The experience and enlightenment of Israel's anti-terrorism intelligence work

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Abstract. Israel is one of the countries that are more severely threatened by terrorist forces. During its long-term struggle with terrorist forces, Israel has gradually developed a series of effective anti-terrorism strategies. This article studies the Israeli anti-terrorism intelligence work system, expounds on the relevant characteristics of its anti-terrorism intelligence strategy, organizational structure, the application of intelligent technology, and the development of international anti-terrorism cooperation. On this basis, it summarizes the experience and enlightenments of Israel anti-terrorism intelligence work.

1 Introduction

Israel is a representative country in the international community that is severely threatened by terrorist activities. Since the founding of Israel, various forms of terrorist activities and violent attacks have emerged one after another. For example, in 1983, Hezbollah planned and implemented a suicide terrorist attack in Israel. This type of attack is easy to implement and low in cost[1], later it became a way that international terrorist organizations rushed to imitate when planning terrorist activities. Since the "9•11" incident in 2001, the threat of Islamic Terrorism to Israel has increased. Suicide bombings, kidnappings, assassinations, rocket attacks, and other forms of terrorist activities have caused tremendous damage to the lives of Israeli citizens and social stability. In its long-term anti-terrorism practice activities, the Israeli anti-terrorism department has gradually developed a series of effective anti-terrorism strategies. This article studies the Israeli anti-terrorism intelligence work system, expounds on the relevant characteristics of its anti-terrorism intelligence strategy, organizational structure, the application of intelligent technology, and the development of international anti-terrorism intelligence cooperation. Summarize the experience and enlightenments of Israel's anti-terrorism intelligence work to China's anti-terrorism work.

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2 Israel's anti-terrorism intelligence work system

2.1 Organizational structure and characteristics of anti-terrorism intelligence work system

Intelligence is the core of anti-terrorism[2]. Israel attaches great importance to anti-terrorism intelligence and has accumulated much experience in constructing a anti-terrorism intelligence system. Israel's anti-terrorism intelligence system is characterized by a clear division of labor, a sound personnel recruitment and management training mechanism, a strong anti-terrorist awareness of the people, and active anti-terrorism intelligence cooperation with neighboring countries and developed countries. According to statistics, the Israeli anti-terrorism intelligence agency receives more than 1 million intelligence clues from citizens every year[3]. With regard to international anti-terrorism intelligence cooperation, Israel has established anti-terrorism cooperation networks with the United States, Turkey, India and other countries, and has achieved remarkable results.

The Intelligence Heads Committee has set five key points in its anti-terrorism work: grasping the intentions or policies of other organizations against Israel, the interests of Jews and immigration issues, assessment of aid to Arab countries or organizations, and secret weapons transactions, and the collection of scientific and technological information. The Israeli anti-terrorist organization, with the Intelligence Department Heads Committee as the core, unified leadership, established five intelligence agencies, Mossad, Simbet, Aman, Unit 8200 and Unit 9900, which are respectively responsible for external, internal, military, signal, and image intelligence work. Cooperate with each other to promote the efficient operation of intelligence. Among them, Mossad is responsible for collecting foreign intelligence under the direct leadership of the Prime Minister, and is Israel's largest, most representative and most important intelligence agency[4]. Mossad collected information on suspicious terrorist activities around the world, and quickly launched underground hunts and assassinations to effectively ensure border security. ShinBet, also known as the Israeli Security Agency, is a central counterintelligence organization responsible for domestic security affairs. Its purpose is to maintain national security, combat domestic espionage activities, interrogate terrorist suspects, and protect important personnel and important venues. In addition, it is also responsible for providing information about terrorist targets to the Air Force to implement "targeted elimination" [5].

2.2 Application of anti-terrorism intelligence technology

In the big data age, modern information technology is particularly important. In order to actively respond to the new situation in the online anti-terrorist battlefield, Israel has established a "cyber brigade" that can monitor the cyber activities of terrorist suspects in real time and effectively provide early warning. In 2014, with the help of cyber-surveillance, Israeli officials successfully captured three terrorists who attempted to make suicide bombers at the Jerusalem Conference Center and the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv[6]. Furthermore, Israeli intelligence personnel use big data information mining technology to build a face recognition database from the collected terrorist images, and use the database to monitor terrorist activities. The Israeli Verint company provides the facial recognition service Face-Int, whose core is the face recognition database. The information contained in this database comes from the avatar information on websites such as Facebook and YouTube and mainly collects facial information. Use the publicity of Facebook and other websites, coupled with robot or crawler technology to visit websites, it collects up to 35,000 terrorist faces and related activity information[7]. Through the face recognition database, intelligence personnel focuses on monitoring the information in the database, combines

artificial intelligence and social network to analyze the time, goal, and means of terrorists' crimes and grasp all the dynamics of potential terrorist activities[8].

2.3 International cooperation on anti-terrorism intelligence

Israel has long suffered the threat of terrorism due to its own historical and geographical factors. In order to improve this predicament, it has decided to adopt the form of international cooperation to achieve the goal of jointly preventing and eliminating terrorism. Israel proactively carried out anti-terrorism cooperation activities with the United States. They signed a series of anti-terrorism agreements, such as the "Military Information Comprehensive Security Agreement" and "Signals Intelligence Cooperation Guide" [9]. The United States has abundant intelligence resources and advanced technology, and Israel has long-term anti-terrorism experience. The two countries have established an anti-terrorism intelligence sharing system, exchanged intelligence with each other, and held regular joint military intelligence meetings to form a win-win situation. In addition, Israel also cooperates with India on anti-terrorism. In 2000, the two countries established a joint anti-terrorism working group to analyze and share intelligence and make early warnings[10]. The two countries cooperate under the threat of terrorism, which has dramatically improved their national security and defense capabilities.

3 The experience and enlightenment of Israel's anti-terrorism intelligence work

In terms of overall anti-terrorism strategy, China and Israel have similarities; they oppose all forms of terrorism and do not compromise with any terrorist organization or personnel. However, compared with the long history of Israel's anti-terrorism intelligence work, China's anti-terrorism intelligence work was carried out at the beginning of 21 century[11]. Although China has accumulated experience today, the terrorism threats China faces have become increasingly complex and severe, and the anti-terrorism intelligence system still has many drawbacks. Most of the violent terrorist attacks in China are dominated by religious extremism, national separatism, cult terrorism, and cyber-terrorism. Israel has advanced experience in anti-terrorism intelligence work, which can be used as a reference for China.

3.1 Improving China's anti-terrorism intelligence organization system

China has initially established a anti-terrorism intelligence system that suits national conditions. However, there is still a big gap compared with Israel's coordinated anti-terrorism intelligence system. Chinese anti-terrorism intelligence organizations mainly include anti-terrorism work leading groups, public security agencies, national security agencies, and military agencies[12]. The anti-terrorism work leading group established in 2013 is the core of the anti-terrorism intelligence organization[13]. China issued the "People's Republic of China Anti-Terrorism Law" in 2016. The law reforms and optimizes anti-terrorism intelligence organizations. However, because the specific responsibilities of each department are not clarified, the problems of repeated construction of intelligence platforms and the waste of intelligence resources still exist. Therefore, the coordination between various departments within China's current anti-terrorism intelligence organization needs to be strengthened. Research also pointed out that Chinese anti-terrorism departments lack good cooperation and sharing mechanisms[14], weakening early warning functions. China should pay attention to the core and essence of Israel's anti-terrorism intelligence

system. Create a coordinated anti-terrorism early warning system with the national anti-terrorism leading group as the core and the public security department, the armed police force, and the security department as the foundation.This system should break the information barriers between different departments, share and integrate terrorism-related resources, clarify the division of responsibilities between intelligence agencies in order to improve the efficiency of collaborative early warning fully.

3.2 Focusing on the construction of anti-terrorism databases and the application of big data technology

President Xi Jinping pointed out that China must attach great importance to applying modern information technologies such as big data, cloud computing, intelligent engineering, and the Internet of Things, and continuously improve the level of public safety equipment [15]. In 2018, China established a national anti-terrorism intelligence center, but no special anti-terrorism intelligence database exists. Terrorism-related data are scattered in various regions, which is not conducive to improving early warning capabilities and making optimal decisions[16]. Advanced data processing technology is critical in the anti-terrorism work in the era of big data. During the Gaza War, Israel's national security agency "Simbet" [17] and Itsraeli army has collected a large amount of seemingly irrelevant digital information such as videos and pictures, and used big data technology to compare and analyze the data, successfully completed the "targeted elimination" of the enemy's senior leaders[18]. At present, Chinese anti-terrorism data collection and analysis mostly rely on human intelligence.It is necessary to establish an advanced network intelligence collection system based on big data and improve data processing ability as soon as possible. In the current Internet environment, Chinese intelligence agencies should also put efforts into developing data analysis tools and databases. It is necessary to construct a anti-terrorism database to collect detailed information on persons with major criminal records and those who have participated in riots because they are more likely to be lured into terrorist groups. By managing such databases, tracking and forecasting these special personnel's possible terrorist activities can be strengthened. Chinese intelligence agency should also integrate the platform of the National Anti-Terrorism Intelligence Center and local anti-terrorism intelligence platforms to establish an anti-terrorism intelligence aggregation mechanism and digital integrative intelligence analysis system.

3.3 Training a group of highly qualified intelligence analysts

The effectiveness of anti-terrorism intelligence work depends on the quality of intelligence analysis, which will affect the entire anti-terrorism operation. Mossad agents have to go through two years of basic action courses, field action courses. If the employee has literacy defects, they must be sent to universities for further education. Compared with Israel's strict talent selection standards, Chinese public security colleges still have a lot of room for improvement in designing the curriculum system for cultivating anti-terrorism intelligence talents. There are problems of incomplete curriculum system and few practical courses. China urgently needs to establish a standardized talent selection, education and training system, and cultivate a group of outstanding anti-terrorism intelligence analysis talents with firm beliefs, rich knowledge, and strong abilities.First of all, the personnel department of China's intelligence agencies must give priority to hiring college students, improve the education level of intelligence personnel, and set up standardized examinations to select talents with a certain degree of education. Secondly, China should emphasize the continuous training of intelligence analysts in foreign language ability, computer technology, physical fitness, etc. Finally, it emphasizes the maintenance of the ideology of

anti-terrorism intelligence personnel. For example, regularly carry out patriotism education, strengthen political beliefs, and always put national interests first.

3.4 Constructing anti-terrorism think tanks

Israeli private think tanks provide a steady stream of academic support for the country's anti-terrorism intelligence work[19]. Israel's National Security Institute and the Israel-Palestinian Innovation Area Initiative are both top think tanks globally. The intelligence products published by these two think tanks have always been the decision support providers of the Israeli intelligence service, and their funds are not from the government but mostly from various fund organizations and individual donations. In China, universities and academic institutions are the largest think tanks. Therefore, Chinese anti-terrorism agencies at all levels should make good use of universities and academic institutions' research capabilities, strengthening exchanges and sharing anti-terrorism research outputs with universities and academic institutions. The practical problems faced by the intelligence agencies are needed to report to universities and academic institutions on time to solve them together. Universities and academic institutions should play a vital role in anti-terrorism intelligence research and support the government decision-making to form anti-terrorism think tanks.

3.5 Opening up mass anti-terrorism intelligence channels

Intelligence collection is the center of anti-terrorism work and a prerequisite for effective anti-terrorism early warning. At present, Chinese anti-terrorism intelligence mainly comes from reports from the Ministry of Public Security or other departments [20]. Such a relatively single source channel is difficult to form a comprehensive, multi-level, and highly sensitive anti-terrorism intelligence network. Israel's government dedicates itself to anti-terrorism education and guides people to participate in the fight against terrorism. It carries out skills training, psychological education, and anti-terrorism drills every year, and cultivates people's anti-terrorism awareness and sense of responsibility through various media. As a result, the Israeli police and anti-terrorism intelligence agencies receive a large number of intelligence clues collected from the masses [21]. Civil intelligence sources have greatly saved manpower and material resources and improved work efficiency. Therefore, in the face of complex terrorism threats, China also needs to form a "national defense against terrorism" model. Anti-terrorism departments at all levels across the country must do a good job in mobilizing the masses and popularizing anti-terrorism knowledge. First, China should increase its investment in anti-terrorism and safety education for student groups, especially elementary and middle school students. Experts and scholars should be invited to schools for comprehensive anti-terrorism safety education. The second is to hold lectures or knowledge salons at the grassroots level, and adopt a reward mechanism to encourage the masses to provide valuable clues. Due to China's institutional advantages, it is expected to open up a wide range of people's anti-terrorism intelligence channels. Finally, China should also attach importance to anti-terrorism legislation, increase citizens' obligations to fight terrorism, and encourage more people to cooperate with anti-terrorism agencies.

3.6 Deepening international anti-terrorism intelligence cooperation and sharing

Israel's international cooperation on anti-terrorism intelligence with the United States and India has improved Israel's intelligence capabilities and obtained more intelligence sources.

Multilateral cooperation with other countries in anti-terrorism intelligence work will help China learn the advanced experience from other countries. China still needs to broaden international anti-terrorism cooperation, especially expanding cooperation with countries and regions along the "Belt and Road" and international organizations. The cooperation fields include intelligence sharing, intelligence technology exchanges, information networks alliance. Because of the low cost of cyber-terrorist activities, their influential global scope, and serious consequences, China must cooperate with all countries to combat cyber-terrorist forces. In the next step, China should give full play to the regional integration of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and other organizations to combat cyber terrorism to build an international community with a shared future for human security.

4 Concluding remarks

This paper analyzes Israel's anti-terrorism intelligence work in detail, including the features of the work system, organizational structure, technology application, and international cooperation. Israel's advanced anti-terrorism intelligence work experience is reviewed. We put forward countermeasures and suggestions based on the terrorism threat situation and existing problems of anti-terrorism intelligence work in China by referencing the Israel experience. The suggestions for internal intelligence organizations include improving the organizational system and intelligence technology and training intelligence personnel. The suggestions for external work include cooperating with think tanks, strengthening the public's efforts, popularizing anti-terrorism security education, expanding anti-terrorism intelligence channels, and deepening international anti-terrorism cooperation. China's anti-terrorism intelligence work still has a long way to go. It is necessary to continuously learn from the advanced experience of other countries and strive to develop more innovative and practical measures.

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