



Press Release

13th October 2005, London

For immediate use

Extension to detention period unnecessary

GREG AUSTIN, Director of Research at the Foreign Policy Centre today said that the proposed extension of the period of detention for terror suspects in the Terrorism Bill was unnecessary.

He said:

“The need to extend the review period for detention to three months is unnecessary. As the Home Secretary has said, intelligence is the key to tackling terrorism. The proposed extension shows how desperately weak the government's investigative resources are if it needs to detain people for three months to understand what is on their computer discs.

“The FPC report on terrorism released this week called for a massive increase in money and training for MI5 and MI6. Parliament should consider that as part of the response to the government's bill.”

Greg Austin was speaking as the Foreign Policy Centre launched its pamphlet ‘The Next Attack: Know your enemy and yourself’.

Its main recommendations are:

- There is a critical shortage of police dedicated to counter-terrorism work
- The delay in training intelligence officials is too long
- The number of people prosecuted under the terrorism acts is pitifully low
- The CPS is not fit for counter-terrorism work and needs urgent reform
- There needs to be an independent review of all operational needs and a Parliamentary inquiry into the shooting of Jean Charles de Menezes

ENDS

Editor's Notes

‘The Next Attack: Know Your Enemy and Know Yourself’, a Foreign Policy Centre pamphlet was launched on the 11th October 2005. It is written by Dr Greg Austin, Research Director of the Foreign Policy Centre with a preface by Stephen Twigg, Director of the FPC. The pamphlet is available at <http://fpc.org.uk/publications/175>