



EMAIL BULLETIN

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE ISSUES NEW WORLDWIDE CAUTION EFFECTIVE APRIL 21, 2003; TURKISH GOVERNMENT SOURCES WARN OF TERRORIST PLOTS; WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION ISSUES SARS-RELATED TRAVEL WARNINGS

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In the wake of new information regarding terrorist threats to U.S. interests at home and abroad, the U.S. Department of State has issued a new Worldwide Caution, effective April 21, 2003. Possible targets include facilities where Westerners may congregate. The Department of State has cited continued tensions remaining from the recent events in Iraq as well as the ongoing threat from terrorist organizations as reasons for the renewed Worldwide Caution.

Other sources of information bearing on the security of Westerners abroad include the Turkish government. Turkish newspapers are reporting that the Security General Directorate in Turkey has issued warnings of potential al Qaida threats, including potential suicide bombings in Turkey. Further reports indicate a number of known, specialized terrorist operatives have recently crossed from Iraq into Turkey and may be planning attacks on Australian, English, Israeli, Spanish, and U.S. interests in the region, both official and civilian.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has voiced continued concern over the outbreak and proliferation of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in China and Canada. WHO has issued additional travel advisories for those traveling in the hardest-hit regions of China as well as Toronto and surrounding areas in Canada. Specifically, WHO warns that travelers who can avoid travel to China's Shanxi Province, Beijing, Hong Kong and Toronto, Ontario should postpone their travel plans until the proliferation of SARS has been brought under control. Newly-identified mutations of the virus may prolong WHO efforts to bring the current crisis under control in the near future. As of Wednesday, April 23, WHO has attributed 251 deaths to SARS, out of approximately 4,288 probable cases identified.