

Terrorism not a trend, FBI says

WASHINGTON (AP) — FBI Director William Sessions advised Americans today to keep up their guard in the wake of the bombing at New York's World Trade Center, but said the attack isn't "the opening act in a coming wave of terrorism."

Another FBI official told Congress his "gut feeling" was that the bombing was the work of experienced terrorists.

"This is a terrorist incident organized by a large, well-known terrorist group," James Fox, head of the FBI's New York office, said without identifying the organization. "It's a group that knows what they're doing. This was not a group of ad hoc terrorists."

Sessions and Fox testified before the first congressional hearing into the bombing late last month that killed five, injured 1,000 and shut down the World Trade Center for what officials said will be several weeks.

Sessions said the last international terrorist activity on U.S. soil occurred last April, when Iranian oppositionists took over the Iranian mission to the United Nations in New York.

"Prior to that incident, there had not been an international terrorist attack in the United States since 1983," Sessions said in testimony prepared for a House crime subcommittee hearing.

"The American public should always be vigilant, but this suspected act of terrorism should not be viewed as the opening act in a coming wave of terrorism," Sessions said.

According to FBI statistics, there have been 163 terrorist attacks in the United States since 1982, most of them domestic incidents in Puerto Rico by Puerto Rican terrorists, Sessions said.

Rep. Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y., organized today's hearing to determine if the World Trade Center bombing and the killing of two CIA employees could be the first violence in a new wave of terrorism in this country.

"The question is not whether America is vulnerable to domestic terrorism — the World Trade Center bombing clearly shows that we are — but

'This is a terrorist incident organized by a large, well-known terrorist group.'

— James Fox,
head of the FBI's New York office

rather, what are we prepared to do about it?" Schumer said.

"What tools do we need to place in the hands of our federal and local law-enforcement agencies to help them protect all of us while still preserving the openness and freedom of our everyday lives?" he asked.

But some House members warned against saying the bombing was the start of a terrorist wave. Rep. Craig Washington, D-Texas, scolded his colleagues for questioning U.S. immigration laws and said members of Congress should be wary about prejudging the suspects. He questioned the need for the hearing.

"I hesitate to see people who are elected to public office sort of elbowing their way in front of the cameras, when this is a law enforcement investigation that ought to be allowed to go on," Washington said.

He said he was concerned that members of Congress might "give people the view that it's all right to go down to the mosque and burn it, to attack people because they have dark hair and a nose that makes them look perhaps like they're Arabs."

Schumer said he would introduce an anti-terrorism bill calling for the death penalty for terrorist acts that result in a loss of life and stiffened penalties for people convicted of participating in terrorism.

Law enforcers have described a Palestinian charged in the Feb. 26 bombing, Mohammed Salameh, as a Muslim fundamentalist who worshiped at a New Jersey mosque where a militant Islamic cleric, Omar Abdul-Rahman, preaches.

Nicotine inhaler newest method to stop smoking

CHICAGO (AP) — People hoping to stop smoking may have another weapon to add to the arsenal of nicotine patches, gum and other products now available: a plastic, cigarette-shaped nicotine inhaler.

Use of the inhalers significantly increased success rates among smokers trying to quit, according to a study financed by the Swedish company developing the device.

Critics and researchers alike agree the inhaler, like other such products, does only one thing: suppresses withdrawal symptoms.

"The evidence is that unless the drug is used as part of a comprehensive smoking cessation program, it doesn't work. There's no reason to think that the inhaler will be any different," said Dr. Sidney Wolfe of the Public Citizen Health Research Group in Washington.

Researchers led by Dr. Philip Tonnesen at Bispebjerg Hospital in Copenhagen, Denmark, and others reporting in Wednesday's edition of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* cited as advantages of the device:

— It seems to work with less outside reinforcement than other methods, allowing more doctors to prescribe it. "Our support in this study was relatively minimal, the type that every general practitioner could provide," Tonnesen said in a telephone interview.

— It lets the patient respond more immediately to nicotine cravings, allowing smokers to beat back cravings when they arise in high-stress situations. "It allows the patient to give himself a boost when he needs it," said Saul Shiffman, director of the Smoking Research Group at the University of Pittsburgh.

— And the cigarette-like tube, containing a plug of nicotine, simulates the tactile sensation of smoking more than other systems.

After a year, 15 percent of the inhaler users reported not smoking at all, compared to 5 percent in the placebo group, researchers said. The study found that 18.6 percent of the inhaler group reported either smoking no cigarettes or very few compared to previous consumption.

Committee will protect privacy of Packwood's accusers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Ethics Committee has given fresh assurances that its investigation of sexual harassment charges against Sen. Bob Packwood will not delve into the sexual history of his female accusers.

"The sole purpose of this proceeding is to allow the committee to determine whether Sen. Packwood may have engaged in improper conduct ... and it does not intend to allow the sexual history of those alleging misconduct to become the focus

of the inquiry," committee leaders wrote attorneys for Packwood's accusers.

The letter, obtained Tuesday, was dated last Friday and signed by committee Chairman Richard Bryan, D-Nev. and Vice Chairman Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. They said the policy in sexual harassment cases would not change "throughout and in all aspects of these proceedings."

The committee also said it would use non-public hearings if necessary to pro-

tect the privacy of the accusers.

Nearly two dozen women, several of them employees of the senator, have said the Oregon Republican made unwelcome sexual advances toward them — sometimes physically grabbing and kissing them against their will.

Packwood has said he behaved improperly toward the women and publicly apologized at a news conference, but has refused to discuss specific cases.

He would not discuss accusations by some of the women that the senator tried to smear their reputations to stop them from going public.

The committee's letter is important because its staff is ready to interview Packwood's accusers. Several of the women have been reluctant to cooperate unless they received new assurances that their own lives would not become the focus of the committee.



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