

Terrorism and Guerrilla Warfare

Forecasts and remedies

Richard Clutterbuck



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Preface

I had my mind directed to the future of terrorism in April 1981, when 22 SAS Regiment, in the wake of their triumph at Princes Gate the previous year, invited me to speak to their annual study period about how I saw terrorism developing in the coming ten years. This invitation was both a compliment and a challenge. Characteristically the SAS were a highly stimulating audience (there were about 200 of them there) and I learned a lot from their lively cross-examination. They are the best of all practitioners in this field, so when Peter Sowden first suggested in 1983 that I should write this book, I already had some preliminary ideas. I was, however, committed to four other books, then in various stages from early research to proof-correcting, so I turned my antennae to the subject during this enforced five-year gestation period, while the other four books came to publication in 1984, 1985, 1986, and 1987.

I began detailed research in 1985, helped by one of my former students, Shelagh Macleod, then on her way to selection for commission in the army. Her grasp of both weapons and electronics was a great asset. We were greatly helped by the Royal Military College of Science (especially Dan Raschen); also the Royal School of Military Engineering (especially Alec Wright and John Wyatt), who train the bomb search teams for Northern Ireland and lead the world in research of techniques in this field.

Ian Hogg, editor of *Jane's Infantry Weapons*, took enormous trouble on my behalf in both conversation and correspondence. Professor Richard Gregory of Bristol University, Dr John Hulbert of Cogitaire, and Superintendent David Webb of the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary gave me a fascinating insight into the microelectronics revolution, and its application to fighting terrorism and crime. Of the designers and manufacturers, Ferranti, Heckler and Koch, and Miriad International were especially helpful. On the political side I again went to see the best—Dr Peter Janke and his team of researchers at Control Risks who, though immensely in demand from the business world, found time to help me analyse current events all over the world and to predict how they might develop.

I have, however, discussed political matters only when they seemed to me to be important in the development of the prognosis of the conduct of terrorism and guerrilla warfare as a whole. I have not tried to cover every country and every political conflict in the world. Some readers will inevitably disagree with my choice, and to them I apologize.

Throughout these years I have averaged eighty lectures a year at Bramshill and other police colleges, many of them about the future, and the week-by-week cross-examination by superintendents, inspectors, and bodyguards fresh from the ground has been an exceptionally healthy and constructive dimension.

This book is not science fiction. My task, as is indicated in Peter Sowden's choice of subtitle, has been to examine current trends and to predict how they seem likely to work out in the next five to ten years. I have applied this particularly to the technology, which (apart from the occasional luxury of a flight of fancy) I have tried to keep down to earth. Above all, since no one is an expert in all fields, I have tried to make each technological chapter in itself comprehensible to the non-professional. I hope that electronics experts will be tolerant of my child's guide to computer development, but that they will find my similar child's guide to the characteristics of the revolutionary Heckler and Koch G11 assault rifle useful and comprehensible in exchange, and vice versa. Perhaps both electronics and weapons experts will pick up a bit about sniffing for explosives and neutron bombardment; maybe they will be as horrified as I was when I began to delve into the malign and world-wide influence of drug-trafficking on crime, guerrilla warfare, and terrorism.

To Peter Sowden I am especially grateful for his patience and his guidance on what you, the reader, will and will not want to read about. I hope that he and I have got this right.

Richard Clutterbuck

Abbreviations

For foreign acronyms and in other cases where it is judged to be more helpful to the reader, an English description (in parenthesis) is given instead of spelling out the words.

ACR	Advanced Combat Rifle
AD	(Direct Action) (France)
AFR	Automatic Fingerprint Recognition
AGV	Autonomous Guided Vehicle
AI	Artificial Intelligence
AIB	Anti-Imperialist International Brigade
AISSF	All India Sikh Students' Federation
ALF	Animal Liberation Front
ARENA	(Republican National Alliance) (El Salvador)
ASU	Active Service Unit
ATF	US Government Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms
AUPO	(Autopropellant Ammunition) (Italy)
BCP	Burmese Communist Party
BMA	British Medical Association
BR	(Red Brigades) (Italy)
BR-PCC	(Fighting Communist Party—a splinter group of the Red Brigades) (Italy)
BSIA	British Security Industry Association
CAWS	Close Assault Weapon System

CCC	(Combatant Communist Cells) Belgium
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television
CDRF	(Rodrigo Franco Democratic Commando) (Peru)
CGSB	(Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Co-ordination) (Colombia)
COT	Computerized Organic Tracer
CRIS	Crime Reporting Information System
DEA	Drug Enforcement Administration (USA)
DFLP	Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine
DNA	(Genetic molecule in body fluids)
DP	Detection Probability
DUP	Democratic Unionist Party (Sudan)
EC	European Community
ECM	Electronic Counter-measures
EDP	Electronic Data Processing
EGP	(Guerrilla Army of the Poor) (Guatemala)
ELN	(National Liberation Army) (Colombia)
EPL	(People's Liberation Army) (Colombia)
ETA	(Basque Extremist Movement) (Spain)
FAA	Federal Aviation Authority (USA)
FACES	Facial Analysis Comparison and Elimination System
FAR	False Alarm Rate
FARC	(Armed Revolutionary Forces of Columbia)
FARL	(Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Factions)
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation (USA)
FLNC	(Corsican National Liberation Front) (France)
FMLN	(National Liberation Front) (El Salvador)

FRG	Federal Republic of Germany
GIGN	(French Anti-Terrorist Commando)
GNP	Gross National Product
GPHMG	General Purpose Heavy Machine-gun
GSG9	(German Anti-Terrorist Commando)
HB	(Political party supporting ETA) (Spain)
HED	Hydrogenous Explosive Detection
HMG	Heavy machine-gun
HOLMES	Home Office Large and Major Enquiry System
IATA	International Air Transport Association
ID card	Identification card
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
IFF	Identification Friend or Foe
II	Image intensification
INF	Islamic National Front (Sudan)
INLA	Irish National Liberation Army
IPEC	International Police Exhibition and Conference
IPKF	Indian Peacekeeping Force (Sri Lanka)
IR	Infra-red
IRA	Irish Republican Army
IW	Individual weapon
IZL	Irgun Zvai Leumi (Israel)
JAL	Japanese Airlines
JRA	Japanese Red Army
JVP	(People's Liberation Front) (Sri Lanka)
KGB	(Soviet Intelligence Organization)

KSPI	Kurdish Socialist Party of Iraq
LAW	Light Anti-Tank Weapon
LF	Lebanese Forces
LIPS	Logical inferences per second
LSW	Light support weapon
LTTE	Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (Sri Lanka)
M19	(19 April Movement) (Colombia)
MCLOS	Manual Command to Line of Sight
MIK	(Military Industrial Complex) (Germany)
MNF	Multinational Peacekeeping Force
MNLF	(Moro National Liberation Front) (Philippines)
mps	metres per second
MRTA	(Tupac Amaro Revolutionary Movement) (Peru)
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NDF	National Democratic Front (Burma/Philippines)
NPA	New People's Army (Philippines)
PCIED	Projectile Controlled Improvised Explosive Device
PFLP	Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine
PFLP(GC)	Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (General Command)
PIN	Personal Identification Number
PLO	Palestine Liberation Organization
PNTA	Prompt Neutron Thermal Activation
PROD	Photo Retrieval from Optical Disc
PSP	Progressive Socialist Party (Druze-Lebanon)
RAF	Red Army Faction (Germany)
Risc	Reduced instruction set computers

RUC	Royal Ulster Contabulary
RZ	(Revolutionary Cells) (Germany)
SACLOS	Semi-Automatic Command to Line of Sight
SAM	Surface-to-Air Missile
SAS	Special Air Service Regiment
SEP	Surrendered Enemy Personnel
SL	(Shining Path) (Peru)
SLA	South Lebanon Army
SLAP	Saboted Light Armour Penetration
SLFP	Sri Lanka Freedom Party
SPAS	Special Purpose Automatic Shotgun
SPLA	Sudanese People's Liberation Army
SSM	Surface-to-Surface Missile
STOL	Short Take-Off and Landing
TI	Thermal imagery
UNFDAC	United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control
UNP	United National Party (Sri Lanka)
UP	(Patriotic Front) (Colombia)
VDU	Visual display unit
VTOL	Vertical Take-Off and Landing

Prologue

Six years on...

A selection of press and radio news reports, June 1996

Gatwick, 2 June The Air France hijack is over. An SAS rescue force raided the aircraft at 1 am today in total darkness and total silence. We long-suffering hacks were unaware that the attack had gone in until a coach-load of passengers was brought into the terminal.

All appeared to be bemused but unharmed. Mr James Garner, 56, of Wimbledon, said 'I really knew nothing about it. I woke up to find an airport official asking me to leave the aircraft. I don't know how long I'd been asleep.' Others told much the same story. Some conjectured that it might have been an incapacitating gas or low-frequency electromagnetic vibrations which induce unconsciousness. These, however, are believed to take several seconds to cause unconsciousness and it is rumoured that Air France has been testing a high-pressure pulse, a kind of silent blast, which can be operated from either inside or outside the aircraft (from the Control Tower). This is alleged to 'knock out' everyone on board for about ten seconds, and if there were a simultaneous release either of a gas or of low-frequency vibrations, passengers, crew, and hijackers might all have remained unconscious for fifteen or twenty minutes. The SAS were not available for comment. Sussex police said that two men and three women were helping them with their enquiries.

Singapore, 5 June Millionaire Tan Yekim, 48, was rescued after he had been kidnapped outside a hotel in Orchard Road. The bodyguard had given the alarm and it is believed that Singapore Police were able to trace him by means of an active or passive electronic tag which he carried. This may have been a microtransmitter, which he could have pushed between the seat cushions in the kidnap car before he was searched.

The police are known to have installed electronic monitors at numerous points in the city, for example on traffic islands and in cables buried under the road surface. These are mainly used to catch vehicles which have not got permits (in the form of tags under the car) to enter the restricted traffic zone. These permit tags are 'passive', that is they react to a transmission from the monitor and it is conceivable that Mr Tan may have had no more than a passive tag somewhere on his body, possibly in the form of a fluid used as a hair-dressing. When the monitor recorded Mr Tan's tag (active or passive) it would also have noted the registration number of the car, as this presumably did carry a permit tag, since without one the kidnappers' car would have been quickly tracked by the responses triggered by an unauthorized vehicle passing the monitor.

Frankfurt, 7 June Five men were arrested yesterday at Frankfurt Airport and charged with conspiracy to hijack. All are said to be of Middle Eastern origin. Along with other passengers without International Air Travel Permits (machine-readable cards now carried by the great majority of EC passengers) they were questioned for about fifteen minutes shortly before they were due to board a Lufthansa flight for Riyadh. An airport spokesman said: 'We checked eight or ten points from their passports and from our supplementary questions. These were fed into the national computer, which was able to reveal suspicious links between these five, although they were travelling separately. We called them out of the boarding lounge for further questioning and search. One had a telephone number in his diary which led us to an aircraft cleaner, who was then also questioned, and a search of the aircraft revealed a bag containing pistols and ammunition in the towel compartment in one of the toilets. Two of the others resisted search and it became evident that they did in fact know each other.' The other passengers were allowed to board and the aircraft took off an hour late.

Manchester, 8 June After a call from security staff at a computer company, police today arrested a man claiming to be a welder, Charles Thompson, employed by a firm which has a maintenance contract on the premises. His identity card appeared to be valid but a fingerprint scan, referred to the national police computer, revealed that he was not Charles Thompson but a man wanted for forgery.

London, 15 June A man riddled with bullets in Mayfair yesterday is believed to be the 125th victim of London's drug war this year and also a member of the Huallaga gang, which has been making a monopoly bid for the trade in 'crack', the popular cocaine derivative.

Dublin, 19th June A consignment of explosives, with multiple sealed wrappings to defeat the vapour-sniffers and dogs, was detected by neutron bombardment in the cargo sheds at Dublin Airport.

Like all explosives manufactured in the USA and in west and east Europe, including the USSR, it was tagged with colour-coded particles, which will enable not only its manufacturing source, but also every legal movement it has made since, to be traced on the internationally linked police computer network.

Zurich, 21 June The system for monitoring of international bank transfer, initiated by a consortium of Swiss and Japanese banks in 1992, was further extended today with the accession of all the state banks in the USSR and China, who have recently made common cause with the west in fighting international terrorism and drug traffic. The EC countries, the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and all the newly industrialized countries in East Asia, are already members and Argentina, Brazil, and Chile have expressed their intention of joining. Using fine-grained parallel computers, the member banks can trace the most complex sources and disposals of money in a few seconds and will make this information available to the police if ordered by the Courts to do so. This has proved invaluable in the fight against crime, and especially in detecting the laundering of money from extortion and drug deals. This money is commonly dispersed very rapidly in small amounts to different accounts in different countries. Thus far, the missing links in the chain have been certain Third World banks, which are happy to take and pass on money but refuse to co-operate with the police in tracing it. After the latest accessions it is expected that all the member banks will be required by their governments to boycott any dealings with banks which do not subscribe to the scheme. It is hoped that virtually 100 per cent of banks will have joined by 1998.

And nine years on...

Milan, 25 May 1999 A group of top businessmen in Milan, which had one of the highest kidnap rates in the world, seem to have solved the problem of being ambushed on the road. They live in a heavily protected 'country club' containing a number of blocks of luxury flats, whose roofs act as flight decks, with their microlite VTOL aircraft stored in hangers immediately below. These are powered by four revolutionary 'Featherweight' engines, developed by the European Aerospace Corporation which weigh less than 20 kg, but the four engines produce jets powerful enough to lift the aircraft with two people on board. The engine with its fuel is delivered in a sealed package, which is exchanged complete after a stated number of hours. The makers are cagey about the design and have dismissed as 'conjectural' reports that it relies on a new process of nuclear fusion. The aircraft have easy manoeuvrability, and can hover, fly sideways, and stop as quickly as a car by rotating the

jets. They are equipped with the new 'Batman' radar system. According to one regular user: 'Even when the airways are crowded, it is much easier to avoid collision than on crowded roads—or amongst yachts milling around off Cowes. And, of course, the baddies have no idea which of the birds in the flock is mine. I have never travelled so safely in my life.'

Part one

Fighting under the nuclear umbrella

Chapter one

Introduction

6 February 1989 was the 15,982nd day since the end of the Second World War, overtaking the longest previous period without an unlimited war between major powers (15,981 days or 43½ years), that is between the end of the Franco-Prussian War in 1871 and the start of the First World War. While there have been some prolonged local conflicts with horrific casualties (e.g. the Iran-Iraq War of 1980–8) all the fighting has been strictly limited and localized.

There have been many other conflicts since the nuclear umbrella was erected in August 1945, including those in Korea, Suez, and Vietnam; also the short sharp Indo-Pakistan and Arab-Israeli wars, and fairly substantial border clashes on the Chinese borders with the USSR, India, and Vietnam. All of these involved conventional operations between uniformed armies using artillery and aircraft. Although one side or the other (very occasionally both —e.g. the USSR and China when they clashed in 1969 on the Ussuri River) had access to nuclear weapons, there was never the slightest risk of their being used.

Virtually every other conflict since 1945 can be classed as guerrilla warfare or terrorism. Though some have been extremely bloody (for example, 70,000 killed in El Salvador out of a population of 6 million in eight years), the weapons have mainly been hand-held firearms or hand-placed bombs. The killing has been more personal and more calculatedly cruel than in fighting between conventional armies.

Though some of the guerrilla conflicts have been international (e.g. by the Palestinians), their primary causes have usually been internal between rival communities or by dissidents hoping to overturn their government. They have, however, been exploited by foreign powers: sometimes by neighbours bent on annexation (e.g. by North Vietnam in South Vietnam from 1959 to 1972, culminating in conventional military invasions in 1972 and 1975); and sometimes from far away (e.g. by Cuba on behalf of the USSR in Africa and Central America, and by the USA in Nicaragua