



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

SEP 3 2008

Case No.: 200605232 ER1

Mr. Matthew Schroeder  
Manager, Arms Sales Monitoring Project  
Federation of American Scientists  
1717 K Street, NW, #209  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Schroeder:

In response to your request dated September 26, 2006 under the Freedom of Information Act (Title 5 USC Section 552), we have initiated searches of the following Department of State record systems: the Central Foreign Policy Records (the principal record system of the Department of State), the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, and the Office of the Executive Secretariat.

The search of the Central Foreign Policy Records has been completed, and has resulted in the retrieval of one document responsive to your request. We reviewed this document and determined that it may be released in full. The released material is enclosed.

In addition, the searches of the records of the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs and the records of the Office of the Executive Secretariat have been completed, resulting in the retrieval of no documents responsive to your request.

We have now completed the processing of your case. If you have any questions, you may write to the Office of Information Programs and Services, SA-2, Department of State, Washington, DC 20522-8100, or telephone us at (202) 261-8484. Please be sure to refer to the case number shown above in all correspondence about this case.

The Freedom of Information Act provides for the recovery of the direct cost of duplicating records requested for non-commercial use by a representative of the news media. However, no fee is charged for the first one hundred pages of duplication. Since fewer than one hundred pages have been duplicated in this case, your request has been processed without charge to you.

We have now completed the processing of your case. If you have any questions, you may write to the Office of Information Programs and Services, SA-2, Department of State, Washington, DC 20522-8100, or telephone us at (202) 261-8484. Please be sure to refer to the case number shown above in all correspondence about this case.

We hope that the Department has been of service to you in this matter.

Sincerely,



Margaret P. Grafeld, Director  
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures:  
As stated.

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RELEASED IN FULL

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INFORM CONSULS-PASS PAOS-MILITARY ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: OPRC, XF, IS  
SUBJECT: NEA PRESS GUIDANCE - 6/11/98

THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE IS PROVIDED FOR POST'S INFORMATION:

STATEMENT BY DEPARTMENT OF STATE SPOKESMAN, JAMES P. RUBIN  
TERRORISM: SHAYKH YASSIN  
TERRORISM: ABC INTERVIEW WITH OSAMA BIN LADIN (S/CT)  
TERRORISM: NSC GUIDANCE ON ABC INTERVIEW WITH OSAMA BIN  
LADIN (NSC)  
LIBYA: REPORTED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON GADHAFI

STATEMENT BY DEPARTMENT OF STATE SPOKESMAN, JAMES P. RUBIN  
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THE MONITORING GROUP MET JUNE 10, 1998 AT THE UNIFIL  
HEADQUARTERS COMPOUND IN NAQURA, LEBANON TO CONSIDER TWO  
COMPLAINTS OF VIOLATION OF THE APRIL 26, 1996

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UNDERSTANDING, ONE FILED BY ISRAEL AND ONE FILED BY  
LEBANON.

THE MONITORING GROUP ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ON 6 JUNE 1998  
SEVERAL MORTAR ROUNDS WERE LAUNCHED BY A LEBANESE ARMED  
GROUP FROM THE AREA OF NABATIEH EL-TACHTA. THE ISRAELI  
DELEGATE STATED THAT BASED ON THEIR EVIDENCE WHICH WAS  
PRESENTED TO THE GROUP, THE SOURCE OF FIRE WAS TWENTY  
METERS FROM HOUSES IN NABATIEH EL-TACHTA AND THAT ISRAELI

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RETURN-FIRE WAS DELIBERATELY DIRECTED AT BARRACKS IN THE AREA RATHER THAN AT THE ACTUAL SOURCE OF FIRE BECAUSE THE LATTER WAS TOO CLOSE TO A CIVILIAN POPULATED AREA. THE LEBANESE DELEGATE STATED THAT THE ISRAELI VIOLATION REPORT WAS WITHOUT FOUNDATION BECAUSE THE MORTAR ROUNDS WERE LAUNCHED FROM ABANDONED MILITARY BARRACKS AT A SAFE DISTANCE FROM ANY POPULATED AREAS AND WERE THUS CONSISTENT WITH THE UNDERSTANDING.

WITH RESPECT TO THE LEBANESE VIOLATION REPORT CONCERNING KFAR-TIBNIT, THE MONITORING GROUP ACKNOWLEDGED THAT A SHELL DAMAGED THE ROOF OF AN UNINHABITED HOUSE. THE LEBANESE DELEGATE STATED THAT THE SHELL IN QUESTION WAS FIRED BY ISRAELI FORCES AND THOSE COOPERATING WITH THEM ON 6 JUNE AND LANDED IN THE GARDEN OF AN ADJACENT, INHABITED HOUSE. THE ISRAELI DELEGATE STATED THAT HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY TANK FIRE AT THE TIME AND PLACE INDICATED BY THE LEBANESE SIDE.

THE MONITORING GROUP WELCOMED BOTH SIDES' REAFFIRMATION OF THEIR COMMITMENT TO ABIDE BY THE UNDERSTANDING, WHICH EXPRESSLY PROHIBITS ATTACKS ON OR FROM CIVILIAN POPULATED

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AREAS. THE GROUP ALSO WELCOMED THE STATEMENTS BY THE LEBANESE AND ISRAELI DELEGATES INDICATING THEIR DESIRE TO ENSURE THAT COMPLAINTS OF VIOLATION ARE SUBSTANTIVE AND REASONABLE, WITH A VIEW TO STRENGTHENING THE FUNCTIONING OF THE GROUP AND ITS DELIBERATIONS. FINALLY, THE MONITORING GROUP STRESSED THE NECESSITY OF MAINTAINING HIGH STANDARDS IN THE PRESENTATION AND EVALUATION OF SUPPORTING EVIDENCE.

THE MONITORING GROUP EXPRESSED ITS GREAT APPRECIATION TO UNIFIL FOR PROVIDING FACILITIES AND SUPPORT FOR THE MEETING.

TERRORISM: SHAYKH YASSIN  
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Q. IS SHAYKH YASSIN A TERRORIST - WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE

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RECEPTION HE REPORTEDLY RECEIVED ON HIS RECENT TOUR OF THE GULF?

A. HAMAS IS A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION. YASSIN IS A SENIOR LEADER OF HAMAS. HAMAS IS AN ORGANIZATION THAT OPPOSES THE ARAB-ISRAELI PEACE PROCESS AND HAS CARRIED OUT TERRORIST ATTACKS WHICH HAVE KILLED AND MAIMED ISRAELIS, AS WELL AS AMERICAN CITIZENS.

-- AT A TIME WHEN THE US IS MAKING SUPREME EFFORTS TO REACH AGREEMENT ON MOVING THE PEACE PROCESS FORWARD, NOBODY WHO SUPPORTS THIS PROCESS SHOULD RECEIVE OR SUPPORT YASSIN.

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-- WE ARE VERY MUCH AWARE OF THE HIGH LEVEL RECEPTIONS OF YASSIN BY SOME ARAB STATES AND IRAN ON HIS RECENT TOUR, INCLUDING REPORTED PROMISES OF FUNDING.

-- THOSE WHO SUPPORT PEACE OUGHT TO DO SO BY BACKING THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY, WHICH IS COMMITTED TO A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO ITS DISPUTE WITH ISRAEL.

-- SEVERAL REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS HAVE MADE THIS POINT RECENTLY BY RECEIVING CHAIRMAN ARAFAT.

Q. WHAT ABOUT THE ISRAELI DECISION TO LET YASSIN BACK INTO GAZA?

A. THIS IS A DECISION FOR ISRAEL TO MAKE.

TERRORISM: ABC INTERVIEW WITH OSAMA BIN LADIN (S/CT)  
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Q. ANY COMMENT ON OSAMA BIN LADIN'S LATEST THREATS TO AMERICANS MADE DURING HIS INTERVIEW WITH ABC?

A. WE STRONGLY CONDEMN OSAMA BIN LADIN'S LATEST EXHORTATION TO VIOLENCE.

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-- BIN LADIN HAS PREVIOUSLY ISSUED THREATS AGAINST AMERICANS, ISRAELIS, AND THE SAUDI ROYAL FAMILY. WE FIND IT PARTICULARLY REPUGNANT THAT, DURING LAST NIGHT'S UNCLASSIFIED

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INTERVIEW, BIN LADIN DID NOT DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN "THOSE DRESSED IN MILITARY UNIFORMS AND CIVILIANS," SAYING, "THEY ARE ALL TARGETS IN THIS FATWA."

-- THERE IS NO BASIS IN ISLAM OR ANY OTHER RELIGION FOR INVITING SUCH ATTACKS. INDEED, BIN LADIN ADMITTED AS MUCH WHEN HE SAID, "OUR RELIGION FORBIDS US TO KILL INNOCENTS -- CHILDREN, WOMEN WHO ARE NOT COMBATANTS."

-- WHILE WE TAKE ALL SUCH THREATS SERIOUSLY, WE HAVE NO SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT AN IMMINENT TERRORIST ATTACK BY THE "INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC FRONT FOR THE JIHAD AGAINST JEWS AND CRUSADERS," A NEW GROUP THAT BIN LADIN HELPED TO FORM TO CARRY OUT A CAMPAIGN OF TERRORISM.

NSC GUIDANCE ON ABC INTERVIEW WITH OSAMA BIN LADIN (NSC)  
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Q. LAST NIGHT ON ABC, TERRORIST FINANCIER OSAMA BIN LADIN THREATENED TO SEND AMERICANS HOME FROM SAUDI ARABIA IN COFFINS. HE THREATENED AN ATTACK WITHIN WEEKS. HE SPECIFICALLY SPOKE OF USING ANTI-AIRCRAFT MISSILES TO DOWN U.S. MILITARY AIRPLANES. IS THIS THREAT CREDIBLE AND WHAT IS THE UNITED STATES DOING TO COUNTER IT?

A. WE TAKE THE THREAT POSED BY OSAMA BIN LADIN VERY SERIOUSLY. HE HAS, BY HIS OWN ADMISSION, BEEN INVOLVED IN BRUTAL ACTS OF TERRORISM. THE UNITED STATES IS TAKING ALL APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO DETER AGAINST THIS THREAT AND TO

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PROTECT AMERICANS FROM ANY TERRORIST ACTS.

-- ONE THING SHOULD BE CLEAR TO ANYONE WHO COMMITS AN ACT OF TERRORISM AGAINST AMERICANS. THE UNITED STATES WILL ACT SWIFTLY. WE WILL ACT DECISIVELY. AND WE WILL SPARE NO EFFORT TO SEE THAT ANYONE WHO HARMS AMERICANS PAYS THE FULL PRICE THAT JUSTICE DEMANDS. THERE SHOULD BE NO DOUBT ABOUT OUR RESOLVE.

Q. CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT OSAMA HAS SURFACE TO AIR MISSILES IN HIS POSSESSION?

A. WE CANNOT CONFIRM AND WE WILL NOT COMMENT ON INTELLIGENCE MATTERS.

Q. OSAMA MENTIONED THAT THE SAUDIS CAPTURED MATERIEL, PRESUMABLY OSAMA'S RECENTLY. CAN YOU TELL US ANYTHING ABOUT THAT? WAS THE UNITED STATES INVOLVED?

A. THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT, LIKE MOST GOVERNMENTS IN THE REGION AND AROUND THE WORLD, IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE THREAT POSED BY OSAMA BIN LADIN. HOWEVER, WE CANNOT COMMENT ON SPECIFIC ACTIONS THEY HAVE TAKEN. YOU SHOULD DIRECT THOSE QUESTIONS TO THE SAUDIS. THE U.S. HAS CERTAINLY BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE SAUDIS ABOUT BIN LADIN. BUT WE HAVE NO COMMENT ON ANY INTELLIGENCE COOPERATION.

Q. CAN YOU SPECIFY WHAT ACTIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO PROTECT  
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AMERICANS IN THE REGION?

A. OUR FORCES CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN HIGH SECURITY AND OTHER POTENTIAL TARGETS HAVE BEEN URGED TO TAKE APPROPRIATE

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SECURITY MEASURES -- AS THEY ALWAYS ARE. BEYOND THAT, I  
WON'T GO INTO SPECIFICS.

LIBYA: REPORTED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON GADHAFI  
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Q. WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE REPORTED ASSASSINATION  
ATTEMPT ON GADHAFI -- DID THE U.S. HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH  
IT?

A. WE HAVE ONLY JUST SEEN THE PRESS REPORTS OF THIS  
INCIDENT. WE HAVE NO FURTHER INFORMATION.  
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