Inability to block external assistance leads to more VEO activity.

85

General Description of the Literature:

A number of authors in the policy and political science literature have argued that external assistance to VEOs leads to more VEO activity, including Byman (2005) and Shapiro and Seigel (2007). There have also been a number of empirical studies from a variety of methodological traditions, including comprehensive surveys (Byman et al 2001); statistical analyses (Lai 2007), and cases studies (Tekwani 2003). The empirical studies generally support the hypothesis that the inability to block external assistance leads to more VEO activity, although Rethemeyer and Asal (2008) find that state support does not, on average, increase the lethality of terror attacks.

Detailed Analyses

85: *Inability to block external assistance leads to more VEO activity.*

Summary of Relevant Empirical Evidence: In a comprehensive survey, Byman et al (2001) found that out of the 74 post-Cold War insurgencies surveyed, state support played a major role in initiating, sustaining, or otherwise assisting 44 of them. In a case study of terrorism in Sri Lanka, Tekwani (2003) found that support from Tamil Diaspora movements was critical to the operation of the Tamil Tigers. In a statistical analysis of terrorist attacks from 1968 to 1998, Lai (2007) found that state sponsorship of terrorism results in greater levels of international terrorism. In a statistical analysis of terrorist groups from 1998 to 2006, however, Rethemeyer and Asal (2008) found that terrorist groups that receive financial support from states are not, on average, more deadly than those that do not.

Empirical Support Score: 3

Applicability to Influencing VEOs: These studies were all performed on VEOs and are very applicable to government efforts to influence VEOs.

Applicability Score: Direct: At least some of the empirical results directly concern the context of influencing VEOs

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