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FBI Curbed in Fight Against Terrorists

White House Limit on Funding Noted

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

The FBI has been trying to expand its counterterrorist forces since last year but has been turned down twice by the White House, according to a member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

Sen. Lloyd Bentsen (D-Tex.) said he learned of the budgetary lid as a result of his inquiries about the adequacy of the bureau's resources.

"It's one of the most foolish things I've seen since I've been up here," Bentsen said. "Here you have terrorism on an increase around the world, and you know it's going to increase in the United States and we must fight it."

According to figures compiled by Bentsen and his staff and verified by other sources, the FBI had been seeking an \$11 million increase over last year's \$39.5 million counterterrorism budget to pay for 191 more agents, support personnel and related expenses.

The biggest chunk of the additional appropriation, about \$5.7 million, would have been used to expand FBI counterterrorism task forces set up with local police in Boston, New York, Chicago and Washington since 1980 and to establish new ones in Newark, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

The rest of the money would have been devoted to strengthening the FBI's elite Hostage Rescue Team, now said to have about 50 agents, and broadening the scope of the five-year-old National Terrorism Research and Analysis Center based here.

The White House Office of Management and Budget rejected the proposals last fall in trimming a supplemental budget request for fiscal 1985 and again this year in ruling on the 1986 budget proposal before Congress.

Voicing alarm in a weekly videotaped report to Texas constituents, Bentsen said he regards the frugality as "just counterproductive" and said he would introduce legislation "to put that \$11 million back."

Bentsen's press secretary, Jack DeVore, said the OMB limited the FBI counterterrorism budget to \$39.8 million, a 1.1 percent increase in a year when, according to OMB projections, inflation is expected to be 4.4 percent.

DeVore said Bentsen learned about the \$11 million trim in asking about the FBI's resources to cope with such counterintelligence problems as the alleged Walker spy ring. He said Bentsen was told that the counterintelligence budget was in good shape but that the counterterrorism program faced constraints.

OMB spokesman Edwin L. Dale Jr. declined to comment. "We don't

discuss decisions made back at budget time," he said.

The FBI declined to voice public chagrin. Spokesman Tony Genakos said FBI Director William H. Webster is "supportive of the administration's request to Congress for fiscal 1986 in connection with our terrorist activity, and we're also grateful for the support we've received from the administration and Congress in combating terrorist operations."

Bentsen aide Jim Currie said, however, that the extra \$11 million would "give the FBI greater ability to deal with domestic hijackings and hostage situations, to identify terrorist groups that are an outgrowth

*Sen. Bentsen said
he would introduce
legislation to restore
the funds.*

of or have an affiliation with foreign governments or movements and to be in a position to tell who these groups are affiliated with, where they are in the United States and what they are doing and planning to do."

The FBI's hostage rescue team was established in January 1983 and, Genakos said, is "a cohesive unit able to respond to highly sophisticated hostage situations. It gives the president and the attorney general a viable law enforcement alternative to the use of a military group for the resolution of a domestic incident."

The terrorism task forces, starting with that established in New York in April 1980, are teams of FBI agents and local police, usually housed in FBI quarters and designed "to make the most use of all the laws available" in concurrent investigations of terrorist crimes, plots and threats.

The Terrorism Research Center has been operated here since 1980 and consists of a computerized data bank that compiles information on known active terrorists in the United States and tries to determine "the potential threat of further terrorist activity," Genakos said. It is directly linked to most FBI field offices.

Bentsen is expected to offer an amendment giving the FBI the additional \$11 million and, DeVore said, will probably try to attach it to "the first handy appropriations bill that comes down the pike."

Little opposition is expected. "This may well be one of the easiest legislative victories in the history of man," DeVore said.

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Premises of TWA In Madrid Bombed

1 Killed; Caller Links Blast to U.S. Policy

By Tom Burns
Special to The Washington Post

MADRID, July 1—Terrorists bombed a building that houses offices of Trans World Airlines and British Airways and attacked the nearby Alia Royal Jordanian Airline today, killing an elderly Spanish woman and injuring 27 persons, among them an American teenager on vacation.

Police said they believe the intended target of the bomb damaging the British Airways office was TWA. The bomb exploded on the street level, where British Airways has a sales office, while the floor above is occupied by TWA. The U.S. airline's large red sign dominates the facade.

In Beirut, an anonymous caller said a group carried out the attack in reply to President Reagan's threat to strike against terrorists. Reuter quoted the caller as saying, "Let Reagan know that our hands will reach the whole world . . . We thank all the alliances which helped us to carry out the bombing of the TWA office—Organization of the Oppressed." Hijackers holding the TWA airliner at Beirut signed a statement made to reporters Sunday "The Oppressed of the Earth.")

Sidney Bridges, 17, from Ontario, Calif., was cut in the face and arms by the flying glass in the British Airways blast. According to his father brother, Don, Sidney Bridges saw the bomber.

Twenty-five were injured in the parcel-bomb blast, which gutted the British Airways sales room and killed the woman, who was buying a

ticket. Two severely injured were British Airways employees.

Five minutes after the bomb exploded at British Airways in the busy commercial center of Madrid, gunmen raked the Alia offices 200 yards away with automatic-weapons fire and lobbed two grenades through the shattered plate glass.

The grenades failed to explode and later were deactivated by police. Two persons in the Jordanian office were hurt by flying glass.

A connecting thread between Madrid and the U.S. hostages in Beirut was formed by the trial last month in the Spanish capital of two radical Shiite Moslems.

The TWA plane hijackers had at one time demanded their release in return for the freedom of the hostages, but the Spanish government, according to Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, signaled that it "would not bow to terrorist blackmail" and the demand was dropped.

The two Shiites were sentenced last week to 23 years in jail for the wounding last September of a Libyan diplomat here.

The Jordanian ambassador in Madrid said after the attack on the Alia office that terrorism would "never deter" Middle East peace initiatives undertaken by King Hussein and the Jordanian government.

The two attacks brought Madrid to a standstill. Police sealed off the area for three hours in an apparently fruitless search for the assailants.

Two other attacks last year involved Arabs on the south coast, near Marbella, which lately has become a favored haunt for the wealthy from the Persian Gulf.

Israel Schedules Release in Of 300 Mostly Shiite Prisoners

Rabin Discloses Figure at Conference on Terrorism

By Edward Walsh
Washington Post Foreign Service

JERUSALEM, July 1—Israel decided today to release 300 of the more than 700 Arab prisoners whose freedom was demanded by the hijackers of Trans World Airlines Flight 847.

The decision, the first in what is expected to be a relatively rapid process of freeing all of the 735 prisoners, was made by the government's so-called inner cabinet of 10 senior ministers and was announced tonight by Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin at the opening of a conference

of the release depended on logistical arrangements with the International Committee of the Red Cross, which will oversee the release in southern Lebanon.

Rabin said further releases of prisoners will depend on developments in southern Lebanon, where Israel continues to maintain a six-to-15-mile wide "security belt" just north of the Israeli-Lebanese border and supports a local militia, the South Lebanon Army.

Israeli radio said there was no opposition in the inner cabinet to freeing the first 300 prisoners, an indication of Israel's eagerness to