

December 2006

### **Press releases 2002–2006**

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This document contains the collected Ministry of Justice press releases from the period 1 January 2002–6 October 2006. These press releases have previously been published on [www.regeringen.se](http://www.regeringen.se) and were removed from the website on 6 October 2006 when a new Government took office.

The contact information in the press releases has largely been deleted since press secretaries and other staff have been replaced.

Links contained in the press releases have been deleted.

The press releases in the document have been sorted by date, starting with the most recent.

In total, there are 11 press releases from this period.

### **How to search the document**

You can search the press releases in the document using the Adobe Reader search function. The search function is generally marked with a binoculars icon on the tool bar. You can search using any word of your choice, but to simplify your search the press releases contain the following key words:

- Minister
- Ministry
- Subject

In 2002–2006 the following ministers, ministries and subjects were referred to on [www.regeringen.se](http://www.regeringen.se):

#### Ministers

Göran Persson, Ann-Christin Nykvist, Barbro Holmberg, Berit Andnor, Bosse Ringholm, Carin Jämtin, Hans Karlsson, Ibrahim Baylan, Jan Eliasson, Jens Orback, Leif Pagrotsky, Lena Hallengren, Lena Sommestad, Leni Björklund, Mona Sahlin, Morgan Johansson, Pär Nuder, Sven-Erik Österberg, Thomas Bodström, Thomas Östros, Ulrica Messing, Ylva Johansson, Laila Freivalds, Gunnar Lund, Lars-Erik Lövdén, Lars Engqvist, Marita Ulvskog, Anna Lindh, Margareta Winberg and Jan O Karlsson.

#### Ministries

The Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Education, Research and Culture, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs, the Ministry of Sustainable Development, the Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of the Environment and The Permanent Representation of Sweden to the European Union.

#### Subjects

Agriculture, forestry, fisheries  
 Asylum, migration, integration, minorities  
 Central, regional and local government  
 Communications, IT  
 Culture, the media, leisure activities  
 Defence, emergency management and safety  
 Democracy and human rights  
 Education and research  
 Employment and gender equality  
 Environment, energy and housing  
 EU  
 Foreign policy and international cooperation  
 Health care, health, social issues/insurance  
 Industry, trade, regional development  
 Legislation and justice  
 National economy and budget  
 Sustainable development

**PRESS RELEASE**

2006-07-03

Prime Minister's Office  
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries  
Ministry of Health and Social Affairs  
Permanent Representation of Sweden to the EU  
Ministry of Defence  
Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications  
Ministry for Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Finance  
Ministry of Sustainable Development  
Office for Administrative Affairs  
Ministry of Education, Research and Culture  
Ministry of Justice

## Improved usability and accessibility on [www.sweden.gov.se](http://www.sweden.gov.se)

In July 2006, some changes will be made to the design of the [www.regeringen.se](http://www.regeringen.se) and [www.sweden.gov.se](http://www.sweden.gov.se) websites. The new design is the result of a systematic effort to improve usability and accessibility. The changes are based on such things as user tests and validation of HTML and style sheets.

In connection with the launch in July, the text version of the website will be discontinued. Instead, the level of customisation on the entire website will be increased in accordance with WAI guidelines. Visitors to the website will be able to select their own preferences, such as choice of font or background colour.

Content on the websites is validated XHTML 1.0 Strict, and Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) 2.0. The website has a fluid design, which means that all proportions are relative to the text size used.

The changes being made will not affect the URL addresses; links to material on the websites will still work after the launch.

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Key word: 66638 Communications, IT

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**PRESS RELEASE**

2006-01-05

Ministry of Justice

## Minister for Justice Thomas Bodström to visit Viet Nam and Cambodia

Minister for Justice Thomas Bodström will visit Viet Nam on 7-11 January. During his visit to Hanoi, the Minister for Justice will have talks with his Vietnamese colleague on human rights, cooperation against corruption and other issues. The application of the adoption agreement will also be discussed.

In Hanoi Mr Bodström will also visit UNICEF, the police, the Bar Association, a legal assistance centre for women and the Viet Nam office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

On 11-14 January, Minister for Justice Thomas Bodström will visit Cambodia. The purpose of his visit is to discuss developments in Cambodia in areas such as public administration, crime-fighting and human rights. Efforts to stop trafficking in human beings and the plans for the forthcoming Khmer Rouge tribunal - to which Sweden is contributing - will also be discussed.

In Phnom Penh, Mr Bodström will have an audience with King Norodom Monineath Sihamoni and talks with the prime minister, the deputy prime minister and the minister of justice. He will also meet representatives of the Cambodian Bar Association, visit the UN High Commissioners office for Human Rights and a number of NGOs in the field of legal assistance and human rights.

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Key word: 55791 Foreign policy and international cooperation Legislation and justice Thomas Bodström

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

2005-08-25

Ministry of Justice Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# **International meeting on gender justice in post-conflict societies**

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## **TIME AND PLACE**

### **PRESS CONFERENCE**

Friday 26 August, 10.20 am

Hilton Hotel Slussen

Guldgränd 8, Stockholm

Please bring your press credentials.

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Women are often at risk during periods of conflict and war. This concerns not least the risk of sexual abuse, but also issues such as marginalisation from decision-making processes. The concept of gender justice covers, for example, violence against women and the deficiencies in or absence of civil law that takes women's rights into account.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC) are co-organising an international meeting on the theme "Building Partnerships for Promoting Gender Justice in Post-Conflict Societies".

The meeting will be held at the Hilton Hotel Slussen in Stockholm on Thursday 25 and Friday 26 August. State Secretary Annika Söder will be the moderator.

Minister for Gender Equality Jens Orback will be holding the opening address on the importance of highlighting gender justice in post-conflict situations. The closing address will be given by Baroness Amos, Leader of the British House of Lords.

On Friday 26 August at 10.20 am, the South African Justice Minister and equality and women's affairs ministers from Liberia, Haiti and Afghanistan will be holding a press conference at the Hilton Hotel Slussen.

The meeting will be attended by representatives from different parts of the world, donor countries, UN representatives and experts in the area. The purpose of the meeting is to follow up and implement the recommendations adopted at the Gender Justice Conference in September 2004. The meeting will focus on, for example, how the UN and other relevant actors could best support the reconstruction and reform of the rule of law in post-conflict countries and how gender aspects should subsequently be safeguarded.

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Key word: 48558 Employment and gender equality Democracy and human rights Foreign policy and international cooperation Jens Orback

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

2005-08-12

Ministry of Justice

# International prize in criminology

Swedish Justice Minister Thomas Bodström announces establishment of

international prize in criminology, at the World Congress on Criminology in Philadelphia.

The 14th World Congress on Criminology meets this week in Philadelphia. New scientific findings related to the fight against crime and its causes have been discussed.

At the closing ceremony on Thursday evening, Minister Thomas Bodström announced that an international group under Swedish leadership, will start awarding an annual prize in criminology in 2006, to individuals having made prominent achievements within criminological research or its application; the Stockholm Prize in Criminology. The prize amounts to at least one million Swedish kronor (SEK) annually.

- In order to get as high quality as possible in legislation, we need to develop criminological research. This prize will support that development. Even if it cannot be compared with the Nobel Prize, it is as close as it gets, says Justice Minister Bodström.

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Key word: 48161 Legislation and justice Thomas Bodström

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## PRESS RELEASE

2004-11-19

Ministry of Justice Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# International conference on combating patriarchal violence against women - focusing on violence in the name of honour, in Stockh

Minister for Foreign Affairs Laila Freivalds and Minister for Gender Equality Jens Orback are to host an international conference on combating patriarchal violence against women - focusing on violence in the name of honour. The conference, which is co-sponsored by the Left Party and the Green Party, will be held in Stockholm on 7-8 December.

The conference is expected to bring together about 200 international and national participants: ministers and governmental representatives from more than 30 countries, representatives of the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the European Commission, Swedish government agencies, and international and national organisations, as well as politicians, opinion-formers, representatives of religious communities and researchers.

The general aims of the conference are to emphasise the importance of womens rights for combating and preventing patriarchal violence against women, to exchange experience and to promote cross-border dialogue and joint working. The intention is also to take the outcomes

forward nationally and internationally and to strengthen the work being done in arenas such as the EU, the Council of Europe and the UN with regard to patriarchal violence against women, including violence in the name of honour. Read more about the conference at [www.manskligarattigheter.gov.se](http://www.manskligarattigheter.gov.se)

#### **MEDIA INFORMATION**

Special media accreditation is required to cover the conference. The accreditation form and information about media arrangements are available at the Government website on Human Rights.

Deadline for accreditation: 1 December

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Key word: 33962 Democracy and human rights Jens Orback

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#### **PRESS RELEASE**

2004-10-14

Ministry for Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Justice

## **Czech Minister of the Interior to visit Sweden on 14-15 October**

The Minister of the Interior of the Czech Republic, Frantisek Bublan, will visit Stockholm on 14-15 October to meet Minister for Justice, Thomas Bodström. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss issues relating to police cooperation and judicial cooperation in criminal matters.

Minister of the Interior, Frantisek Bublan, will also be meeting Minister for Migration and Asylum Policy, Barbro Holmberg, inter alia to discuss common interests between the two countries in the field of asylum and migration issues in the EU.

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Key word: 31852 Asylum, migration, integration, minorities Legislation and justice Foreign policy and international cooperation Barbro Holmberg

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

2004-09-20

Ministry of Justice

### **Major investments in the legal system**

The external threats to Sweden have been replaced by internal threats directed towards peoples security and affecting their everyday lives in the form of crime, misuse and social exclusion. The Government is therefore moving its work for security and justice forward and continuing vigorous measures throughout the legal system. An extra budgetary allocation is proposed for the legal system of SEK 50 million this year, SEK 750 million in 2005, SEK 1.5 billion in 2006 and just over SEK 2.7 billion in 2007.

Major sums have been committed to the legal system in recent years. Since 2000 a total of nearly SEK 3 billion has been injected and the commitment will now be further stepped up.

The Government will strengthen the police, prosecutors, courts and penal care. Four thousand new police officers will be trained. The aim is to solve more crimes and further develop the cooperation between the police and prosecution services. The Swedish Security Service will also receive more resources to pay for enhanced bodyguard protection and the fight against terrorism. Additional resources will be allocated to the Swedish Prison and Probation Service to boost its ability to reduce cases of reoffending. The increased funds will be used to create more places in institutional care, tighten security at correctional facilities and remand prisons and continue the special anti-drug action.

These commitments to the police will make people more secure and enable the police to solve more



crimes. We can see now that the objective of a police force of 17 000 officers will be reached within the next few months. This will be more police than we have had for 20 years, says Minister for Justice Thomas Bodström.

The Swedish Prison and Probation Service will be put in a better position to cope with the higher number of prisoners and the new demands on its activities. It will also be more individualised, says Mr Bodström.

Read more about the Budget Bill at [www.finans.regeringen.se](http://www.finans.regeringen.se).

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Key word: 29998 Legislation and justice Thomas Bodström

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## PRESS RELEASE

2004-06-14

Ministry of Justice Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Agreement between Sweden and Bosnia and Herzegovina on possibility of dual citizenship

Swedish citizenship legislation allows unrestricted dual citizenship, which means that a Swedish citizen can become a citizen of another country without losing Swedish citizenship.

Corresponding rules do not apply to citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina who become Swedish citizens, unless the countries have an agreement permitting this.

Negotiations on an agreement to this effect were concluded today in Stockholm. This means, among other things, that Bosnian citizens who acquire Swedish citizenship will not lose their old

citizenship in the process. The agreement will come into force as soon as the Government of Sweden and the Bosnian Parliament have given their formal approval.

Minister for Democracy and Integration Issues Mona Sahlin and Minister for Migration and Asylum Policy Barbro Holmberg welcome the agreement and say in a joint comment:

"This is a positive step for Bosnians who become Swedish citizens, it makes it easier for them to travel and strengthens ties with their country of origin."

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Key word: 27084 Foreign policy and international cooperation Asylum, migration, integration, minorities Mona Sahlin

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

2004-05-18

Ministry of Justice

# Sweden to begin police cooperation with Slovenia

Minister for Justice Thomas Bodström met Slovenias Minister of the Interior, Dr Rado Bohinc, in Stockholm on Tuesday 18 May. The main purpose of the meeting was to sign a police cooperation agreement between Sweden and Slovenia on cooperation in the fight against organised crime, drugs trafficking, terrorism and other serious crime. Other points discussed at their meeting include border controls and EU enlargement.

We can only overcome problems like human trafficking and drugs by acting together. This is why it is important that we are now entering into this agreement with Slovenia so soon after the country has joined the EU, says Minister for Justice Thomas Bodström.

Dr Bohinc is also meeting Minister for Migration and Asylum Policy Barbro Holmberg during his visit to Stockholm.

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Key word: 23522 Legislation and justice Thomas Bodström

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

2003-06-27

Ministry of Justice

# **Biljana Plavsic to serve sentence in Sweden**

The Government has decided that the sentence passed on the former President of the Serbian Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Biljana Plavsic, by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia may be executed in Sweden.

On 27 February 2003 Biljana Plavsic was sentenced by the Tribunal to 11 years# imprisonment for persecution, a crime against humanity. The Tribunal has asked Sweden if the sentence may be enforced here.

The Tribunal was established by the UN Security Council in 1993 to institute legal proceedings against persons responsible for serious breaches of international humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia. Since a very special type of crime is involved, the UN considers, inter alia in view of security, that sentences passed by the Tribunal should be executed outside the former Yugoslavia. One of the preconditions for the Tribunal to be able to fulfil its assignment is therefore that individual states undertake to enforce the prison sentences passed. Several other states are already executing the Tribunal#s sentences.

#Sweden has a strong interest in promoting the Tribunal#s administration of justice so that proceedings are instituted for crimes committed in the former Yugoslavia. Like several other states, therefore, Sweden has concluded an agreement with the Tribunal on enforcement of prison sentences,# Thomas Bodström says. #Sweden has not previously received a request from the Tribunal for transfer of enforcement of sentence. Now that we have received a request it is essential for Sweden#s part that we take our responsibility so that the Tribunal#s sentences can be enforced.# Enforcement in Sweden will comply with Swedish rules. However, enforcement in Sweden may be longer than normal since the Government may deviate from the rule that conditional release be granted after two thirds of the sentence has been served.

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Key word: 9638

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

2002-12-17

Ministry of Justice

Commission on the Security Services

# The report #National Security and Personal Integrity# presented to the Minister for Justice today

Today the Commission on the Security Services has submitted to Minister of Justice Thomas Bodström its report, National Security and Personal Integrity (Rikets säkerhet och den personliga integriteten, SOU 2002:87) including eight research reports attached as annexes (SOU 2002:88-95). The Commission's task has been to document and illuminate, exhaustively and definitively, the Swedish security services' constitutionally protective activities from the end of the Second World War up to and including the period when the Commission completed its work. In this context #constitutionally protective# denotes the security services' surveillance of those Swedish extremist political organisations and groups which were deemed to constitute, actually or potentially, a threat to national security.

Marshall of the Realm Gunnar Brodin has served as commission president. Other members have included former President of the Supreme Court Anders Knutsson, Secretary General of the Voluntary Organisations Fund for Human Rights Anita Klum, editor Ewonne Winblad, and professors Alf W. Johansson and Karl Molin. Chief District Court Judge Fredrik von Arnold has served as principal secretary.

The Commission has conducted comprehensive and systematic studies in the archives of the security services. Access has been granted to all the material requested. The Commission has also interviewed or called to testify nearly 400 individuals, chiefly officials within the security services but also leading politicians and persons active within the surveyed organisations. As a result the Commission can today present a detailed and in-depth picture of that which colloquially is referred to as #Surveillance Sweden#, its formation and scope.

The Commission has found that, in the 1950s and 1960s, the registration of communists and communist sympathisers was particularly widespread. By the end of the 1960s there were more than 100,000 such persons registered, at times on flimsy grounds. During the last 30 years, there have been at most 5,000 to 10,000 individuals listed in the central register or the working registers of the Security Police (SÄPO), arising from such persons' association with extremist organisations on the Left or Right.

The registration of political opinions in Sweden (åsiktsregistrering) was formally prohibited by the 1969 Proclamation on the Scrutiny of Personnel (personalkontrollkungörelsen), and since 1977 codified in the constitution. Despite the ban, this practice has continued.

This has been due to, among other factors, the fact that unclear instructions have been issued by the National Police Board and Swedish Government. Official guidelines were often written in a manner that could be interpreted in several ways. In this way it became possible to both satisfy political opinion and at the same time provide the Security Police the authority deemed necessary in light of

national security. In its working registers SÄPO has to a great extent recorded information in contravention with the ban on registering political opinions.

The Commission has found that there is even today a palpable risk that the ban on registering political opinions could be violated in connection with the surveillance of individuals active in extremist political organisations.

The Commission has sharply criticised the manner in which wire-tapping rules have come to be applied. In addition, this type of encroachment has often impacted individuals other than the object of suspicion and thus violated their personal integrity. In fact, telephones of political organisations have been tapped, an activity which endangers the very right to conduct legitimate political activities in Sweden. This concerned, during the 1950s and 1960s, the Swedish Communist Party (now the Left Party) and in the 1970s mainly the leftist parties KFML and KFML(r). In the years around 1970, wire-tapping was used against the anti-war FNL movement. When the telephones of newspaper offices were tapped, such activity imperilled the constitutionally guaranteed protection of informants (meddelarskyddet).

At present wire-tapping is used chiefly against nazi and anarchist organisations and is typically based on the suspicion of criminal conspiratorial association. The Commission finds that suspicion of this type of crime has been cited all too often as the basis for wire-taps.

In the view of the Commission, the way criminal courts have applied legislation has become decisive in the development wire-tapping practices. In many cases, the courts have permitted wire-taps to continue for a long period of time without an indictment or even stronger suspicions being raised. In this context, the Commission has noted cases where wire-tapping continued for nearly ten years. The courts, prosecutors and police have collectively contributed to the violation of individuals' integrity in a way which is at variance with the intentions of the legislation. Even the judicial oversight authorities, the Ombudsman (JO) and the Attorney-General (JK) have, through their failure to react, sanctioned the development of this legal practice. The responsible cabinet minister should have periodically been informed.

The Commission has found that wire-tapping was used to gather information about individuals who did not figure in the preliminary investigations giving rise to the wire-taps. This information has in thousands of cases been collected in ways which lack legal grounds. Such #surplus information# has on occasion constituted the greatest single source behind registration on Security Police lists. In several cases, such #surplus information# has been made available in connection with scrutiny of personnel (personalkontroll), for instance in the Leander affair. In this way, the very legal basis of the system for scrutiny of personnel has, in the opinion of the Commission, been undermined.

The Commission calls attention to the fact that SÄPO, on more than 30 occasions, has used bugging devices against extremist organisations in Sweden. This practice was particularly common in the beginning of the 1950s, and there are even strong indications that microphones, permanently installed in the HSB building in Stockholm, were used for the purpose of monitoring communist meetings held there. Among other noted cases of bugging include the FNL movement's office in Stockholm at the end of the 1960s and the 1969 congresses of KFML (Gothenburg) and the united FNL groups (Uppsala). After bugging was criminalized in the early 1970s, the Security Police has not, as far as can be determined, made use of this surveillance method for constitutionally protective activities.

With reference to the Military Security Service, the Commission has established that within the Defence Staff, particularly during the 1970s, there occurred illegal registration of political opinions. In the SÄPO archive the Commission has found a large number of reports from the IB and its predecessor Group B # special branch of the Defence Staff used for collection of intelligence # from the late 1950s to the end of the 1970s. Together with previously known information these documents have made it possible in large measure to reconstruct the domestic activities conducted by Group B/IB. The significance of these activities for the surveillance of security risks was found to be relatively limited.

On several occasions Group B gathered information by means of bugging communist meetings. A few buggings took place in Malmö at the beginning of the 1960s. It is likely that the electoral assembly of the Stockholm branch of the Swedish Communist Party was bugged in 1963, as well as two meetings of the Swedish Communist Party executive board in 1965.

The Commission has also scrutinized the IB's occasional use of infiltrators and found cause to

criticise the infiltration of groups which were not illegal, an activity which appears to be in violation of the freedom of association. The Commission has moreover expressed sharp criticism of IB#s contribution to, and in some cases initiation of, criminal activities on the part of infiltrators. In the social democrat archives, the Commission has uncovered reports drawn up by Group B which, among other aspects, concern domestic issues beginning with the early 1960s. The Commission findings strongly suggest that Defence Minister Sven Andersson, at the start of the 1970s, recommenced IB#s domestic activities which had been interrupted by government intervention in 1969. There is good reason to believe that Birger Elmér reported not only to the minister of defence but also to leading figures within the Social Democratic Party. The Commission has expressed apprehensions about the confusion of party and state interests which have ostensibly arisen in this case.

Regarding the controversial question of the origin of Group B within the Defence Staff Domestic Department, the Commission has however found that the impulse came from the Defence Staff under pressure from a threat perception heightened by several revelations of industrial espionage at the time. Another factor of importance in this regard were American demands for the protection of advanced military equipment being exported to Sweden. Evidence that social democracy was behind the initiative to establish Group B # and thus maintain a separate security service financed with public funds and subject to military security # has not been found. Neither has the Commission uncovered evidence that Group B originated in an agreement between the Swedish Armed Forces, the Employers# Confederation (SAF) and the Confederation of Trade Unions (LO).

The perceived threats which the security services worked against appear, in the view of the Commission, to be largely comprehensible in light of military threat perceptions at the time as well as the prevailing frame of mind. This does not mean that the perceived threats were always realistic. Both alarmism and backwardness are in evidence. Threat perceptions were often exaggerated and at times persisted well beyond the time span that was warranted.

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