

7. SECURITY EN ROUTE

Whether by would-be assailants, petty thieves or terrorists, drivers and their passengers can be attacked while in their automobiles. The key precaution, again, is to avoid repetition. Leave at different times; use different routes to and from work and around town. Don't forget to vary the time you leave home in the morning.

Make sure there is a spare tire in the vehicle. In some countries, due to the condition of the roads (i.e. pot holes, unpaved), it may be wise to have 2 spare tires. Know how to change a tire quickly.

Always have your keys in your hands ready to unlock the door.

Before entering your car, check the back seat for suspicious objects or unexplained wires or strings inside or underneath. If you discover suspicious wires or packages in your car, report them immediately to the proper authorities. Do not attempt to remove any such objects yourself.

When travelling in a car, keep all doors locked and windows closed, particularly as you drive through intersections with stop signs or traffic lights or anything that significantly reduces vehicular speed. If you are approached by suspicious persons while you are stopped, do not roll down the windows.

Use busy streets as much as possible. Avoid isolated country roads and dangerous areas of a city. Avoid driving too close to other vehicles.

Try to avoid going out of town alone. If the threat warrants it, travelling with a group provides safety in numbers. Try to travel in convoy if going long distances.

Reserved parking spaces should be identified by number, rather than by name or title.

If it is necessary to leave car keys with a parking attendant, leave the ignition key only.

Park your car in a garage at home and at the office. If no garage is available, leave it where it can be seen by the general public.

Park cars off the streets at night, if possible.

Some vehicle modifications cost little, for example, an inside hood latch, locking gas cap, and an anti-bomb bolt through the end of the exhaust pipe. Two-way radios or a telephone and an alarm system are useful.

Install wide-angle rear-view mirrors and use them continuously.

Though it may be possible to drive on a flat tire if necessary, it will be for a short distance, at a slow speed and the car will be difficult to steer. In countries where car jacks are common, you may wish to consider having special inserts installed in the tire or special liquid injected in the inner tube which will allow you to drive for a longer distance at a relatively acceptable speed.

In higher-risk areas, armoured vehicles and defensive driving courses would be considered by the Department.