National Security
Decision Directive 179

July 20, 1985

The Vice President is appointed to convene a government-wide task force on combating terrorism.

The Vice President's task force will:

-- review and evaluate the effectiveness of current U.S. policy and programs on combating terrorism, to include:

- an assessment of national priorities currently assigned to effectively combat terrorism, especially earlier recommendations regarding organization in NSDD-30 and adequacy of intelligence responsibilities in NSDD-138 and Presidential Executive Order 12333;

- the assignment of responsibilities and accountability for ensuring interagency cooperation and coordination before, during, and after a terrorist incident;

- a review and evaluation of present laws and law enforcement programs dealing with terrorism;

- the adequacy of public awareness and support;

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- provisions for funding and personnel; and
- an evaluation of current levels of programs of international cooperation and coordination.

-- make recommendations as appropriate to the President by the end of 1985.

The task force on combatting terrorism, chaired by the Vice President, will include the Secretaries of State, Treasury, Defense, and Transportation; the Attorney General, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Director of Central Intelligence; the Director of the Office of Management and Budget; the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs; the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; the Chief of Staff to the President; the Chief of Staff to the Vice President; the Assistant to the Vice President for National Security Affairs; the Executive Director of the Task Force; and others as appropriate.

The Vice President will appoint a senior Executive Director for the task force who will work under the direct supervision of the Vice President. The Executive Director may task any government department or agency, individual or organization to contribute to the work of the task force. To support the work of the task force, a working group will be established for which members may be drawn from departments/agencies represented on the Interdepartmental Group on Combatting Terrorism, the Interagency Intelligence Committee on Terrorism, and others as appropriate. The working group will prepare substantive recommendations to the task force for consideration.

The task force will select a group of consultants which will provide advice to the task force as necessary. A Secretariat Staff for the task force may be established as appropriate.