

Chapter 4: Maintaining Public Safety and Disaster Countermeasures

Section 1: International Terrorism and Countermeasures

1. International Terrorism

(1) Terrorist Threats to Japan

In May 2011, *Al-Qaeda* leader Osama bin Laden was killed in a U.S. operation. The death of bin Laden is likely to affect the future landscape of international terrorism, and already some of the terrorist attacks occurring since the leader's death have been labeled retribution attacks. Amidst this, Japan has been threatened as a target for terrorism in the past and vigilance is still high.

(2) North Korea

As of June 1, 2011, police have determined 13 suspected cases of abduction (19 victims) to be by North Korea and are arranging for issuance of international arrest warrants for 11 North Korean agents involved in eight abductions. There are also other cases than those mentioned above for which the possibility of North Korean abduction cannot be ruled out. Police are currently making concerted efforts on thorough investigations concerning accusations and indictments in these cases.

2. International Terrorism Countermeasures

Police promote a number of initiatives in order to prevent terrorist attacks. Police collect and analyze data through foreign security information agencies, take administrative measures towards distributors of chemical substances which

can be used as materials for explosives, have measures in place at international airports and harbors, and have security guards on the lookout at important facilities. Police are also committed to improving its ability to cope in the event that there is a terrorist attack, holding daily training for various units, including Special Assault Teams (SAT), Anti-Firearms Squads, and Counter-Nuclear Biological Chemical Terrorism Squad.

Section 2: Foreign Affairs and Related Measures

In 2010, relations in the Korean Peninsula tensed as North Korea sunk a South Korean navy patrol ship and bombarded South Korea's Yeonpyeong Island.

Police are committed to keeping Japanese interests from being compromised. Police are working to collect and analyze information on various North Korean maneuvers as well as illegal export of weapons of mass destruction and related materials, and to exercise strict control over illegal activities.

Section 3: Public Safety and Related Measures

1. Trends in Aum Shinrikyo and Countermeasures

In May 2007, the Aum Shinrikyo religious cult split into the main group "Aleph" and separatist "Circle of Rainbow Light" factions. While Aleph stresses absolute devotion to Aum leader Matsumoto, the Circle of Rainbow Light is seeking to wipe out the Matsumoto ties and find appeal as an open cult. Police continue their ongoing investigation to find and arrest the three Aum suspects on NPA's most wanted list.

To prevent a reoccurrence of their indiscriminate mass murder, police are working with related agencies to unveil the true identity of Aum Shinrikyo members and enforce any organized criminal activity.

(As of January 2012, one suspect was arrested, making two Aum suspects on the wanted list.)



Apartment used as secret hideout for JRCL
Revolutionary Marxist Faction

2. Trends and Measures Against Violent Ultra-Leftist Groups

In 2010, left-wing extremists continued to scheme organizational maintenance and expansion, hiding its violence and partisanship behind labor movements and mass movements. Police are investigating violent ultra-leftist group cases and conducting sweeping searches to uncover apartments and other places they use as secret hideouts. Through public education using posters and other materials, police are also promoting various measures such as requesting the public for information on a wide scale. Police did expose one secret Japan Revolutionary Communist League (Revolutionary Marxist Faction) hideout in 2010.

3. Trends and Measures Against Rightist Groups

Attacking Japanese government policies and other matters, and seizing on the Chinese fishing boat that crashed into a Coast Guard patrol boat in the waters around the Senkaku

Islands, rightist groups relentlessly criticized the government and other parties. Also, the Rightist Citizen's Group held rallies and demonstrations in various areas, causing trouble with opposing forces. Police will continue striving to prevent significant rightist demonstrations and other events and to fully control illegal activities.

Section 4: Disaster Response and Security

1. Response to Natural Disasters

There were 30 persons dead or missing and 273 injured from heavy rains, typhoons, earthquakes, tsunamis, gale winds and storm surges in 2010. Police deployed IERUs to rescue victims and search for missing persons.



Interprefectural Emergency Rescue Unit search activity

Column: Security for 2010 APEC Meeting

In addition to the Senior Officials' Meetings and ministerial meetings held in Yokohama, Kanagawa in November, APEC held seven other related ministerial meetings from June to November of 2010.

Along with the all-out efforts of police nationwide in providing security for these meetings, police fulfilled Japan's security responsibilities as host nation and prevented terrorist attacks thanks to public-private Japanese-style anti-terrorism measures with the full cooperation of private businesses and local residents.

2. Patrols and Security

The police act as esteemed security guards between the imperial family and people, and are committed to ensuring the imperial family's safety and prevent congestion and accidents from visitors. Under strict security with concerns of terrorist attack and other illegal incidents, police promote appropriate security measures to ensure the safety of important officials.



Escort on imperial visit to the Musashino Imperial Mausoleum



2010 APEC Senior Officials' Meeting