



# Press Release

11<sup>th</sup> October 2005, London

For immediate use

## UK not doing enough to tackle terrorism

GREG AUSTIN, Director of Research at the Foreign Policy Centre today criticised the UK government for not doing enough to tackle terrorism in the aftermath of the July 7<sup>th</sup> bombings in London.

He said:

“If the government accepts, as we understand it does, that *jihadist* terrorists may be attempting to acquire and use weapons of mass destruction, we simply have to do better than we have done so far. One slip-up will be one too many.”

“There needs to be a more consistent effort from government to inform public opinion about the nature and level of the threat, and about policy responses. Moreover, given the closed nature of counter-terrorism policy-making, it is equally important that there be strong internal review mechanisms. The threat is too great to leave all our eggs in one basket. There needs to be a standing, independent review mechanism that has wide access to all classified data and reports to the Prime Minister at a classified level, and to Parliament at an unclassified level.

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 11<sup>th</sup> 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. More details are available on request.