



**Judicial
Watch®**

*Because no one
is above the law!*

September 2013

Document Analysis:

Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) Intelligence Information Report (IIR), dated September 27, 2001, concerning: **“LETTERS DETAILING USAMA BIN LADEN AND TERRORIST’S PLANS TO HIJACK AN AIRCRAFT FLYING OUT OF FRANKFURT, GERMANY IN 2000.”**

The referenced document is attached. Judicial Watch obtained the report on August 29, 2013 in response to a May 16, 2002 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, filed as part of our ongoing Terrorism Research and Analysis Project.

By: Christopher J. Farrell, Director of Investigations & Research, Judicial Watch

Executive Summary:

- Al Qaeda (AQ) planned to hijack a commercial airliner departing Frankfurt International Airport between March and August 2000. The hijack team was to consist of an Arab, a Pakistani and a Chechen. Chechen withdrawal from the plot delayed the operation. Sheik Dzabir, a 40-year old Saudi from a prominent family with ties to the House of Saud, directed the operation. Advanced warning of the plot **“was disregarded because nobody believed that Usama bin Laden’s organization or the Taliban could carry out such an operation.”** [Emphasis added]
- AQ penetrated the consular section of the German Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan and was relying on a “Mrs. Wagner” to provide European Union (EU) visas for use in forged Pakistani passports for terrorists.
- AQ, the Taliban and Chechen Islamist militants all had substantial operating and support bases in Hamburg and Frankfurt, Germany.

Judicial Watch Document Analysis
IIR: Frankfurt Hijacking Plot by bin Laden in 2000
September 2013
Page 2 of 11

Name, address and telephone numbers identify an AQ passport forger in Hamburg. The Taliban Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs conducted meetings in Frankfurt for Taliban and other Afghan terrorists and support personnel during January and February 2000.

- The existence of a secure, reliable terrorist-sponsored, route to Chechnya from Pakistan and Afghanistan through Iran, Turkey and Azerbaijan.
- Documented operational coordination and cooperation between AQ and Chechen militants.

Analysis:

An IIR contains raw information of possible intelligence value. It is not final, evaluated intelligence. Nonetheless, both the content and context of the reported information can be extremely valuable, especially after the 9/11 terrorist attacks and the subsequent decade of war against AQ.

The subject report was classified SECRET – Not Releasable to Foreign Nationals (NOFORN). It was declassified and released to Judicial Watch (JW) on August 22, 2013, in response to a FOIA request filed by JW on May 16, 2002, for information on AQ activity and US investigations leading to the 9/11 hijackings. The date of information contained in the report is from the year 2000.

The IIR contains information from eight (8) letters detailing plans for terrorists involved in an international plot to hijack a commercial passenger aircraft from Frankfurt, Germany. The report is extraordinary because it contains names, addresses, meeting locations, and telephone numbers of persons involved in the plot.

On September 26, 2001, an unidentified human intelligence source provided US Intelligence with copies of letters, written in Arabic, and sent by a “friend” of the source, “describing a terrorist operation to hijack an aircraft flying out of Frankfurt Germany.”¹ The IIR states: “The information was allegedly passed to Western

¹ Background: News media reporting identified a source for French intelligence reporting on this matter was Abdul Rashid Dostum. “[Alain] Chouet [former chief of France’s main foreign intelligence

Judicial Watch Document Analysis
IIR: Frankfurt Hijacking Plot by bin Laden in 2000
September 2013
Page 3 of 11

officials (NFI) [No Further Information] previously, but **was disregarded because nobody believed that Usama bin Laden's organization or the Taliban could carry out such an operation.**" [Emphasis added].²

The source reported that the hijacking plot never came to fruition because Chechens involved in the planned operation withdrew once "the European Union denounced Russia's actions in Chechnya."³ The withdrawal of the Chechens disrupted the plot, causing a dilemma for the planners.⁴

The subject IIR is a rough synopsis of what the source verbally translated from Arabic to Russian from the text of the letters. The actual letters were conveyed with the report. The reporting officer advises that the accuracy of the verbal translations cannot be confirmed.⁵ Seven (7) of the eight (8) letters were posted from Kabul, Afghanistan, one (1) was sent from Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan. The source stated that he intentionally removed his own name from the content of the letters. There are no further identifying details concerning the author.

agency, the DGSE] said Abdul Rashid Dostum, an Afghan warlord from the Uzbek community who was fighting the Taliban, had sent his men to infiltrate al-Qaida camps. Their information was passed to Western intelligence officials. Today, Dostum is chief of staff of the Afghan army." See: Doland, Angela, and Katherine Shrader. "France Warned CIA of Hijack Plot in 2001." *Associated Press*, April 16, 2007. (<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/huff-wires/20070416/france-911>).

² Background: Additional reporting – see: "Officials: French told CIA of hijacking plot in '01." *USA Today*, sec. World, April 16, 2007. (http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/world/2007-04-16-france-sept11_N.htm).

³ Background: The Russians and Chechens fought two wars, from 1994 to 1996, and from 1999 to 2009. "The 47-nation Council of Europe was the only international body to punish Moscow over the 1999-2000 war in Chechnya, suspending the Russian delegation's right to vote, although it was restored in 2001 to promote dialogue." See: Irish, John. "European body denounces Chechnya." *World Finance*, 06 22, 2010. (<http://www.worldfinance.com/home/news/european-body-denounces-chechnya>), and, (<http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=/Documents/AdoptedText/ta00/ERES1221.htm>).

⁴ Background: Chechen hijacker participation in the plot, and their subsequent withdrawal complicated planning. "The hijack was meant to happen between March and September 2000 but the planners put it back "because of differences of opinion, particularly over the date, objective and participants," said *Le Monde*, quoting from the report." See: "French 'knew in 2001 al Qaeda was planning hijack'." *Reuters*, April 16, 2007. (<http://www.reuters.com/article/2007/04/16/us-france-usa-qaeda-idUSL1612543820070416>).

⁵ The verbal translation (from Arabic to Russian to English) is subject to minor homonymic errors. We identify examples of immaterial translation errors in street names and proper nouns, as detailed later in this analysis.

Judicial Watch Document Analysis
IIR: Frankfurt Hijacking Plot by bin Laden in 2000
September 2013
Page 4 of 11

The eight (8) letters are from: March 1, 2000; March 15, 2000; March 25, 2000; April 4, 2000; April 15, 2000; April 28, 2000; May 20, 2000; and, one undated letter, probably from sometime in late April to early May 2000.

The IIR details:

- Increased terrorist operational activity by Arabs, Chechens and Taliban members in Hamburg and Frankfurt, Germany.
- A January 2000, two-day hijack planning meeting between bin Laden and Taliban officials in Kabul, Afghanistan.
- Targeting of aircraft: US airliners, Lufthansa, Air France.
- Hijackers team's symbolic composition: 1 Arab, 1 Pakistani, and 1 Chechen. The AQ hijackers represented all of "the faithful," and that they could operate and strike with impunity from the heart of Christian Europe.
- Use of Pakistani passports with EU visas.
- Goal: Hijack a plane from Germany to the US or Asia.
- Pistols smuggled from Central Asia to the secure Transit Area of Frankfurt International Airport for use.⁶
- *Modus operandi* for seizing the aircraft: "Two of the hijackers would be issued business class tickets for the intended flight. Approximately one hour after the flight took off, the hijackers were to commandeer the plane and instruct the pilot to fly to Iran. Once the plane landed in

⁶ Background: 9/11 ringleader Mohammad Atta appears to have had an earlier hijacking assignment from his operating base in Germany. "Seven months before he hijacked a U.S. jetliner and flew it into the World Trade Center, Mohamed Atta and two associates tried to get jobs with Lufthansa Airlines that would have granted them access to secure areas of the busy international airport in Frankfurt, Germany, according to a new book." [citing: Juergen Roth, *Netzwerke des Terrors*, (Hamburg: Europa Verlag, 2001), 224.] See: Moore, Elizabeth. "'Book: Atta Applied at Airline'." *Newsday*, January 24, 2002. (http://www.greenspun.com/bboard/q-and-a-fetch-msg.tcl?msg_id=007nzG).

Judicial Watch Document Analysis
IIR: Frankfurt Hijacking Plot by bin Laden in 2000
September 2013
Page 5 of 11

Iran, the hijackers were to demand money and the release of terrorists who were being held in prison in the US.”

- Destination of hijackers (Iran, Tajikistan or Afghanistan): “If the airport in Meshad, Iran refused to allow the aircraft to land, then the plane was to proceed to Kandahar, Afghanistan. If the aircraft that was selected for hijacking was not a Frankfurt to US flight, then a Lufthansa or Air France flight flying to Turkey, Kazakhstan or Uzbekistan was to be hijacked. For this particular flight, after five hours in the air, the hijackers were to commandeer the flight and direct the pilot to land the aircraft in Dushanbe. If Tajikistan denied landing permission then the flight was to be directed to Kabul.”
- Hijacker demands: US aircraft – money and the release of terrorists held in US prisons – or – European aircraft – EU denounce Russian actions in Chechnya and money.
- Hijack timing: sometime within six months, beginning March 1, 2000.
- Pakistani passports were to be prepared for the hijackers by: “Mulana Hatak ((Akhun)), a 35 year old Pakistani citizen belonging to the Dzhajati Hulama Islam Party of Pakistan, from the group of Moulawi ((Samilouk)), was given was given instructions to prepare the Pakistani passports for the hijackers. Mulana Hatak Akhun was previously a student at the Daral Ulum Akania or perhaps the University of Agura Hatak in Pakistan.”⁷
- Additional false passport information: “Ayatula ((Nurzai)) who resides in Hamburg, Germany at *138 Grosse Main Strasse*, phone number 40-78-90-494, fax 40-715-2322, cell phone number 017-148-02269, was also given the mission of preparing false passports. Nurzai works very closely with the Taliban and had spent November – December 1999 in Kandahar, Afghanistan traveling there from

⁷ IIR writing protocol dictates that the first time the proper name of a person is introduced in reporting, the last (or family) name is clearly identified and offset by a double set of parentheses.

Judicial Watch Document Analysis
IIR: Frankfurt Hijacking Plot by bin Laden in 2000
September 2013
Page 6 of 11

Germany through Pakistan.”⁸

- Role of Taliban deputy foreign minister: “Abdul Rakhman ((Zahet)) the Taliban Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, was in Frankfurt, Germany at the end of January and the start of February 2000. During his stay he gathered together members of the Taliban and other Afghans for a meeting which took place at *Elbruner Strasse 18*, on the third floor.”⁹
- Three false Pakistani passports were prepared by Akhund with the assistance of the Al Fredi Travel Agency of the Bort region of Peshawar. The passports indicate that the bearers reside in the free border area of Pakistan/Afghanistan.
- Subversion within the German Embassy in Islamabad: “In the city of Islamabad, a local Pakistani who was working in the German Embassy there had good contact with a Mrs. ((Wagner00 [])), a German Embassy employee working in the consular section, and she had promised to get this Pakistani citizen visas for passports. A phone number was given as 051-212-412.”¹⁰
- Financial officer identified, including travel: “In January – February 2000, Akhamad ((Shah)) visited Frankfurt. He is responsible for

⁸ It is extraordinary that a street address and phone numbers were released. That being said – there is no such street address as “138 Grosse Main Strasse” in Hamburg. There are a handful of Hamburg streets with “Grosse” (transl.: “Great”/“Large”/“Major”) in the name, and a few of those have house or apartment street numbers running to 138. All such streets in Hamburg are in the following districts of the city: *Altona-Altstadt*; *Hamburg-Altstadt*; and, *St. Pauli*. Each district has a high immigrant population.

⁹ There is no such address as “*Elbruner Strasse 18*” in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. Our analysis indicates that the actual address is probably “*Heilbronner Strasse 18*” in the *Gutleutviertel* district of Frankfurt, immediately south of the *Hauptbahnhof* (main railway station). Historically, the area was a refuge for lepers, then – an industrial area associated with rail operations for the train station, and now – an area undergoing urban renewal and gentrification.

¹⁰ The reporting suggests a successful penetration and subversion of the German Embassy consular staff in Islamabad to materially assist with travel for terrorists. “Mrs. Wagner” is not further identified, however one must believe her contacts and activities were the subject of a “liaison” meeting between US Intelligence and German counterintelligence officials of the *Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz* (BfV).

financial operations.”

- EU denunciation of Russian actions in Chechnya results in Chechen withdrawal from hijacking operation. AQ believes Chechen participation is “crucial.” Efforts by AQ undertaken to persuade Chechen participation. Ongoing meetings between AQ and Chechen leadership. Arabs planning the hijacking are “more or less anti-American.” If Chechens refuse to participate, then a Taliban member will join the Pakistani and Arab on the hijack team.
- AQ Arabs insisted that an Air France plane be hijacked. The Taliban wants the hijacking to serve as a protest message to France over their intelligence support to Massoud and Rabbani.¹¹
- Operational Planning: Sheik ((Dzabir)) – a 40-year old Saudi Arabian citizen is identified as being responsible for the operation. He is allegedly related to Sheikh Muhamet ((Dzabir)) president of a Shura and an advisor to the Saudi royal family. Dzabir “sends a lot of money to the Taliban, the Chechens and the Tadjik opposition. He advocates for the promotion of Wahibism.”¹²
- The operations officer, Sheikh Dzabir, resides in Afghanistan and is an active member of AQ.
- **“Usama bin Laden (UBL) is a very important member of the Islamic Jihad Front.”** [Emphasis added]. May 1999 Islamic World

¹¹ Ahmad Shah Massoud was an Afghan political and military leader, who was a central figure in the resistance against the Soviet occupation between 1979 and 1989 and in the following years of civil war. He was assassinated by AQ operatives on September 9, 2001. Burhanuddin Rabbani was President of the Islamic State of Afghanistan from 1992 to 1996. After the Taliban government was toppled during Operation Enduring Freedom, Rabbani returned to Kabul and served as a temporary President from November to December 20, 2001, when Hamid Karzai was chosen at the Bonn International Conference on Afghanistan. Rabbani was also the leader of Jamiat-e Islami Afghanistan (Islamic Society of Afghanistan), which has close ties to Pakistan's Jamaat-e-Islami.

¹² “Dzabir” may also be transliterated as “Jaber.” It is possible the referenced relative is Mohamed Bin Issa Al Jaber, a Saudi Arabian businessman and philanthropist, who also holds Austrian nationality. He is known for hotel and resort investments through MBI International. See: (<http://www.mbiinternational.com>).

Judicial Watch Document Analysis
IIR: Frankfurt Hijacking Plot by bin Laden in 2000
September 2013
Page 8 of 11

Front “secret conference” in Afghanistan results in UBL issuing a fatwa declaring jihad against the United States and Israel. According to the fatwa, **every US civilian and military member must be killed.**¹³ [Emphasis added]

- Travel by Dzabir to Chechnya (via Pakistan, Turkey and Azerbaijan) to meet with Chechen leaders and “Commander ((Hatap)).”¹⁴
- The identity of the Taliban’s passport forger: Mr. Azam Afredi.
- Dzabir traveled to Sudan for one month.
- An unidentified Chechen living in Afghanistan is serving as a liaison between Islamic leaders in Central Asian countries and Arabs in Afghanistan.
- Passports obtained from Central Asian states with European visas were gathered in Afghanistan. Most of the EU visas are German issued. These passports are favored for travel to Europe.
- The Central Asian states’ passports are a new operational capability for the Arabs who had previously had to rely on Pakistani passports.
- Operatives with forged Pakistani passports would travel to Dubai first, and then on to Europe.

¹³ See: Foreign Broadcast Information Service, “Compilation of Usama Bin Ladin Statements 1994 - January 2004,” (<http://www.fas.org/irp/world/para/ubl-fbis.pdf>).

¹⁴ “Hattap” is most probably “Ibn al Khattab” (by transliteration) a commander of the Chechen Mujahideen in the First Chechen War and the Second Chechen War. Khattab was a mysterious and charismatic leader. He died in March 2002, reportedly, from exposure to a ricin-laced letter delivered by a courier who had been recruited by the *Federal'naya sluzhba bezopasnosti Rossiyskoy Federatsii* (FSB) – the Russian domestic security service. See: (<http://www.islamawareness.net/Persecution/Chechnya/khattab.html>) and, <http://www.webcitation.org/5zi1SSXco>).

Conclusions:

This IIR is remarkably rich in operational details: names, addresses, telephone numbers, operatives' assignments and duties, as well as conveying the sense of direction and energy of AQ as they formulated and prepared to carry out the plot. The Frankfurt Hijacking Plot of 2000 is not well known or widely reported – having been overshadowed by AQ's successful triple hijacking of 9/11. Nonetheless, the report documents evidence of an extensive AQ terror and support network in Germany and – once again – deep ties between AQ and the Chechens.

The AQ subversion and coopting of a German Embassy consular officer for the issuance of EU visas is a stunning revelation. Likewise, the full identification of the AQ passport forgery operatus is a fascinating look at the support requirements and tradecraft necessary to support a vast, complex, international terrorist organization.

It was important to AQ that the hijacking team be “multinational” – an Arab, a Pakistani and a Chechen. The symbolism conveyed by the cooperation and participation of three Islamists of differing ethnicities was a chief propaganda objective of the plotters. The clear intent of AQ's messaging for media consumption and for the broader audience of all persons who would learn of this sensational hijacking from the busiest airport in Western Europe, was that AQ represented all of “the faithful” and that they could operate and strike with impunity from the heart of Christian Europe. This was a “joint operation” by AQ, and designed to bring the plight of Chechens to the publics' attention. When the Council of Europe finally condemned Russian actions in April 2000, the Chechens backed out of the hijack plot. This development slowed the hijacking timetable and illuminates the Chechens' independent streak and determination to place Chechen interests first. Given the Chechens' long and bloody combat with the Russians, this is understandable – as they would view a hijacking as a propaganda event in the midst of an effort by the Russian army to exterminate them. Participation in a hijacking immediately following recognition by the EU would only serve to bolster the Russians' claims that the Chechens' were irrational savages who could not be trusted or negotiated with in good faith.

The direct, personal involvement of the Taliban Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and the scion of a wealthy, aristocratic, and influential Saudi family in the coordination and operational planning of the hijacking plot is remarkable. It clearly

Judicial Watch Document Analysis
IIR: Frankfurt Hijacking Plot by bin Laden in 2000
September 2013
Page 10 of 11

demonstrates the level of fanatical commitment and ruthless pursuit of militant Islamist goals consistent with the fatwas of UBL and the AQ organization at large.

The details of names, addresses, etc., from this reporting should have provided immediate “actionable intelligence” for any number of US and Allied intelligence and military organizations.

In October 2005, Judicial Watch produced another document analysis report on an October 1998 DIA IIR examining UBL’s “Current and Historical Activities.”¹⁵ A good deal of information on AQ’s efforts in Chechnya, the Caucasus, Crimea and the Central Asian Republics was covered in the IIR.

Three major analytical points are confirmed through these two IIRs:

- The existence of a secure, reliable terrorist-sponsored, route to Chechnya from Pakistan and Afghanistan through Iran, Turkey and Azerbaijan.
- The internationalization and “Arabization” of Chechen Islamists, as well as collaboration and coordination of attacks on the West through joint AQ/Chechen actions.¹⁶ At least eleven (11) of the 9/11 hijackers travel or attempt to travel to Chechnya between 1996 and 2000. 9/11 hijackers Mohamed Atta, Marwan Alshehhi, Ziad Jarrah, and would-be hijacker Ramzi Bin al-Shibh wanted to fight in Chechnya but were told in early 2000 that they were needed elsewhere.¹⁷ AQ and the Chechen leadership shared recruiting and financing.

¹⁵ Judicial Watch, “Defense Intelligence Report Details Al Qaeda’s Plans for Russia, Chechnya & WMD,” November 16, 2004, See: <http://www.judicialwatch.org/press-room/press-releases/defense-intelligence-report-details-al-qaedas-plans-for-russia-chechnya-wm/> and, <http://www.scribd.com/doc/137968022/Dia-Obl-Chechnya-Analysis-Oct-05>.

¹⁶ *US v. Moussaoui* (No. 01-455), US District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, Alexandria Division, July 31, 2006, (<http://www.vaed.uscourts.gov/notablecases/moussaoui/exhibits/defense/938.pdf>).

¹⁷ Finn, Peter, “Hijackers Had Hoped to Fight in Chechnya, Court Told: Plans of Hamburg Cell Apparently Shifted During Training in Afghanistan,” *Washington Post*, October 23, 2002, (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A2079-2002Oct22.html>). Atta may have been needed at the Transit Area of the Frankfurt International Airport to facilitate another hijacking. See footnote 6.

Judicial Watch Document Analysis
IIR: Frankfurt Hijacking Plot by bin Laden in 2000
September 2013
Page 11 of 11

- Ibn Khattab, the brutal Chechen warlord who prided himself on beheading Russian soldiers, was clearly in direct contact with the AQ hijack leadership and operational planners in 2000.¹⁸

Judicial Watch continues to pursue investigations and litigation as program activities in support of our national security portfolio and our Terrorism Research and Analysis Program – an effort launched in 1999. We will continue to obtain records and publish analyses in fulfillment of our mission to educate the American public on the operations of government, especially in the areas of counterterrorism and national security.

¹⁸ Brutal video of Basayev/Khattab battalion beheadings of Russian soldiers: (www.liveleak.com/view?i=01d_1187129093). On November 20, 2004, Judicial Watch was denounced for “blatant lies” and a “gross provocation” on the “KavkazCenter.com” website (a Chechen terrorist front) for reporting on the firm contacts between UBL’s AQ and the Chechens. See: (www.kavkazcenter.com/eng/content/2004/11/20/3306.shtml)

Attachment:

Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) Intelligence Information Report (IIR), dated September 27, 2001, concerning: **“LETTERS DETAILING USAMA BIN LADEN AND TERRORIST’S PLANS TO HIJACK AN AIRCRAFT FLYING OUT OF FRANKFURT, GERMANY IN 2000.”**

Records Obtained by Judicial Watch Thru FOIA

(b)(3):10 USC 424

~~SECRET~~

DTG

271151Z SEP 01

FROM

FM (b)(3):10 USC 424

CONTROLS

~~SECTION 01 OF 06~~ (b)(3):10 USC 424

CITE: (U) (b)(3):10 USC 424

SERIAL: (U) (b)(3):10 USC 424

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY
(b)(3):10 USC 424

[Redacted body text]

SUBJ:

SUBJECT

IIR (b)(3):10 USC 424 LETTERS DETAILING
USAMA BIN LADEN AND TALIBAN TERRORIST'S PLANS TO HIJACK
AN AIRCRAFT FLYING OUT OF FRANKFURT GERMANY IN 2000.
WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT
FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 20000000.

(b)(1),1.4 (c)

[Redacted DOI information]

SUMMARY: (b)(3):10 USC 424 REPORT FORWARDS LETTERS FROM THE YEAR
2000 WHICH SUPPOSEDLY DETAIL PLANS OF TERRORISTS TO
HIJACK AN AIRCRAFT FLYING OUT OF FRANKFURT GERMANY.
REPORT PROVIDES NAMES AND PHONE NUMBERS OF INDIVIDUALS
WHO WERE TO BE INVOLVED IN THE OPERATION. ENCLOSURE.
TEXT: 1. (b)(3):10 USC 424 ON 26 SEPTEMBER (b)(1),1.4 (c)
WITH COPIES OF LETTERS, WRITTEN IN ARABIC, WHICH WERE
SENT TO HIM BY A "FRIEND" IN 2000 DESCRIBING A TERRORIST
OPERATION TO HIJACK AN AIRCRAFT FLYING OUT OF FRANKFURT
GERMANY. (b)(1),1.4 (c) THE INFORMATION WAS

~~SECRET~~

Records Obtained by Judicial Watch Thru FOIA

~~SECRET~~
~~SECRET~~

ALLEGEDLY PASSED TO WESTERN OFFICIALS (NFI) PREVIOUSLY, BUT WAS DISREGARDED BECAUSE NOBODY BELIEVED THAT USAMA BIN LADEN'S ORGANIZATION OR THE TALIBAN COULD CARRY OUT SUCH AN OPERATION. (b)(1),1.4 (c) THAT THE REASON THE ACTUAL HIJACKING DID NOT TAKE PLACE WAS BECAUSE ONCE THE EUROPEAN UNION DENOUNCED RUSSIA'S ACTIONS IN CHECHNYA, THE CHECHENS, WHO WERE REPORTEDLY INVOLVED IN THE OPERATION, BACKED OUT CAUSING A DILEMMA FOR THE OPERATION'S PLANNERS.

2. (b)(1),1.4 (c) VERBALLY TRANSLATED THE GIST OF THE TEXT OF THE LETTERS INTO RUSSIAN DURING THE (b)(1),1.4 (c)

(b)(1),1.4 (c) A ROUGH SYNOPSIS OF WHAT WAS TOLD OF WHAT WAS INCLUDED IN THE LETTERS IS PROVIDED IN THE PARAGRAPHS BELOW. AS (b)(1),1.4 (c) CANNOT READ ARABIC, ACCURACY OF THE VERBAL TRANSLATION OF THE TEXT BY (b)(1),1.4 (c) CANNOT BE CONFIRMED. ACCORDING TO (b)(1),1.4 (c) WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ONE OF THE LETTERS, WHICH WAS SENT FROM THE CITY OF MAZAR-E-SHARIF, ALL OF THE LETTERS WERE SENT TO HIM FROM KABUL AFGHANISTAN. (b)(1),1.4 (c) STATED THAT HE HAD INTENTIONALLY REMOVED HIS OWN NAME FROM THE CONTENT OF THE LETTERS. (b)(1),1.4 (c) DID NOT PROVIDE FURTHER DETAIL REGARDING THE AUTHOR OF THE LETTERS.

3. (b)(1),1.4 (c) LETTER DATED 15 MARCH 2000. THE LETTER BEGINS BY DESCRIBING INCREASED ACTIVITY BY ARABS, CHECHENS, AND TALIBAN MEMBERS IN GERMANY. IN JANUARY 2000 USAMA BIN LADEN HAD MEETING WITH TALIBAN OFFICIALS. THE MEETING LASTED FOR TWO DAYS AND WAS CONDUCTED IN KABUL. DURING THE MEETING AN OPERATION WAS DISCUSSED IN WHICH AN AIRPLANE WOULD BE HIJACKED IN GERMANY. THE LETTER MENTIONS SEVERAL U.S. AIRLINE COMPANIES, LUFTHANSA AND AIR FRANCE. ACCORDING TO THE PLAN, THREE INDIVIDUALS WERE TO CARRY OUT THE HIJACKING. ONE ARAB, ONE PAKISTANI, AND ONE CHECHEN. ALL WERE TO BE ISSUED PAKISTANI PASSPORTS CONTAINING EUROPEAN UNION (EU) VISAS. THE INDIVIDUALS WERE TO HIJACK A PLANE FLYING FROM GERMANY TO THE U.S. OR TO ASIA.

4. (b)(1),1.4 (c) IF THE INTENDED TARGET WAS A FLIGHT TO THE U.S. THEN A U.S. AIR CARRIER SHOULD BE HIJACKED. HOWEVER, IF THE INTENDED TARGET WAS NOT AN AIRCRAFT FLYING TO THE U.S. THEN A LUFTHANSA PLANE FLYING TO ASIA WAS TO BE HIJACKED. THE HIJACKERS WERE TO BE ISSUED TWO PISTOLS. THE PISTOLS WERE TO BE OBTAINED IN CENTRAL ASIA AND SMUGGLED THROUGH TURKEY TO FRANKFURT. THE PISTOLS WOULD BE GIVEN TO THE HIJACKERS IN THE TRANSIT AREA OF THE FRANKFURT AIRPORT. THE PISTOLS WERE TO BE PASSED BY A (b)(1),1.4 (b),1.4 (c),1.4 (d)

(b)(1),1.4 (c) TWO OF THE HIJACKERS WOULD BE ISSUED BUSINESS CLASS TICKETS FOR THE INTENDED FLIGHT. APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR AFTER THE FLIGHT TOOK OFF, THE HIJACKERS WERE TO COMMANDEER THE PLANE AND INSTRUCT THE PILOT TO FLY TO

~~SECRET~~
~~SECRET~~

Records Obtained by Judicial Watch Thru FOIA

~~SECRET~~

IRAN.

5. ~~(S)~~ ONCE THE PLANE LANDED IN IRAN, THE HIJACKERS WERE TO DEMAND MONEY AND THE RELEASE OF TERRORISTS WHO WERE BEING HELD IN PRISON IN THE U.S. IF THE AIRPORT IN MESHAD IRAN REFUSED TO ALLOW THE AIRCRAFT TO LAND, THEN THE PLANE WAS TO PROCEED TO KANDAHAR AFGHANISTAN.

6. ~~(S)~~ IF THE AIRCRAFT THAT WAS SELECTED FOR HIJACKING WAS NOT A FRANKFURT TO U.S. FLIGHT THEN A LUFTHANSA OR AIR FRANCE FLIGHT FLYING TO TURKEY, KAZAKHSTAN, OR UZBEKISTAN WAS TO BE HIJACKED.

7. ~~(S)~~ FOR THIS PARTICULAR FLIGHT, AFTER FIVE HOURS IN THE AIR, THE HIJACKERS WERE TO COMMANDEER THE FLIGHT AND DIRECT THE PILOT TO LAND THE AIRCRAFT IN DUSHANBE. IF TAJIKISTAN DENIED LANDING PERMISSION THEN THE FLIGHT WAS TO BE DIRECTED TO KABUL.

8. ~~(S)~~ THE INTENDED PURPOSE OF HIJACKING A EUROPEAN AIRCRAFT WAS TO BRING ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT THE EU HAD NOT DENOUNCED RUSSIA'S ACTIONS IN CHECHNYA. ONCE ON THE GROUND MONEY WAS TO BE DEMANDED. NO HOSTAGES WERE TO BE KILLED. THE INTENDED OPERATION WAS TO TAKE PLACE SOMETIME WITHIN SIX MONTHS BEGINNING 1 MARCH 2000.

9. ~~(S)~~ LETTER DATED 1 MARCH 2000. THE LETTER BEGINS WITH AUTHOR REQUESTING THAT THE INFORMATION BE KEPT IN SECRET. MULANA HATAK ((AKHUN)), A 35 YEAR OLD PAKISTANI CITIZEN, BELONGING TO THE DZHAJATI HULAMA ISLAM PARTY OF PAKISTAN, FROM THE GROUP OF MOULAWI ((SAMILOUK)), WAS GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS TO PREPARE THE PAKISTANI PASSPORTS FOR THE HIJACKERS. MULANA HATAK AKHUN WAS PREVIOUSLY A STUDENT AT THE DARUL ULUM AKANIA OR PERHAPS THE UNIVERSITY OF AGURA HATAK IN PAKISTAN.

10. ~~(S)~~ SEVERAL MEETINGS HAD RECENTLY OCCURRED IN THE MOUNTAINS OF KABUL. AYATULA ((NURZAI)), WHO RESIDES IN HAMBURG GERMANY AT 138 GROSSE MAIN STRASSE, PHONE NUMBER 40-78-90-494, FAX 40-715-2322, CELL PHONE NUMBER 017-148-02269, WAS ALSO GIVEN THE MISSION OF PREPARING FALSE PASSPORTS. NURZAI WORKS VERY CLOSELY WITH THE TALIBAN AND HAD SPENT NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1999 IN KANDAHAR AFGHANISTAN, TRAVELING THERE FROM GERMANY THROUGH PAKISTAN.

11. ~~(S)~~ ADBUL RAKHMAN ((ZAHET)), THE TALIBAN DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WAS IN FRANKFURT GERMANY AT THE END OF JANUARY AND THE START OF FEBRUARY 2000. DURING HIS STAY HE GATHERED TOGETHER MEMBERS OF THE TALIBAN AND OTHER AFGHANS FOR A MEETING WHICH TOOK PLACE AT ELBRUNER STRASSE 18, ON THE THIRD FLOOR.

12. ~~(S)~~ LETTER DATED 25 MARCH 2000. ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION, MULANA HATAK AHUND HAD FINISHED PREPARING THE THREE FALSE PAKISTANI PASSPORTS. HE WAS ABLE TO DO THIS THROUGH A PAKISTANI TRAVEL AGENCY CALLED AL FREDI TRAVEL AGENCY. THE AGENCY IS LOCATED IN THE BORT REGION OF PESHAWAR. THE PASSPORTS INDICATE THAT

~~SECRET~~

Records Obtained by Judicial Watch Thru FOIA

THE PASSPORT HOLDERS RESIDE IN THE FREE BORDER AREA OF PAKISTAN/AFGHANISTAN.

13. [REDACTED] IN THE CITY OF ISLAMABAD, A LOCAL PAKISTANI WHO WAS WORKING IN THE GERMAN EMBASSY THERE HAD GOOD CONTACT WITH A MRS. ((WAGNER00, A GERMAN EMBASSY EMPLOYEE WORKING IN THE CONSULAR SECTION, AND SHE HAD PROMISED TO GET THIS PAKISTANI CITIZEN VISAS FOR PASSPORTS. A PHONE NUMBER WAS GIVEN AS 051-212-412.

14. [REDACTED] LETTER DATED 4 APRIL 2000. IN JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2000, AKHAMAD ((SHAH)) VISITED FRANKFURT. HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR FINANCIAL OPERATIONS.

15. [REDACTED] LETTER, DATED 15 APRIL 2000. ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION AFTER THE EU DENOUNCED RUSSIAN ACTIONS IN CHECHNYA, THE CHECHEN MEMBERS OF THE OPERATION DECIDED TO WITHDRAW THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE HIJACKING. THE ARABS FROM USAMA BIN LADEN'S ORGANIZATION BELIEVE THAT CHECHEN PARTICIPATION IN THE OPERATION IS CRUCIAL. EFFORTS WERE TO BE MADE TO INFLUENCE SENIOR CHECHEN AUTHORITIES TO ALLOW ONE CHECHEN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HIJACKING OPERATION.

16. [REDACTED] LETTER, DATED 28 APRIL 2000. PROBLEMS CONTINUE AMONG THE ARABS AND THE CHECHENS OVER THE ROLE OF THE CHECHENS IN THE OPERATION. THE POSITION OF THE CHECHENS IS UNCLEAR, BUT MEETINGS BETWEEN THE ARABS AND THE CHECHENS CONTINUE.

17. [REDACTED] THE POSITION OF THE ARABS PLANNING THE HIJACKING IS MORE OR LESS ANTI-AMERICAN. THE ARABS WILL CONTINUE TO TRY TO INFLUENCE THE CHECHENS, BUT IF THEY CANNOT REACH AGREEMENT, THEN IN ADDITION TO THE PAKISTANI AND ARAB, SOMEONE SELECTED BY THE TALIBAN MUST BE CHOSEN TO TAKE PART IN THE HIJACKING.

18. [REDACTED] THE ARABS ARE INSISTING THAT AN AIR FRANCE PLANE BE HIJACKED. THE TALIBAN WANTS TO TELL FRANCE THAT THE REASON THE PLANE WAS HIJACKED IS BECAUSE FRENCH INTELLIGENCE IS HELPING THE AFGHAN OPPOSITION TO INCLUDE ((MASSOUD)) AND ((RABBANI)). FRANCE IS PROVIDING MONEY, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND MEDICAL HELP TO THE OPPOSITION.

19. NEXT LETTER- [REDACTED] UNCERTAIN OF DATE). THE OPERATIONAL PLANNING APPEARS TO BE COMING TOGETHER. SHEIK ((DZABIR)), A 40 YEAR SAUDI ARABIAN CITIZEN IS RESPONSIBLE FOR OPERATIONS. HE IS A RELATIVE OF SHEIK MUHAMET ((DZABIR)), WHO IS THE PRESIDENT OF A SHURA AND ADVISOR TO THE ROYAL FAMILY. HE SENDS A LOT OF MONEY TO THE TALIBAN, THE CHECHENS AND TO THE TADJIK OPPOSITION. HE ADVOCATES THE PROMOTION OF WAHIBISM.

20. [REDACTED] SHEIK DZABIR RESIDES IN AFGHANISTAN AND IS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF USAMA BIN LADEN'S AL-QAIDA ORGANIZATION AND OF THE ISLAMIC WORLD FRONT. USAMA BIN LADEN (UBL) IS A VERY IMPORTANT MEMBER OF THE ISLAMIC JIHAD FRONT. IN MAY 1999, THIS ORGANIZATION HAD A SECRET CONFERENCE IN AFGHANISTAN, WHICH LASTED FOR

(b)(1),1.4 (c)

Records Obtained by Judicial Watch Thru FOIA

~~SECRET~~
~~SECRET~~

SEVERAL DAYS. ISLAMIC EXTREMISTS AND FUNDAMENTALIST FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD GATHERED AT THE CONFERENCE. UBL WAS ELECTED BY THE GROUP TO BE THE LEADER OF THE WORLD WIDE MOVEMENT. AFTER WHICH UBL PERSONALLY SIGNED A FATWA DECLARING A JIHAD AGAINST ISRAEL AND THE UNITED STATES. ACCORDING TO THE FATWA, EVERY U.S. CIVILIAN AND MILITARY MEMBER MUST BE KILLED.

21. ~~SECRET~~ IN MID APRIL, SHEIK DZABIL WENT TO CHECHNYA TRAVELING ON A PAKISTANI PASSPORT GOING THROUGH PAKISTAN, TURKEY, AND AZERBAIJAN. HE MET WITH CHECHEN LEADERS AND COMMANDER ((HATAP)). ACCORDING TO ONE OF THE SHEIK'S TRANSLATORS, THE SHEIK WAS VERY PLEASED WITH HIS TRIP TO CHECHNYA.

22. ~~SECRET~~ A REPRESENTATIVE OF MULANA HATAH AKHUND, WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING THE FALSE PAKISTANI PASSPORTS CONTACTED MR AZAM ((AFREDI)) WHO IS THE PRESIDENT OF A TOURIST COMPANY CALLED AFREDI TRAVEL AGENCY IN PESHAWAR. HE WAS INFORMED THAT THE PASSPORTS WERE READY. MR AFREDI FREQUENTLY MAKES FALSE PASSPORTS FOR THE TALIBAN. THE GROUP HAS ASSEMBLED IN KANDAHAR.

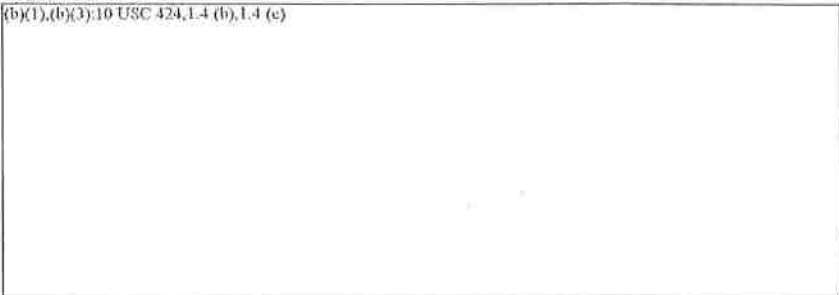
23. ~~SECRET~~ LETTER DATED 20 MAY 2000. SHEIK DZABIR, THE ARAB RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OPERATION IS IN SUDAN FOR ONE MONTH. NO OPERATION IS EXPECTED UNTIL AFTER HIS RETURN AS HE HAS ALL OF THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS.

24. ~~SECRET~~ A CHECHEN LIVING IN AFGHANISTAN IS WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE HIJACKERS. HE HAS GOOD CONTACTS IN UZBEKISTAN, TAJIKISTAN, TURKMENISTAN, KAZAKHSTAN AND KYRGYZSTAN. HE FREQUENTLY FACILITATES CONTACTS BETWEEN VARIOUS LEADERS OF ISLAM IN CENTRAL ASIA AND ARABS IN AFGHANISTAN.

25. ~~SECRET~~ RECENTLY, THEY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN PASSPORTS FROM VARIOUS CENTRAL ASIAN STATES WHICH HAVE EUROPEAN VISAS. THESE PASSPORTS ARE BEING SENT TO AFGHANISTAN. THE PASSPORT PHOTOS ARE REPLACED IN PAKISTAN. FOR THE ARABS THIS IS SOMETHING NEW, AS THEY HAD PREVIOUSLY HAD TO USE PAKISTANI PASSPORTS.

26. ~~SECRET~~ PEOPLE WITH THESE ALTERED PASSPORTS USUALLY TRAVEL FROM PAKISTAN TO DUBAI AND THEN ON TO EUROPE. MOST OF THE PASSPORTS COMING OUT OF CENTRAL ASIA HAVE GERMAN ISSUED EU VISAS. THESE CENTRAL ASIAN PASSPORTS ARE FAVORED FOR TRAVEL TO EUROPE.

(b)(1),(b)(3):10 USC 424,1.4 (b),1.4 (c)



~~SECRET~~
~~SECRET~~

Records Obtained by Judicial Watch Thru FOIA

~~SECRET~~
~~SECRET~~

(b)(1),(b)(3):10 USC 424,1.4 (c)

ADMIN

(b)(3):10 USC 424

WARNING: (U) ~~REPORT CLASSIFIED S E C R E T~~ NOT
~~RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS.~~
DRVD FM: ~~DHS SCG, OCTOBER 97~~
DECL ON: ~~X1~~
BT
#8747

NNNN
SCSOURCE
DODIR

~~SECRET~~
~~SECRET~~