

BRITAIN ON ALERT

Terrorism fight is our Cold War, says Brown

Security

By George Jones
Political Editor

TOUGH anti-terror measures, including detaining suspects without charge beyond 28 days and the use of phone-tap evidence in court, are being considered by Gordon Brown following the London and Glasgow attacks.

The Prime Minister yesterday compared the lengthy struggle against terrorism to the 40 years of the Cold War, saying it would involve a battle for the hearts and minds of young Muslims as well as new security measures.

The Conservatives promised to co-operate with Mr Brown and indicated that they may be willing to drop their opposition to the extension of the 28-day detention period, provided it was shown that the police need the extra time.

William Hague, the Tory foreign affairs spokesman, stressed that the Government

would have to provide "compelling" evidence that an extension to as much as 90 days was needed, and warned that MPs would not give Mr Brown a "blank cheque" to bring in tougher security powers.

Extended detention without charge is expected to be brought forward by Mr Brown in a terrorism Bill in the autumn to tighten security.

It was doubled to 28 days two years ago, but Tony Blair's attempt to push through 90 days in the face of strong opposition from the Tories, Liberal Democrats and many Labour MPs was defeated.

Mr Brown has already indicated his support for 90 days, but said yesterday that he would seek "consensus".

He has cited the need for the police and security services to trawl through computer records, emails and the use of multiple identities and addresses by terrorists as reasons why a longer detention period may be necessary.

Interviewed on BBC television's *Sunday AM* programme,



Police examine a vehicle outside a house in Ramilies Road, Liverpool, yesterday following the arrest of a person in connection with the terrorist attack in Glasgow

Mr Brown stressed that any new detention measures would include safeguards to protect civil liberties, including enhanced judicial and parliamentary oversight.

The terrorists were making a long term and sustained attack on Western values and it would have to be countered by not just military and security means, Mr Brown said. "It's also about hearts and

minds. In the long term we cannot separate the moderates from the extremists and the extremists prey on young lives both in this country and in other parts of the world, then we will see culturally a distancing of people with extreme views from the rest of the community.

"And that's why the cultural effort, almost similar to what happened during the Cold War

in the 1940s, 50s and 60s when we had to mount a propaganda effort to explain to people that our values represented the best of commitments to individual dignity, to liberty and to human life being taken seriously. And that's what we are going to have to talk about in the next few years."

Mr Brown said he wanted wide debate among MPs and the public before introducing

any new security powers. He confirmed that the Government was looking at allowing phone tap or other intercept evidence to be used in court, despite security and intelligence service concerns that it could alert criminals to the scope and extent of electronic surveillance.

Ministers were also reviewing the possibility of allowing the police to continue ques-

tioning terror suspects after they have been charged.

Mr Hague said that the Conservatives were ready to support the Government in their response to the current terrorist threat and he indicated the party may be ready to reconsider its position on 90-day detention.

There have already been confidential discussions between Mr Brown and David

"In the 1940s, 50s and 60s we had a propaganda effort to explain our values ... that's what we are going to have to talk about in the next few years"

Cameron, though these have largely concentrated on the immediate response to the latest attacks.

Asked about 90 days, Mr Hague told BBC1's *The Politics Show*: "If there is compelling new evidence, we will look at that again, of course ... but they can't just expect Parliament to sign a blank cheque on these things."

"To give Government the power to detain people for months without charge does require specific evidence that that is necessary."

Liberal Democrats said that Mr Brown's response to the terror incidents was in marked contrast to the approach of his predecessor Tony Blair.

Nick Clegg, the party's home affairs spokesman, told Sky News: "I detect a measured tone which I think is a good thing and certainly is a significant departure from the somewhat breathless way in which Tony Blair always used to rush to try to make, frankly, political points on the back of these events."

The crude bombs perfected in Baghdad have arrived on our streets



Con Coughlin
Analysis

THE failed bomb attacks on London and Glasgow highlight the extent of the challenge facing the intelligence and security services as they attempt to tackle the truly global threat of radical Islam.

The technology used for last week's London car bombs and the attempted suicide car bomb attack

on Glasgow airport is the same as that used on an almost daily basis in Iraq. Crude, but highly effective, bombs made of gas canisters and nails have become the calling card of radical Islamic groups throughout the world.

The gruesome technology perfected on the streets of Baghdad has been exported to countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan and Indonesia. Now it is in Britain.

After the July 7 attacks on London in 2005, MI5, the domestic security service, and MI6, the overseas intelligence service, were criticised for failing to prevent a group of fanatical Muslims launching a carefully orchestrated series of sui-

cide bomb attacks, which killed 52 and injured hundreds more.

MI5 came in for particular criticism after it was revealed that one of the bombers, Mohammed Sidique Khan, had been under surveillance a year before the attack, but the security service did not pursue him because it had more pressing matters.

Since then, a review has been undertaken to improve co-ordination between the intelligence and security services, and also with regional police authorities, to ensure no important leads slip through the net. For example, some of the London bombers are thought to have received instruction at al-

Qa'eda-affiliated training camps in Pakistan, but British intelligence was unaware of the link until after the attacks.

Improved co-ordination between intelligence-gathering agencies means that Britain now has a counter-terrorism operation with global reach, so that a lead picked up during a routine investigation of a radical Muslim group in Britain can be checked out, say, at a madrassa in Pakistan, and vice versa.

Even so, the challenge facing the security and intelligence apparatus is daunting, particularly when it comes to tracking potential terror threats. Despite the efforts of Pervez Musharraf, the president of

Pakistan, to clamp down on Islamic extremists, scores of young British Muslims are known to have received terrorist training at Taliban-controlled madrassas in Pakistan.

An estimated 60,000 youngsters travel from Britain to visit relatives in the country every year, and it is a monumental security challenge to identify the dozen or so who might be susceptible to radicalisation.

"It really is like looking for a needle in a haystack," a senior security official said.

Radical Muslims trained at terror camps in Iraq and Afghanistan are also thought to have made their way to Britain to carry out attacks. The abortive bombings of London

and Glasgow seem to indicate that Muslim extremists have been successful in importing the same bomb-making techniques which have previously been used as far apart as Baghdad and Bali.

Lord Stevens, the former Metropolitan Police commissioner who has been appointed Gordon Brown's terrorism adviser, said yesterday that the failed car bomb attack on London last Friday employed the same tactics that al-Qa'eda used in Baghdad.

"The intended trick of first exploding one device and, shortly afterwards, igniting another to catch the fleeing crowds was textbook al-Qa'eda," he said. The fact

that none of the attacks was successful, however, suggests that the intensive intelligence and security operation being mounted by MI6 and MI5 has at least made progress in denying terror groups access to more sophisticated weapons.

Osama bin Laden and other al-Qa'eda leaders make no secret of their desire to stage a repeat of September 11, or to use a "dirty" nuclear bomb or chemical weapons against key Western targets.

But increased security and intelligence operations mounted by Britain and its allies has meant that, for the moment at least, Islamic terrorists are reduced to making crude, home-made devices.

'It shocks me that people can plan mass murder'

Muslim view

THE attempted terrorist attacks against Britain have dominated Telegraph.co.uk's discussion pages in recent days.

One MyTelegraph blog by Shermeen, who writes as a Muslim woman, has aroused a particularly strong response.

Here are some edited extracts from her post:

■ "It never fails to shock me that there are people, just like you and I, who plan and implement indiscriminate mass murder. It is a source of heightened pain for me when some of these people happen to subscribe to the religion I follow, and even worse when they claim to do their evil deeds in the name of that religion. That is, the religion of Islam."

■ "People in the West today point the finger of blame to Islam, and I am deeply pained to admit that the manifest wicked militant ways that are adopted by some Muslims are part of the cause of this blame-game. Their militant ways kill and maim and as a result are noted by all, this gives rise to further confusion to those who are not familiar with the true teachings of Islam in the first place"

■ "I feel passionately about divorcing the militant destructive ways of some Muslims from the faith of Islam. War was waged by the Prophet of Islam in defence at a time when the faith was in literal fear of being obliterated. Now, the faith of Islam is not in any danger of obliteration, so no use of force may be carried out in its name. Certainly Islam does not allow individuals and groups to rise against governments."

■ "If one claims to follow Divine teachings, it is incumbent on one to, at the very least, try and practise the

fundamentals of peaceful patience, compassion and steadfastness."

■ "It is breathtaking to contemplate that Muslims reading the same Qur'an that I do would interpret some of its verses in the way that they must do to carry out their acts."

Responses to Shermeen's blog include:

■ "Thanks for this piece Shermeen, explaining the moderate view of the majority of Muslims. If people like you can have influence on the small minority that are causing the trouble, there is hope for the future."
Phil Slocombe

■ "Shermeen, you have been brave to share your thoughts with us here. There is much that non-Muslims do not understand about the Islamic religion, and much Muslims fail to understand about Western culture and ways."
Sigourd Shack

■ "There are some people who will use their religion as a cloak for their own evilness. They will twist the Qur'an to justify their own actions."
Christopher in California

■ "I think you've pinpointed one of the central points of the problem: 'Once the violence gets going it is difficult to stop and the bad elements of society get involved.' People who actually enjoy violence and mayhem can feel good about themselves, because they have been told they're defending something."
Boadicea

■ "Being Muslim is not a crime. Bombing innocent people is."
Midge

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Bringing it all together

Blair: we will face this threat for years to come

The future

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

INTERNATIONAL terrorism will remain a threat to British security for many years to come, Tony Blair, the former prime minister, predicted in an interview being broadcast tonight.

Speaking the day before his departure from office last Wednesday, Mr Blair said the threat from "significant groups of people" would be a key pre-occupation not only for his successor, Gordon Brown, but also the next prime minister and possibly the one after that.

In his last broadcast interview before he left office, Mr Blair insisted that large-scale surveillance of terror suspects was essential, and said some criticism from civil liberties campaigners was "completely absurd ... loopy-loo in its extremity".

Mr Blair's remarks come in Channel 4's *Last Days of Tony Blair*, to be broadcast at 8pm tonight, in which he will defend his legacy on the public services and Iraq, as well as discussing the role of religion in his political beliefs.

Within days of Mr Blair recording his interview, terror returned to Britain's streets. Asked about the extent of the threat, Mr Blair told the interviewer, Will Hutton: "This is what my successor and his successor will face and probably the successor after that too. We have significant groups of people who are here who are conspiring to commit acts of terrorism."

"And we've got to surveil all these people. You can't not surveil them, because - you bet your last pound - if we end up not surveilling a group that maybe we should have surveilled and they go and

carry out a terrorist attack, no one will be talking about civil liberties, they'll be clattering down on the police, the security services, the Government [asking] why didn't we act?"

Mr Blair dismissed as "grotesquely exaggerated" arguments that he had chipped away at Britain's traditional liberties by introducing measures such as memorandums of understanding to allow deportation of terror suspects to countries thought to use torture.

"The idea that that's an assault on hundreds of years of British civil liberties is completely absurd," he said. "Some of what is written on this is loopy-loo in its extremity."

On other issues, Mr Blair made clear that he expected Mr Brown to continue with his agenda of public service reform. And he said his legacy would be "a different approach to politics", combining individual aspiration and social compassion.

Justifying his pursuit of choice in health and education, he attacked the myth "that the people who aren't middle class don't want to get to be middle class". In comments which may shock some of Labour's traditional supporters, he said: "Everyone wants to be middle class. Of course they do."

Looking back at his time in office, Mr Blair accepted that his policies had been influenced by his strong Christian faith. "If you have religious conviction - and obviously I do - it's really a bit daft to say it has no influence on your politics, since it's obviously the foundation of your belief system," he said. "But it's probably better for others to analyse what the true impact has been."

He said he felt a "sense of responsibility" for what had happened in Iraq since the American-led invasion of 2003.

But he added: "If we hadn't intervened and Saddam was still there, would the Middle East be a more stable place? Answer: no."

YOUR VIEW

What can be done to make our country safer?
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