



Congressional Statement Federal Bureau of Investigation

May 13, 1997

Statement for the Record of
Louis J. Freeh, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

on
Counterterrorism

Before the
Senate Appropriations Committee
Hearing on Counterterrorism
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I welcome this opportunity to discuss the policy of the administration on counterterrorism, to describe the threat of terrorism in the United States, and to bring you up-to-date on how the FBI is using the counterterrorism resources Congress has provided over the past several years to address this problem.

Acknowledgments

At the very outset, I want to recognize the early leadership that Senators Gregg and Hollings, along with the other members of the committee, have exhibited in this critical area. Their efforts, initially in the Senate mark-up of the 1997 Justice Appropriations Act and then in the conference agreement for the Omnibus Appropriations Act, provided the FBI with \$133.9 million in new funding as part of a comprehensive counterterrorism initiative.

On behalf of the men and women of the FBI, especially those who work tirelessly toward protecting the American people against the threat of terrorism, I wish to thank you for your support. I am confident that our efforts will justify your past commitment and continued support to this important area of the FBI's responsibility.

United States Policy on Terrorism

"The protection of our nation and its people against the threat of terrorism, by individuals and groups operating from home and abroad, is one of the highest priorities of the administration. As a nation, we must stand firm in our resolve against terrorism. We must not allow those who would resort to acts of terrorism to succeed in influencing the policies and actions of our government and tearing apart the very fabric of American society."

The government's policy to fight terrorism is articulated in Presidential Decision Directive (PDD) -39, "U.S. Policy on Counterterrorism." This policy, signed by President Clinton on June 21, 1995, makes it clear that the national policy of the United States is to regard acts of terrorism as both a threat to national security and a criminal act, and to respond vigorously to all such acts on our territory or against our citizens wherever they occur.

The United States is also committed to strengthening the ability of the international community to prevent acts of terrorism before they occur and to respond more effectively to acts of terrorism when they do occur.

Add \$133.9 million for terrorism.
Thanks to fearless working Agents.

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We must fight Terrorism

National Policy on Terrorism

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