
CHAPTER I - TERRORISM

1. INTRODUCTION

Why a chapter on terrorism?

Some people think the terrorist threat has declined. It has not. In 1992 alone, over 1000 people were killed or injured in international terrorist attacks around the world. Fortunately, Canada and Canadians abroad have not been prime targets in the past but some Canadian diplomatic missions have experienced firebombings, occupation of their premises and a hostage-taking. Incidents could involve Canadians directly.

Canadians could also become involved as innocent bystanders caught up in a terrorist incident against a third party. All Canadians can be targets in some high-risk areas abroad. National identities can be confused. A risk exists.

You can reduce that risk. Most security precautions are common sense with little or no cost. Even more elaborate security precautions can be justified on the grounds of improved confidence. Measures which reduce the terrorist threat also provide a bonus. Virtually all terrorist techniques are also used by common criminals. Deter the terrorist and you deter the crook as well.

Practical suggestions follow on what to do to reduce the risk and on what can be done during and after a terrorist attack. It also outlines how the Department can help you.

The suggestions set forth in the following pages are intended to serve as a guide only. They do not purport to protect the lives of foreign representatives, since experience has shown that terrorists have kidnapped diplomats even when the latter were accompanied by armed guards.

But if these protective measures are adhered to, they should substantially reduce the number of opportunities the terrorists will have to carry out successful attacks.

Above all, we would like you to avoid repetitious day-to-day routines. For example, do not leave home for the office at the same time every morning. Do not use the same route daily.

Remember:

Same time
+ Same place

= Tempting target