

to invoke the law against Aum Shinkrikyo. But on January 31, 1997, the Public Security Commission decided that it would not invoke the Anti-Subversive Activities Law, on the grounds that there was insufficient evidence that Aum was capable of carrying out continued or repeated attacks in the future.<sup>45</sup>

After that, younger members of Aum Shinrikyo began to revive the group, though not as a terrorist organization. In a January 18, 2000, press conference, an Aum representative admitted that Shōkō Asahara and Aum had been involved in criminal activities and offered apologies to the victims and their surviving family members. Aum also changed its name to Aleph and stated that Asahara was no longer recognized as their leader. Furthermore, they noted that those doctrines legitimizing murder and violence had been eliminated. Fumihiro Joyu, the group's second-highest official, who served a three-year jail term for perjury, extended his apologies to victims of Aum Shinrikyo's crimes: "I'd like to give a deep apology to the victims and bereaved, and say that I feel personally responsible as one who belonged to the same religious group."<sup>46</sup> Nonetheless, Japanese police and intelligence agencies continued to monitor Aleph's activities. Between 2000 and 2005, for example, the Public Security Intelligence Agency conducted on-site inspections at 185 Aleph facilities in 19 prefectures across Japan.<sup>47</sup>

## The Logic of Policing

A policing strategy was effective in ending Aum Shinrikyo as a terrorist organization. Japan's police and intelligence services responded

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<sup>45</sup> Christopher W. Hughes, "The Reaction of the Police and Security Authorities to Aum Shinrikyo," in Robert Kisala and Mark Mullins, eds., *Religion and Social Crisis in Japan: Understanding Japanese Society Through the Aum Affair*, Basingstoke, Hampshire, UK, and New York: Palgrave, 2001, p. 65.

<sup>46</sup> "Aum Admits Matsumoto May Be Linked to Crimes," *Daily Yomiuri*, January 19, 2000, p. 1; Calvin Sims, "Poison Gas Group in Japan Distances Itself from Guru," *New York Times*, January 19, 2000, p. A6.

<sup>47</sup> Public Security Intelligence Agency, *The Review and Prospects of Internal and External Situations*, Tokyo, 2006.