acquire an understanding of both the terrorist problem and applicable countermeasures.

A terrorist, or terrorist group, generally will launch an attack for one of the following four reasons:

1. *Revenge*. In response to a real or imagined wrong committed by the victim, the victim's followers, or administration.
2. *Power*. To be achieved through the death of the victim or the destruction caused by the attack, or the fear generated by same, or the events set in motion as a result of the act.
3. *Security*. To be achieved by acquittal or release of prisoners.
4. *Reward*. Material gain as in cases of extortion.

Studies have been conducted to analyze past assassinations and the weapon types used. Although it is possible to obtain a rather precise breakdown of methods and weapons used to date, we will deal here with

general trends only. Before going further, it may be said of terrorist attacks in the form of assassinations that as a general rule, they are planned well in advance of the actual attempt. The place of attack is often one of the following:

1. Outside of a building as the victim is either arriving or leaving.
2. As the victim is entering or alighting from a motor vehicle (enbussing or debussing).
3. At some point an attack may be launched upon the vehicle when its movement is, or can be, interrupted.
4. When the victim is attending a speaking engagement.

Many types of weapons have been employed by assassins to date. The following is a list of weapon types used; they are listed in the order of their frequency of use:

1. Handguns.
2. Explosives.
3. Rifles.
4. Blades and Impact-Type Weapons.
5. Shotguns.
6. Machine Guns.
7. Poison.

The attacks, of course, are not always fatal. As one would expect, some weapon types tend to be more lethal, thus resulting in a higher percentage of deaths in relation to the number of attacks. The following is a list of weapon types in the order of their past success as lethal assassination instruments:

1. Poison.
2. Machine Guns.
3. Rifles.
4. Blades and Impact-Type Weapons.
5. Shotguns.
6. Handguns.
7. Explosives.

In this book, attacks of a political and criminal nature will be treated as one. For example, whether an attempt is made to kidnap an executive or member of his family by a criminal for ransom (personal gain), or by a

politically-motivated person or group for political purposes, the method of the abduction will bear marked similarities, and therefore, the preventive and defense measures will be similar. In essence, *any attack, whether criminally or politically motivated, is nothing other than a violent physical attack upon people or property*. Hence, this book is concerned with the physical protection of people and property.

For the most part, the defense methods against terrorist attacks are those things which any qualified police officer or security practitioner should know. The intended purpose of this book, therefore, will be to demonstrate how a background in security and law enforcement education and experience can be effectively applied toward satisfying specialized needs such as these.

This book does not delve into those things which can or should be done politically to cope with the rising threat of terrorism on an international level (except for a very brief overview in this introduction and some Appendix material), but rather, what individuals and corporations can do to reduce their vulnerability to a terrorist attack.

Although the terrorist of today tends to be better educated than those of earlier times, and therefore more sophisticated in his methods of attack and the equipment used, he tends not to be politically sophisticated. For this reason, providing a remedy for the cause he claims to support does not normally satisfy him. The terrorist tends to focus on some narrow issue while remaining oblivious to the larger issues and future perspectives.

There are basically five considerations necessary to combat terrorism on a national and international level:

1. Secure intelligence data.
2. Gain physical security of targets.
3. Eliminate the underlying causes of terrorism.
4. Formulate a policy regarding the payment of ransom.
5. Eliminate terrorist sanctuaries.

Intelligence data is extremely important to identify terrorist groups, their membership, and their plans and capabilities. Because terrorist groups do not possess the strength to launch a direct attack on what they perceive to be their adversary, they must, as a result of that weakness, rely on anonymity and utilize covert terror tactics to extend the sphere of their influence. Because they operate covertly, covert methods of investigation and intelligence gathering are necessary. Such methods include the use of electronic surveillance techniques, physical surveillance of suspects, infiltration of suspect groups by undercover agents, development of a network of paid informants, and establishment of computerized dossier systems of suspects and known terrorists.

Unfortunately, much of the intelligence-gathering activities are frustrated by restrictions that have resulted because of human rights advocates who seem to place a greater importance on the rights of criminals to terrorize than on the rights of law-abiding and productive citizens to live free from unwarranted criminal attacks of a most violent and destructive nature.

Physical security of possible targets of terrorist attacks is a vital part of any protective plan. Possible targets include persons, buildings, and vehicles. It is important to remember that a terrorist attack is nothing other than a well-planned criminal attack. The same physical security methods that protect against a common criminal apply to the terrorist, at least in part. An overview of physical security methods and hardware will be discussed in a later section of this book for familiarization purposes.

The greatest security problem that the security director faces when developing and implementing an executive protection program is adequate protection during transit when the prospective victim becomes much more vulnerable to an attack than when in the confines of home or business. Security

while staying in motels and hotels presents some unique problems and will also be discussed later in this book.

Eliminating the underlying causes is a long-term project that can be undertaken only on the national and international level. It has long been recognized that, when a nation is experiencing economic difficulties, the climate is ripe for the civil disorders that are closely akin to terrorist activities. Eliminating the frustrations that fuel civil disorder will make it more difficult for terrorist groups to gain support from the populace. Because terrorists themselves do not normally view the overall issues but, rather, see things only in a very narrow and limited perspective, eliminating the underlying causes will not normally satisfy them or retard their efforts. However, it can tend to reduce the support they will ultimately receive.

Formulating a no-ransom policy is something that will always be a controversial issue. Those who oppose it feel that human life is too precious to justify such a cold and unyielding position. Those who favor it do so feeling, at least in part, that terrorism feeds upon success and to yield to a demand only encourages further activity of a similar nature. They feel, therefore, that a greater number of lives would be lost on a long-term basis if a ransom were paid. Each person must form his or her own ideas on this issue after considering all aspects. This consideration will not be debated here. The important thing to bear in mind is that, although one can formulate a policy to either pay or not to pay, it is essential that the policy be formed before a situation arises.

Eliminating sanctuaries should tend to reduce the frequency of certain types of terrorist activities, because the terrorist, after committing an act, would have no place to go. To accomplish this would require a great deal of sincere cooperation on the international level. Unfortunately, to date, many countries have been reluctant, for various rea-

sons, to actively participate in such a strategy.

Having viewed the considerations that can be addressed on the national and international level, it is important to next examine what can be done on the corporate level to defend against a terrorist attack. There are basically three areas in which a corporation can prepare itself:

1. Maintain a low profile.
2. Gather pertinent intelligence data.
3. Maintain physical security.

A low profile is important because it is visibility that helps to make a person or firm a target. To maintain a low profile, the firm and its directors should be as unobtrusive as the smooth and profitable function of the business will permit. There have been instances where a top management official has appeared in a television commercial to promote a product. That presents a security problem because it helps to educate a would-be attacker by providing him or her with the knowledge of what the official looks like, in addition to the name and capacity of that person. A great deal of information has thus been provided that is essential for a successful terrorist attack on that person, whether it be an assassination or abduction.

Intelligence information is important because, for a corporation to operate efficiently, management decisions must be based upon factual information. Accordingly, to properly assess the degree of threat presented to the corporation, one must have a sufficient amount of the proper information. For example, if one's firm is engaged in the manufacture of war materials, then certainly it is important to know what groups are opposed to the product and also to know something about the history and capabilities of the group. If one's firm is operating in a foreign country, then it will be essential to develop sources of timely and reliable information

regarding the political climate in that country and the sentiments of various groups towards the firm.

Internal intelligence is also desirable in many instances. What is meant by internal intelligence is having the company's work force infiltrated by industrial intelligence agents. Many company directors have an aversion to such tactics, feeling that doing so is a betrayal of the rights and confidence of the workers. In that respect, it is necessary to understand that a properly controlled intelligence operation hurts no one. If the purpose of the operation is to detect early signs of subversive activity and identify possible perpetrators so that appropriate corrective action can be taken, then the intelligence operation will benefit the work force.

Physical security is always important to protect the buildings, vehicles, and personnel. Physical security measures must be applied at the executive's home, at his place of business, and during transit. Physical security measures cannot completely eliminate the possibility of a successful attack being launched, but they can reduce the number of opportunities and increase the chance of an attack's being unsuccessful. There is also an increased chance of apprehension of an attacker.

It is interesting to note that Walter Bremer, after shooting Alabama Governor George Wallace, reported having originally intended to assassinate (then) President Nixon but, after some effort, found that security measures made a successful attack too difficult. Bremer moved on to someone else and, when Governor Wallace stepped from his protective envelope of security agents, Bremer utilized the opportunity and launched an attack, seriously wounding and leaving the victim in a state of partial paralysis.

* Recommended reading: *The Day of the Jackal* by Fredrick Forsyth (also on video by the same title).