



Publicly available information and open sources intelligence

The Vesper view

Publicly available information

In any given country, a series of circumstances and risks affect the predicaments of individuals, organizations, government agencies and companies alike. Long lasting geopolitical conditions, domestic political stability, the local security situation, crime levels, the frequency of traffic accidents, the standard of infrastructure, health issues and geographical conditions are all concerns for governments and investors, aid organizations, travelers and individual citizens. From publicly available sources on the Internet, detailed information about these factors can be collected for almost every country in the world. Journalists, think-tanks and intelligence agencies are working incessantly to identify and evaluate such sources and to collect, process and relay information of this kind. Vesper Group is a player in this field.

Turning information into intelligence

Real grasp of a subject is achieved only through long-term and in-depth studies. We at Vesper Group aim to acquire such grasp and to inform our clients of our findings. We attempt to ascribe to events and incidents, trends and tendencies their proper proportions and to put them into an intelligible context. We explore and investigate empirical data, we ponder without prejudice the probability, causality and effects of actions and incidents. We endeavour to assess the abilities and intentions of actors, discover structures and to evaluate developments as they evolve. Having through many years searched the Internet, we have established a high number of sources which are screened for relevant information, thus enabling us to provide high quality reports to support the decision-making process of any given actor. Access to networks of yet other kinds of sources further increases this ability. In turning information into intelligence, Vesper Group connects the dots.

Probability - not prejudice

World affairs and natural processes are not a game of roulette. While the dice has no memory, humans, and to a certain peculiar extent nature itself, inherently have. Hence the notions of probability and risk. If occurrences were altogether random, this, indeed, would render meaningless any effort to calculate and assess the outcome of developments. Vesper Group is developing standards, norms and definitions for categories and levels of threats to guide us in our assessments and to enhance comparisons between different countries. In this, we aim for consistency and to avoid arbitrary judgments. The

countries of the world, however, are not static entities but run by humans and sometimes exposed to risks beyond our control. They do not easily fit into any theoretical framework, but must sometimes be judged by their own unique prerequisites: the enduring features of geopolitics, the changing scene of everyday political life, the seemingly random occurrence of traffic accidents, the incidence of diseases and the probability of a number of natural phenomena.

An assessment, by definition, does not suggest any *conclusive evidence* on singular matters based on the strict laws of mathematics, but rather aims to indicate the *plausible outcome* of events, applying reasoning based on probability. Hence, what it all comes down to is the discretion and experience, grasp and background knowledge of the analyst or group of analysts assessing the issue at hand.

By retrieving valid information from reliable sources right from the start of an investigation, we at Vesper Group consistently reach a high level of insight, understanding and credibility in our assessments and are able to provide sound and unprejudiced advice to our clients.

A basis for well informed strategic decision making

Vesper Group has recently provided brief reports to clients regarding China, Russia, India, Pakistan, Mexico, Colombia and a host of other countries. The reports have ranged from geopolitics to the security situation in regions and provinces and on local city level. Over the coming months, Vesper Group will make strategic assessments of developments in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq and Sudan.

Having consulted with Vesper Group means you can inform your board of directors, your owners or your members that risks have been scrutinized and measures taken to make your investments, deployments or journey as safe as is humanly possible.