
6. SECURITY EN ROUTE

Terrorists often attack persons in automobiles. The key precaution again is to avoid repetition. Leave at different times; use differing routes to and from work and around town. Don't forget to vary the time you leave home in the morning.

Use bus thoroughfares as much as possible. Avoid isolated country roads and dangerous areas of a city. On multiple-lane highways, drive toward the centre of the road to make it more difficult for your car to be forced to the curb. Avoid driving too close to other vehicles. Try to avoid going out of town alone. Travelling with a group provides safety in numbers. Try to travel in convoy if going long distances.

When travelling in a car, keep all doors locked. Keep windows closed, or opened only a crack. Park cars off the streets at night. Lock cars, no matter how short a time they may be unattended. If it is necessary to leave car keys with a parking attendant, leave the ignition key only.

Before entering your car, check that there are no suspicious objects or unexplained wires or strings inside or underneath. If you find suspicious wires or packages in your car report them immediately to the proper authorities. Do not attempt to remove any such objects yourself.

Remember that terrorists usually size up potential targets in advance. Before leaving your home or office, check up and down the street for suspicious cars. Try to note whether you are being followed to or from work or other places you frequent; if so, notify the Mission Security Officer promptly.

Avoid types of cars or actions that might identify you as someone rich or important. Reserved parking spaces should be identified by number, rather than by name or title.

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

Endeavour to 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. These precautions make it more difficult for a terrorist to attach an explosive device to your automobile and prevents him from getting into the rear seat compartment if he is intent on attacking you from that position.