

Just How Secure Can The Sites Get?

The role of Security in the site selection process is covered in the previous chapter.

One very real aspect of the heightened security requirements is the possibility of having to deny the public access to the proximity of a meeting site for an extended period. If so, agreements may need to be concluded with major tenants and businesses located at or near the site to make good any business losses resulting from such restrictions. Organizers will have to consider where the line should be drawn between the rights of private citizens and the safety of the VIP guests. Is the site to be used worth the expense and inconvenience that will be incurred?

A decision to pay compensation for loss of business can be costly. It should be reached only after completely exhausting all other available options. It can strengthen the public impression that hosting major conferences only results in major disruptions to a host city and its population.

Transporting the VIPS:

Security will have to work very closely with Logistics and with Plans and Programmes in order to ensure a workable motorcade system. All motorcade movements must be carefully planned and timed well in advance so that the scheduling of events takes into consideration sufficient travel time. As well, the motorcade system must be as flexible as possible so that any adjustments in the Official Programme during the summit itself does not throw the whole system into chaos.

The Logistics division would normally be responsible for the acquisition of the vehicles for both the VIPS and the delegations. (In the Canadian case, the Department of National Defence, with representatives situated within the Logistics division, was given this responsibility.) For Heads of State and Government (and others, if a high security risk exists) it would normally be the responsibility of Security authorities to design and run the motorcades system and to provide police drivers for the VIP vehicles. (See chapter on the "Logistical Requirements: Transportation" for further information.)

If the number of VIPs is large and the local traffic environment difficult, a "non-dedicated" motorcade system might be an excellent option to choose. Under this system, all of the motorcade "packages" are exactly the same and are not assigned to one specific VIP. Instead, each VIP is transported by the motorcade "package" closest to his/her point of embarkation. The security officer assigned to the VIP is given the responsibility of placing the correct flag on the front of the car, and taking charge of it on arrival. There can be problems with delegations seeing this as "incorrect" protocol, and some VIPs