

Reducing the Bioweapons Threat: International Collaboration Efforts

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One of the major reasons we worry so much about bioterrorism is because of the concern for proliferation of the technology for producing biological weapons from state-sponsored biological programs, such as that of the former Soviet Union or Russia, Iraq, and other nations that have been engaged in this type of activity.

There should be no doubt that those with interests that are anathema to the United States will use whatever technology is available to try to hurt the United States or its interests, and we only have to look to events like the embassy bombings in Africa and the bombing of the U.S.S. Cole to be reminded of that. Certainly, most terrorists to this point have used large explosive devices, some of which, like that used on the Cole, obviously are very sophisticated. However, when they will progress to the next step in technology is only a matter of conjecture.

One of the greatest threats we face is biological warfare or other weapons of mass destruction during key international events such as the Olympics or conferences involving world leaders. However, when we contemplate terrorism, we have to think of it in terms of four aspects for the terrorists:

1. Access to the agents;
2. The science to manufacture the agent;
3. Weaponization of the agent (ability to disseminate and deliver the agent);
4. Intent to use the agent (the role of national leaders such as Saddam Hussein or terrorist leaders such as Osama bin Laden).

For an effective biological attack, one would have to be able to have or do all four of these things. The exception involves use of a communicable disease agent such as smallpox, plague, or one of the viral hemorrhagic fevers. In that case, all one needs is access to the agent. A human being could be used as the carrier vehicle for transmitting the attack to an unsuspecting population.

In this seminar, two highly qualified leaders in the field of bioterrorism contribute to a discussion of the international aspects of bioterrorism. Jerome

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Hauer, managing director of Kroll Associates (New York City), is one of the world's leading experts on biological and chemical terrorism. He was one of six national experts chosen to privately brief President Clinton and Vice President Gore and four cabinet secretaries on Good Friday of 1998 on the specific issue of the biological terrorism threat. A New York City Commissioner for Emergency Management from 1996 to 2000, Hauer established what has been widely

recognized in the interagency community as the best large-city preparedness program for biological terrorism in this country. He also did extensive consulting work with the Australian officials for the Sydney Olympics, with Scotland Yard, and with the Israeli government. The second expert is Amy Smithson. Amy is senior policy analyst with the Henry L. Stimson Center and the author of *Toxic Archipelago*.