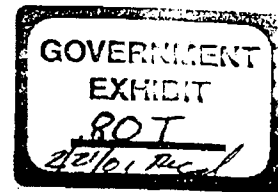


1p

001410

FOIA-06114



CNN Interview of Usama Bin Laden  
Tape date: March 20, 1997  
Air date: May 10, 1997

*QUESTION: Mr. Bin Laden, could you give us your main criticism of the Saudi royal family that is ruling Saudi Arabia today?*

MR. BIN LADEN: Regarding the criticisms of the ruling regime in Saudi Arabia and the Arabian peninsula, the first one is their subordination to the US. So, our main problem is the US government while the Saudi regime is but a branch or an agent of the US. By being loyal to the US regime, the Saudi regime has committed an act against Islam. And this, based on the ruling of Shari'a (Islamic jurisprudence), casts the regime outside the religious community. Subsequently, the regime has stopped ruling people according to what God revealed, praise and glory be to Him, not to mention many other contradictory acts. When this main foundation was violated, other corrupt acts followed in every aspect of the country, the economic, the social, government services and so on.

*QUESTION: Mr. Bin Laden, if the Islamic movement takes over Arabia, what kind of society will be created and will Saudi Arabia, for example, return to the laws of the Qur'an at the time of the Prophet?*

BIN LADEN: We are confident, with the permission of God, Praise and Glory be to Him, that Muslims will be victorious in the Arabian peninsula and that God's religion, praise and glory be to Him, will prevail in this peninsula. It is a great pride and a big hope that the revelation unto Muhammad, Peace be upon him, will be resorted to for ruling. When we used to follow Muhammad's revelation, Peace be upon him, we were in great happiness and in great dignity, to God belong credit and praise.

*QUESTION: Mr. Bin Laden, if the Islamic movement takes over Saudi Arabia, what would your attitude to the West be and will the price of oil be higher?*

BIN LADEN: We are a nation and have a long history, with the grace of God, Praise and Glory be to Him. We are now in the 15<sup>th</sup> century in this great religion, the complete and comprehensive course, has clarified the dealings between one individual and another, the duties of the believer towards God, Praise and Glory be to Him, and the relationship between the Muslim country and other countries in time of peace and in time of war. If we look back at our history, we will find that there were many types of dealings between the Muslim nation and the other nations in time of peace and in time of war, including treaties and matters to do with commerce. So it is not a new thing that we need to come up with. Rather, it already, by the grace of God, exists. As for oil, it is a commodity that will be subject to the price of the market according to supply and demand. We believe that the current prices are not realistic due to the Saudi regime's association with the American Government to increase production and flooding the market that caused a sharp decrease in oil prices.

001411

FOIA-06115

CNN Interview of Usama Bin Laden

March 1997

Page 2

*QUESTION: Mr. Bin Laden, you've declared a jihad against the United States. Can you tell us why? And is the jihad directed against the US government or the United States' troops in Arabia? What about US civilians in Arabia or the people of the United States?*

BIN LADEN: We declared jihad against the US government, because the US government is unjust, criminal and tyrannical. It has committed acts that are extremely unjust, hideous and criminal whether directly or through its support of the Israeli occupation of the Prophet's Night Travel Land (Palestine). And we believe the US is directly responsible for those who were killed in Palestine, Lebanon and Iraq. The mention of the US reminds us before everything else of those innocent children who were dismembered, their heads and arms cut off in the recent explosion that took place in Qana (in Lebanon). This US government abandoned even humanitarian feelings by these hideous crimes. It transgressed all bounds and behaved in a way not witnessed before by any power or any imperialist power in the world. They should have been considerate that the qibla (Mecca) of the Muslims upheaves the emotion of the entire Muslim World. Due to its subordination to the Jews the arrogance and haughtiness of the US regime has reached, to the extent that they occupied the qibla of the Muslims (Arabia) who are more than a 1,250 million in the world today. For this and other acts of aggression and injustice, we have declared jihad against the US, because in our religion it is our duty to make jihad so that God's word is the one exalted to the heights so that we drive the Americans away from all Muslim countries. As for what you asked whether jihad is directed against US soldiers, the civilians in the land of the Two Holy Places (Saudi Arabia, Mecca and Medina) or against the civilians in America, we have focused in our declaration on striking at the soldiers in the country of The Two Holy Places. The country of the Two Holy Places has in our religion a peculiarity of its own over the other Muslim countries. In our religion, it is not permissible for any non-Muslim to stay in our country. Therefore, even though American civilians are not targeted in our plan, they must leave. We do not guarantee their safety, because we are in a society of more than a billion Muslims. A reaction might take place as a result of US government's hitting Muslim civilians and executing more than 600 thousand Muslim children in Iraq by preventing food and medicine from reaching them. So, the US is responsible for any reaction, because it has transgressed through war from military personnel to civilians. This is what we say. As for what you asked regarding the American people, they are not exonerated from responsibility, because they chose this government and voted for it despite their knowledge of its crimes in Palestine, Lebanon, Iraq and in other places and its support of its collaborating regime who filled our prisons with our best children and scholars. We ask that may God release them.

*QUESTION: Mr. Bin Laden, will the end of the United States' presence in Saudi Arabia, their withdrawal, will that end your call for jihad against the United States and against the US?*

BIN LADEN: The cause of the reaction must be sought and the act that has triggered this reaction must be eliminated. The reaction came as a result of the US aggressive policy towards the entire Muslim world and not just towards the Arabian peninsula. So if the cause that has

001412

FOIA-06116

## CNN Interview of Usama Bin Laden

March 1997

Page 3

called for this act comes to an end, this act, in turn, will come to an end. So, the declaration of jihad against the US does not stop with its withdrawal from the Arabian peninsula, it must desist from aggressive intervention against Muslims in the whole world.

*QUESTION: Mr. Bin Laden, tell us about your experience during the Afghan war and what you do during that jihad?*

**BIN LADEN:** Praise be to God, the Cherisher and Sustainer of the worlds, that He made it possible for us to aid the Mujahidin in Afghanistan without any declaration for jihad. It was rather the news that was broadcast by radio stations that the Soviet Union invaded a Muslim country. This was a sufficient motivation for me to start to aid our brothers in Afghanistan. We have benefitted so greatly from the jihad in Afghanistan that it would have been impossible for me to gain such a benefit from any other chance and this cannot be measured by tens of thousands of dollars more than that, Praise and Gratitude be to God. In spite of the Soviet power, we used to move with confidence and God conferred favors on us so that we transported heavy equipment into the country of the Two Holy Places (Arabia) estimated at hundreds of tons altogether. This equipment included bulldozers, loaders, dump trucks and equipment for digging trenches. When we witnessed the brutality of the Russians bombing Mujahidins' positions, by the grace of God, we dug a large number of huge tunnels and built in them some storage places and in some others we built a hospital. We also dug some roads, by the grace of God, Praise and glory be to Him, on which you came by to us tonight. So our experience in this jihad was great, by the grace of God, Praise and glory be to Him, and the most of what we benefitted from was that the myth of the Soviet power was destroyed not only in my mind but also in the minds of all Muslims. Slumber and fatigue vanished and so was the terror which the US would use in its media by attributing its super power status or which the Soviet Union used by attributing itself as a superpower. Today, the entire Muslim world, by the grace of God, has imbibed the faithful spirit of strength and started to interact in a good manner in order to bring an end to occupation and the Western and American influence on our countries.

*QUESTION: Mr. Bin Laden, what was the significance of the Afghan war for the Islamic movement? Veterans of that war are fighting for Islamic movements and conflict from the former Soviet republics such as Chechnya to Bosnia to Algeria. Can you explain that phenomenon to us?*

**BIN LADEN:** As I mentioned in my answer to the previous question, the effect of jihad has been great not only at the level of the Islamic movement but rather at the level of the Muslim nation in the whole world. The spirit of power, dignity and confidence has grown in our sons and brothers for this religion and the power of God, Praise and Glory be to Him. And it has become apparent even to the Islamic movement that there is no choice but return to the original spring, to the religion, to God's Book, Praise and Glory be to Him, and to the sunna of His Prophet, upon him, as understood by our predecessors, may God be pleased with them. Of this theme

001413

FOIA-06117

## CNN Interview of Usama Bin Laden

March 1997

Page 4

of this religion is jihad. The nation has had a strong conviction that there is no way to obtain faithful strength but by returning to this jihad. The influence of the Afghan jihad on the Islamic world was so great and it necessitates that people should rise above many of their differences and unite their efforts against their enemy. Today, the nation is interacting well by uniting its efforts through jihad against the US which has in collaboration with the Israeli government led the ferocious campaign against the Islamic World in occupying the holy sites of the Muslims. As for the young men who participated in jihad here, their number, by the grace of God, was quite big. Praise and Gratitude be to Him, and they spread in every place in which non-believers' injustice is perpetuated against Muslims. Their going to Bosnia, Chechnya, Tajikistan and other countries is bit a fulfillment of a duty, because we believe that these states are part of the Islamic World. Therefore, any act of aggression against any of this land of a span of hand measure makes it a duty for Muslims to send a sufficient number of their sons to fight off that aggression.

*QUESTION: Can you tell us now about your expulsion from Saudi Arabia and your time you spent in Sudan and your arrival here in Afghanistan?*

BIN LADEN: I was, by the grace of God, Praise and Glory be to Him, in the great spot that is dear to God, Praise and Glory be to Him, al-hijaz, especially Venerable Mecca, where is God's Ancient House. However, the Saudi regime imposed on the people a life that does not appeal to the free believer. They wanted the people to eat and drink and celebrate the praise of God, but if the people wanted to encourage what is right and forbid what is wrong, they can't. Rather, the regime dismisses them from their jobs and in the event they continued to do so, they are detained in prisons. As for myself, I have rejected to live this submissive life, by God's favor, Praise and Gratitude be to Him, that is not benefitting of man let alone a believer. So, I waited for the chance until, God, Praise and Glory be to Him, has made it possible for me to leave the country of the Two Holy Places. I hope God, Praise and Glory be to Him, would confer upon me His favor to return one day when God's law rules in that country. I went to the Sudan and stayed there for about five years during which I visited Afghanistan and Pakistan to work against the Communist government in Kabul. When the Saudi government transgressed in oppressing all voices of the scholars and the voices of those who call for Islam, I found myself forced, especially after the government prevented Sheik Salman al-Awdah and Sheik Safar al-Hawali and some other scholars, to carry out a small part of my duty of enjoining what is right and forbidding what is wrong. So, I collaborated with some brothers and established a committee for offering advice and we started to publish some declarations. (The Advice and Reformation Committee). However, the Saudi regime did not like this and started to exercise pressure on the Sudanese regime. The US government, the Egyptian government and the Yemeni government also helped in doing so. They requested me explicitly from the Sudanese regime and the pressure continued. Saudi Arabia dropped all of its conditions put to the Sudanese regime in return that I be driven out of the Sudan. The US government had already taken the same stance and pulled out its diplomatic mission from Khartoum to Nairobi and put forth their condition to return only after I have left. Unfortunately, the Sudanese government was in some difficult circumstances

001414

FOIA-06118

CNN Interview of Us

March 1997

Page 5

and there was a tendency inside the government that was inclined to reconciliation or surrender. Then, when they insisted that I should keep my mouth shut, I decided to look for a land in which I could breathe a pure, free air to perform my duty in enjoining what is right and forbidding what is wrong. I ask God, Praise and Glory be to Him, for increase in prosperity for this great land, the Land of Khurasan (Afghanistan) in order to carry on this duty. So, we implore God, Praise and Glory be to Him, that He accept (our deeds) from us and the Muslims.

*QUESTION: Now, the United States government says that you are still funding military training camps here in Afghanistan for militant, Islamic fighters and that you are a sponsor of international terrorism; but others describe you as the new hero of the Arab-Islamic world. Are these accusations true? And, how do you describe yourself?*

**BIN LADEN:** After the collapse of the Soviet Union in which the US has no mentionable role, but rather the credit goes to God, Praise and Glory be to Him, and the Mujahidin in Afghanistan, this collapse made the US more haughty and arrogant and it has started to look at itself as a Master of this world and established what it calls the new world order. It wanted to delude people that it can do whatever it wants, but it can't do this. It leveled against me and others as many accusations as it desired and wished. What you have mentioned were some of them (accusations). The US today as a result of the arrogant atmosphere has set a double standard, calling whoever goes against its injustice a terrorist. It wants to occupy our countries, steal our resources, impose on us agents to rule us based not on what God has revealed and wants us to agree on all these. If we refuse to do so, they will say you are terrorists. With a simple look at the US behaviors, we find that it judges the behavior of the poor (Palestinian) children whose country was occupied and their fathers were murdered; if they throw stones against the Jewish occupation, it says they are terrorists whereas when the Israeli pilots bombed the United Nations building in Qana, Lebanon while was full of children and women, the U.S. was not ashamed to veto any plan or project to condemn the Jews. At the time that they condemn any Muslim who calls for his right, they receive the highest top official from the Irish Republican Army (Gerry Adams) at the White House as a political leader, while woe, all woe is the Muslims if they cry out for their rights. Whenever we look, we find the US as the leader of terrorism and crime in the world. The US does not consider it a terrorist act to throw atomic bombs at nations thousands of miles away, when it would not be possible for those bombs to hit military troops only. These bombs were rather thrown at entire nations, including women, children and elderly people and up to this day the traces of those bombs remain in Japan. The US does not consider it terrorism when hundreds of thousands of our sons and brothers in Iraq died for lack of food or medicine. So, there is no base for what the US says and this saying does not affect us, because we, by the grace of God, are dependent on Him, Praise and Glory be to Him, getting help from Him against the US. As for the last part of your question, we are fulfilling a duty which God, Praise and Glory be to Him, decreed for us. We look upon those heroes, those men who undertook to kill the American occupiers in Riyadh and Khobar (Dhahran). We described those as heroes and describe them as men. They have pulled down the disgrace and submissiveness off

001415

FOIA-06119

CNN Interview of Usama Bin Laden

March 1997

Page 6

the forehead of their nation. We ask Allah, Praise and Glory be to Him, to accept them as martyrs.

*QUESTION: Let's go to the bombings of United States troops in Riyadh and Dhahran. Why did they happen and were you and your supporters involved in these attacks?*

**BIN LADEN:** We ask about the main reason that called for this explosion. This explosion was a reaction to a US provocation of the Muslim peoples, in which the US transgressed in its aggression until it reached the qibla of the Muslims in the whole world. So, the purpose of the two explosions is to get the American occupation out (of Arabia). So if the U.S. does not want to have its sons who are in the army being killed, then it has to get out.

*QUESTION: On the same issue of the American troops in Saudi Arabia, do you think there will be more bombing attacks on them? Or attacks on U.S. civilians in Arabia? Or assassination attempts for example, on the Saudi royal families?*

**BIN LADEN:** As for the previous question, the explosion of Riyadh and the one in Al-Khobar (Dhahran). It is no secret that during the two explosions, I was not in Saudi Arabia, but I have great respect for the people who did this action. I say, as I said before, they are heroes. We look upon them as men who wanted to raise the flag of "There is no God but Allah," and to bring the flag of non believers and of injustice that the U.S. brought. I also say that what they did is a great job and a big honor that I missed participating in.

*QUESTION: Do you think there will be more bombing attacks on American troops in Saudi Arabia? Or attacks on American civilians in Saudi Arabia? Or will there be assassination attempts on the Saudi Arabian ruling family?*

**BIN LADEN:** It is known that every action has its reaction. If the American presence continues, and that is an action, then it is natural for reactions to continue against this presence. In other words, explosions and killings of the American soldiers would continue. These are the troops who left their country and their families and came here with all arrogance to steal our oil and disgrace us, and attack our religion. As for what was mentioned about the ruling (Saudi) family those in charge, do bear the full responsibility of everything that may happen. They are the shadow of the American presence. The mujahideen, the people and the young men are concentrating their efforts on the sponsor and not on the sponsored. The concentration of Jihad at this point is against the American occupiers.

*QUESTION: What are your views about Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman and have you ever met him? Do you know him?*

**BIN LADEN:** Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman is a Muslim scholar well-known all over the Muslim

001416

FOIA-06120

CNN Interview of U.S. Bin Laden

March 1997

Page 7

world. He represents the kind of injustice and false accusations that is adopted by the U.S. against the symbols of the Islamic World. A baseless case was fabricated against him even though he is blind old man. We ask Allah, The Almighty, to relieve him. The U.S. sentenced him to hundreds of years just to please its caprice and the whims of the Egyptian regime. He is now very badly treated and in no way fit for an old man like him or any Muslim scholar.

*QUESTION: The U.S. State Department quoting a Pakistani official says that Ramzi Yousef, a convicted bomber in the World Trade Center in New York City stayed in the house you funded in Peshawar, Pakistan for those receiving training during the Afghan conflict after the Trade Center bombing, is that true? Did Ramzi Yousef stay in your house in Peshawar?*

**BIN LADEN:** I do not know Ramzi Yousef. What the American government based on the Pakistani intelligence has been reporting is not true at all. But I say if the American government is serious about avoiding the explosions inside the U.S., then let it stop provoking the feelings of 1,250 million Muslims. Those hundreds of thousands who have been killed or oppressed in Iraq, Palestine, Lebanon, do have brothers and relatives. The conduct of America and the conduct of the American government will drive thousands of young people to follow the footsteps of Ramzi Yousef and they will transfer the battle into the United States. Everything is made possible to protect the blood of the American citizen while the bloodshed of Muslims is allowed in every place. With this kind of behavior, the U.S. government is hurting itself, hurting Muslims and hurting the American people.

*QUESTION: Mr. Bin Laden, were you involved in financing the bombing of the World Trade Center in New York City?*

**BIN LADEN:** I have no connection or relation with this explosion.

*QUESTION: Mr. Bin Laden, in a recent interview with an Arabic newspaper, you said that Arabs who fought in the Afghan war killed U.S. troops in Mogadishu, Somalia. Can you tell us about that?*

**BIN LADEN:** The US government went there with great jubilation and stayed there for some time with a strong media presence wanting to frighten people that it is the greatest power on earth. It went there with vanity and with over 28,000 soldiers, to a poor unarmed people in Somalia. The goal of this was to scare the Muslim world and the whole world saying that it is able to do whatever it desires. As soon as the American troops reached the Mogadishu beaches, they found no one but children. The CNN and other media cameras started photographing them (the soldiers) with their facial camouflage and heavy arms, marching and showing themselves to the world as the "greatest power in earth." Resistance started against the American invasion, because Muslims do not believe the U.S. allegations that they came to save the Somalis. A man with human feelings in his heart does not distinguish between a child killed in Palestine or in

001417

FOIA-06121



## CNN Interview of Usama Bin Laden

March 1997

Page 8

Lebanon, in Iraq or in Bosnia. So how can we believe your claims that you came to save our children in Somalia while you kill our children in all of those places?

With Allah's grace, Muslims over there. There was a faction from the Islamic alliance that emerged and, cooperated with some Arab "Mujahideen" who were in Afghanistan. They participated with their brothers in Somalia against the American occupation troops killed large numbers of them. The American administration was aware of that. After a little resistance, the American troops left after achieving nothing. The rulers of the White House have forgotten their assertions that they were the largest power on earth. They left after some resistance from powerless, poor, unarmed people whose only weapon is the belief in Allah The Almighty, and who do not fear the fabricated American media lies. We learned from those who fought there, that they were surprised to see the low spiritual morale of the American fighters in comparison with the experience they had with the Russian fighters. The Americans ran away from those fighters who fought and killed them, while the latter were still there. If the U.S. still thinks and brags that it still has this kind of power even after all these successive defeats in Vietnam, Beirut, Aden, and Somalia, then let them go back to those who are awaiting its return.

*QUESTION: Mr. Bin Laden, your family is a rich powerful family in Saudi Arabia. Have they, or the Saudi Arabian government asked you to stop your activities?*

BIN LADEN: They have done that a lot. The Saudi Government have pressured my family a lot, especially since a lot of our money is still in the hands of the Saudi ruling family due to activities of the our family and company. They sent me my mother, my uncle, and my brothers in almost nine visits to Khartoum asking me to stop and return to Arabia to apologize to King Fahd. I apologized to my family kindly because I know they were driven by force to come to talk to me. This regime wants to create a problem between me and my siblings and in order to take some measures against them. But with Allah's grace, this regime did not get its wish fulfilled. I refused to go back. They (my family) conveyed the Saudi government's message that if I did not go back, they'll freeze all my assets, deprive me of my citizenship, my passport, and my Saudi ID and distort my image in the Saudi and foreign media. They think that a Muslim may bargain on his religion. I said to them do whatever you may wish. It is with Allah's bounty, I refused to go back. I am living in dignity and honor for whom we thank Allah. It is much better for us to live under a tree here on these mountains than to live in palaces in the most sacred land to Allah, while being subjected to disgrace not worshipping Allah even in the most sacred land on earth, where injustice is so widespread. There is no strength except with Allah.

*QUESTION: Mr. Bin Laden, have Saudi agents attempted to assassinate you? Are you targeted by the U.S. government? Are you in fact in fear of your life?*

BIN LADEN: The U.S. pressures are no secret to you. The Saudi pressures are also in response to American pressures. There were several attempts to arrest me or to assassinate me. This has

001418

FOIA-06122

## CNN Interview of Usama Bin Laden

March 1997

Page 9

been going on for more than seven years. With Allah's grace, none of these attempts succeeded. This is a proof in itself to Muslims and to the world that the U.S. is incapable and weaker than the picture it wants to draw in people's mind. A believer must rest assured that life is only in the hands of Allah, and sustenance is also in the hands of Allah, the Almighty. As for fearing for one's life, it is difficult to explain to you how we think of ourselves, unless you have full belief. We believe that no one could take out one breath of our written life as ordained by Allah. We see that we see that getting killed in the cause of Allah is a great honor wished for by our Prophet (May Allah be pleased with him). He said in his Hadith: "I swear to whom Mohammed's (pbuh) soul is in his hand, I wish to fight for Allah's cause and be killed, I'll do it again and be killed, and I'll do it again and be killed." Being killed for Allah's cause is a great honor achieved by only those who are the elite of the nation. We love this kind of death for Allah's cause more than you like to live. We have nothing to fear for. It is something we wish for.

*QUESTION: What are your future plans?*

BIN LADEN: You'll see them and hear about them in the media, God willing.

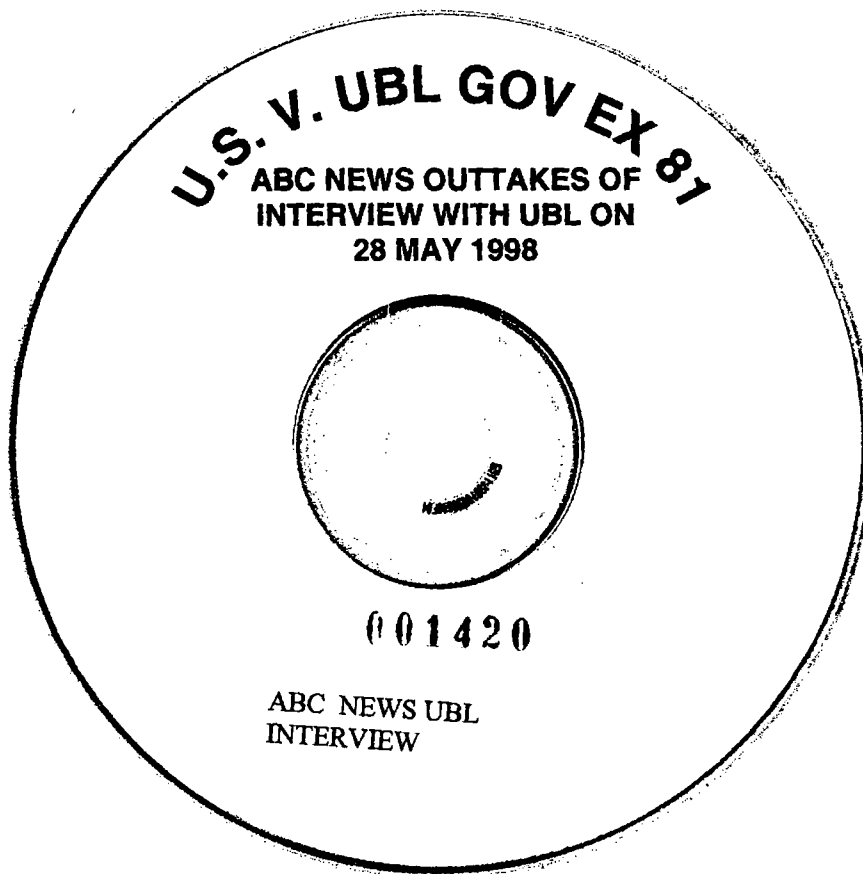
*QUESTION: If you had an opportunity to give a message to President Clinton, what would that message be?*

BIN LADEN: Mentioning the name of Clinton or that of the American government provokes disgust and revulsion. This is because the name of the American government and the name of Clinton and Bush directly reflect in our minds the picture of children with their heads cut off before even reaching one year of age. It reflects the picture of the children with their hand cut off, the picture of children who died in Iraq, the picture of the hands of our sons smashed by the Jews. The hearts of Muslims are filled with hatred towards the United States of America and the American president. The President has a heart that knows no words. Because whoever kills hundreds of children definitely, knows no words. Our people in the Arabian Peninsula will send him messages with no words because he does not know any words. If there is a message that I may send through you, then it is a message I address to the mothers of the American troops who came here with their military uniform walking proudly up and down our land while the scholars of our country are thrown in prisons. I say that this represents a blatant provocation to 1,250 million Muslims. To these mothers I say if they are concerned for their sons, then they should object to the American government's policy and the to the American president. Do not let themselves be cheated by his fake standing when the bodies of the killed soldiers in coffins describing the freedom fighters in Saudi Arabia as terrorist. It is he who is a terrorist who pushed their sons into this for the interest of the Jews. We believe that the American army of Saudi Arabia came to prevent the Muslims and the people from ruling in accordance with Allah's wish. They came to be in support of the Israeli forces in the occupied Palestine, the land of the "Israa" of our Prophet, may peace and God's prayers be upon him..

*Thank You.*

001419

FOIA-06123



001420

FOIA-06124



ABC NEWS Interview of Usama Bin Laden  
Tape date: May 28, 1998  
Air date: June 10, 1998

*QUESTION: Mr. Bin Laden, to Americans you are an interesting figure. A man who comes from a background of wealth and comfort who ended up fighting on the front lines. Many Americans would think that's unusual.*

**BIN LADEN:** Thanks be to Allah. It is hard for one to understand if the person does not understand Islam. In our religion we believe that Allah created us to worship Him. Allah is the one who created us and blessed us with this religion, orders us to carry out the holy struggle "jihad" to raise the word of Allah above the words of the unbelievers. We believe this a form of worship we must follow despite our financial ability. This is a response to Westerner and secularists in the Arab world that claim the reason for the awakening and the return to Islam is economic difficulties. This is untrue, in fact the return of the people to Islam is a blessing from Allah, and their return is a need for Allah.

This is not a strange issue, during the days of "Jihad" thousands of young men who were well off financially left the Arabian Peninsula and other areas and joined the fighting, hundreds of them were killed in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Chechnya. We pray Allah grant them martyr's status.

*QUESTION: You have been described as the "world's most wanted man." There is word that the American government intends to put a price on your head in the millions for your capture. Do you think that they will do that? Does it worry you?*

**BIN LADEN:** Praise be to Allah. It does not worry us what the Americans think. What worries us is pleasing Allah. The Americans impose themselves on he who believes in his religion, and his rights, or his wealth. They accuse our children in Palestine of being terrorists. Those children that have no weapon and have not even reached maturity. At the same time they defend a country with its airplanes and tanks, the state of the Jews, that has a policy to destroy the future of these children. Clinton stands after Qana and defends the horrible massacre that severed the heads of children and killed about 100 persons. Clinton stands and claims Israel has a justification which is to defend itself. We do not worry about America's opinion, and we are not scared of them or the fact that they place prices on our heads. We as Muslims, believe in that our fate is set, if the whole world decided to get together and kill us before our time has come we will not die, also livelihood is set, no matter how much pressure America places on the regime in Riyadh to freeze our assets and to prevent people from contributing to this great cause we rely on Allah and He will be the one to judge us.

*QUESTION: You have said if the Americans are so brave they will come and arrest me. Do you think that is something my country will try?*

**BIN LADEN:** Despite if they try or not, we have seen particularly during the last decade the decline of the American government and the weakness of the American soldier who is ready to wage cold wars and unprepared to fight long wars. This was proven in Beirut when the Marines

001421

FOIA-06125

AP NEWS Interview of Usama Bin Laden

May 28, 1998

Page 2

fled after two explosions, and also after the two explosions in Aden they ran in less than 24 hours, this was also repeated in Somalia. So in any given situation we are prepared and we rely on Allah and He will be the one to judge us.

*QUESTION: Mr. Bin Laden, you have issued a fatwah calling on Muslims to kill Americans where they can when they can. Is that directed at all Americans, just American military, just Americans in Saudi Arabia?*

**BIN LADEN:** Praise be to Allah. As we mentioned before, Allah ordered us in this religion to uphold the truth to purify Muslim land of all non-believers, and especially the Arabian Peninsula where the Ka'ba is. After World War II the Americans became more aggressive and oppressive, forcing itself on others, especially in the Muslim world.

We are surprised this question is coming from Americans. Each action will solicit a similar reaction. Reciprocal punishment is required to keep your evil away from Muslims, Muslim children and women. American history does not distinguish between civilians and military, and not even women and children. They are the ones who used the bombs against Nagasaki and Hiroshima. Can these bombs distinguish between infants, children, women and military? American does not have a religion that will prevent it from destroying all people.

Your situation with Muslims in Palestine is shameful and disgraceful. If there is any shame left in America. Sabra and Shatilla massacre, was a symbol of cooperation between Zionist and Christian forces against Muslims. Houses were demolished over the heads of children also by testimony of relief workers in Iraq, the Americans led sanctions that resulted in the death of over one million Iraqi children for no reason. All of this is done in the name of American interests. The only reason is your intransigence and your desire to take other people's money and to steal Muslims' oil under misguided terms, saying that it is part of America's vital interests. We believe that the biggest thieves in the world today is America, and the biggest terrorists are the Americans. The only way for us to fend off these assaults is use similar means.

We do not differentiate between those dressed in military uniforms and civilians; they are all targets in this fatwah. Especially since American officials have stated after the Khobar bombing that there was a lack of information and all American civilians were asked to gather information on Muslims and observant Muslim youth and to convey to the security section in the embassy. The fatwah is general and includes all that share or take part in killing of Muslims, assaulting holy places, or those who help the Jews occupy Muslim land.

*QUESTION: Ramzi Yousef was a follower, a follower of yours. Do you remember him? Did you know him?*

Ramzi Yousef, after the World Trade Center bombing became a well known Muslim personality,

001422

FOIA-06126

ABC NEWS Interview of Usama Bin Laden

May 28, 1998

Page 3

and all Muslims know him. Unfortunately, I did not know him before the incident.

I remember him as a Muslim who defended Islam from American aggression on Muslim lands. He took this effort to let the Americans know that their government assaults Muslims to insure Israeli interests, to insure Jews.

America will see many youths that will follow Ramzi Yousef.

*QUESTION: Is it true that when Ramzi Yousef was captured he was in a guesthouse that you were paying for?*

**BIN LADEN:** What was broadcasted in the news and what we learned is that he was captured through American intervention in Pakistan, a big misfortune, from one of the hotels.

*QUESTION: Wali Khan Amin Shah, he was captured in Manila. American authorities believed he was working for you, funded by you, setting up training camps there and that part of his plan was to plan out the assassination or attempted assassination of President Clinton during his trip to Manila.*

**BIN LADEN:** Praise be to Allah. Wali Khan is a Muslim youth, in Afghanistan he is nicknamed the Lion. Azmarai in Afghani. He was one of our best Muslim youths in Afghanistan. We were good friends. We fought together in the same trench against the Russians until Allah sent them away in humiliating defeat. You mentioned that he works for me, we do not have what it is called working for someone. We all work for Allah and await his reward. And regarding your mention of his attempt to assassinate President Clinton, it is not surprising. I did not know about it, but it is not surprising.

As I said, every action solicits a similar reaction. What do you expect from those whom Clinton killed and assaulted and attacked their children and mothers to do? What does he expect but equal treatment which is killing? This is not a surprising matter.

*QUESTION: Federal authorities in the United States are still investigating their suspicion that you ordered and funded the attacks on the United States military in el Khobar and Riyadh.*

**BIN LADEN:** We roused the people, the Muslims, and carried fatwahs from our Ulama after the Saudi government imprisoned them to placate the American government, and the most prominent are Sheikh Salman ben Fahd al-Odeh, Safad ben Abdel Rahman el Hawali, Sheikh Ibrahim al-Dubayyan, Sheikh Yehya Yehya and Sheikh Said ben Sair. They are all our brothers and we pray for them.

So we carried out these fatwahs and incited the people to eject this enemy from the Holy Land,

001423

FOIA-06127

ABC NEWS Interview of Usama Bin Laden  
May 28, 1998  
Page 4

some of the people listened, from among them, Khaled el-Sa'eed, Abdel Azziz el Me'them, Hamood al Hajery and Misleh el Samray. We pray Allah grant them martyr's status. They have raised the head of the Muslim nation high, and washed away some of the dishonor we had to bear by the Saudi government's collaboration with the American government in the land of Allah and in the land of the two holy mosques.

We look at these young men as great heroes and Mujahedeen who followed the steps of the prophet peace be upon Him. We called and they answered, we pray to Allah to accept them and bless their parents with patience.

*QUESTION: You have been painted in America as a terrorist leader, to your followers you are a hero, how do you see yourself?*

BIN LADEN: As I said before, we do not worry about what America says. We look at ourselves and our brethren as worshipers of Allah who created us to worship Him and follow His books and prophets, peace be upon Him, I am one of Allah's worshipers, I worship Allah, as he ordered which includes carrying out the Jihad to raise Allah's word and evict the Americans from all Muslim lands all over.

*QUESTION: No one expected the Mujahedeen to beat the Russians in Afghanistan. That came as a surprise to everyone. What do you see as the future for American involvement in the Mid-East and taking on groups like yours?*

BIN LADEN: NATO that America created, we know it spent \$455 billion American dollars in improving weaponry to protect Europe and America from Russia. And they did not fire a single shot. Allah stood with the Muslims, the Afghani Mujahedeen and those who fought with them from other Muslim countries. We fought against the Russians and the Soviet Union, until, not to say we defeated them, but Allah defeated them and then became non-existent. There is a lesson to learn from this for he who wishes to learn. The Soviet Union entered in the last week of 1979, in December, and with Allah's help their flag was folded December 25 a few years later and thrown in the trash, and there was nothing left to call Soviet Union. We are sure of Allah's victory and our victory against the Americans and the Jews as promised by the prophet peace be upon Him "Judgement day shall not come until the Muslims fight the Jews, where the Jew will hide behind trees and stones, and the tree and the stone will speak and say 'Muslim, Allah's worshiper, behind me a Jew come and kill him,' except for al-Gharaad tree, which is a Jewish plant."

We are sure of our victory. Our battle with the Americans is larger than our battle with the Russians. The Americans made a very stupid mistake that no one has made before. They attacked the greatest Muslim symbol the Kibla of 1,200 Million people. The reaction was very encouraging by all classes especially the Muslim scholars and the youth.

001424

FOIA-06128

ABC NEWS Interview of Usama Bin Laden  
May 28, 1998  
Page 5

We predict a black day for America and the end of the United States as united states, and will be separate states, and they will retreat from our land and collect the bodies of its sons back to America. Allah willing.

*QUESTION: What do you see as the future of the Saudi Royal family and their involvement with America and the U.S. military?*

**BIN LADEN:** History has an answer to your question. Any government that sells its people's interests and betrays its people and takes actions that remove it from the Muslim nation will not succeed.

We predict that the Riyadh leader and those with him that stood with the Jews and Christians and violated Al-Haramain (the holy shrines), by Jews and Christians with American identities or otherwise. This is a grave contradiction to Islam which eventually removes from the Islamic nation.

We predict that like the Iranian Royal family, the Shah, they will disperse and disappear. After Allah gave them property on the most sacred land and gave them wealth that is unheard of before from oil, and still they sinned and did not value Allah's gift. We predict destruction and dispersal. They will not find shelter on earth after being oppressive and despotic and taking part in the disasters brought against the Muslim nation, especially what happens to the Muslim people of Iraq.

The prophet, peace be upon Him, in his Hadith said, "A woman entered hell because of a cat. She did not feed it and trapped it from finding food on its own." She is going to hell for trapping a cat to death, what to say to those who agreed and gave reason for the hundreds of thousands of troops to blockade millions of Muslims in Iraq.

*QUESTION: Do you think the Saudi government wants the American military to stay?*

**BIN LADEN:** This does not make a difference, since American repression, boastfulness and greed still exist. They came by the approval of government. It does not make a difference if the government wants you to stay or leave because you will not leave by their words. You will leave when the youth send you the wooden boxes and the coffins and you will carry in it the corpses of American troops and the American civilians. This is when you will leave. The decision makers beyond taking you out are the Muslim masses in the Muslim world who defending the Muslim lands. Allah willing we will win.

*QUESTION: Describe the situation when your men took on the American forces in Somalia? Were you there?*

001425

FOIA-06129



## ABC NEWS Interview of Usama Bin Laden

May 28, 1998

Page 6

BIN LADEN: After Allah honored us with victory in Afghanistan and justice prevailed and the killings of those who slaughtered millions of Muslims in the Muslim republics. It cleared from Muslim minds the myth of superpowers. The youth ceased from seeing America as a superpower. After leaving Afghanistan they headed for Somalia and prepared for a long battle, thinking that the Americans are like the Russians, but they were surprised when the Americans entered with thirty thousand troops and collected more troops from the world, five thousand from Pakistan, five thousand from India, five thousand from Bangladesh, and also from Egypt, Senegal and others like Saudi.

The youth were surprised at the low morale of the American soldiers and realized more than before that the American soldier is a paper tiger. And after a few blows he ran in defeat, and America forgot about all the hoopla and media propaganda after leaving the gulf war and destroying infrastructure and destroying baby formula factories, all civilian factories, bridges and dams that help planting food. America presented itself as the world leader, and the leader of the new world order, and after a few blows they forgot about this title and left dragging their corpses and their shameful defeat and stopped using such titles. And the politicians in America learned that this name is larger than them and that they are not fit for it.

When this took place I was in Sudan, and this great defeat against America pleased me very much, the way it pleased all Muslims. Allah willing, the next victory will be in Hijaz and Najd, Saudi Arabia will make the Americans forget the horrors of Vietnam and Beirut.

*QUESTION: Many Americans believe that fighting army to army like what happened in Afghanistan is heroic for either army, but setting off bombs killing civilians and incidents like the World Trade Center is terrorism.*

BIN LADEN: They don't act accordingly to the standards he is making. After our victory in Afghanistan and defeating the Russians, the world media, lead by the American media, started a campaign against us that is still going on until today despite the fact that the Russians left in 1989, almost ten years ago, they have been carrying out this campaign accusing us of being terrorist without any action being taken by the mujahedeen against the real terrorists, the Americans. This is on one hand.

On the other hand, American policy does not admit to differentiate between civilians, military, and child, human or animal. Examples I mentioned before in Nagasaki and Hiroshima where they eliminated entire populations.

As for Muslims, the testimony of Westerners and Crusaders who have testified to the death of hundreds of thousands of our children in Iraq. And there are Qana, Sabra and Shatila, Dir Yasin and Bosnia.

001426

FOIA-06130

ABC NEWS Interview of Usama Bin Laden

May 28, 1998

Page 7

The crusaders continued their slaughter of our mothers, siblings and children and America every time takes a decision to support them and prevent weapons from reaching the Muslims, leaving the Serbian butcher to slaughter Muslims.

You do not have a religion that prevents you from carrying out these actions and therefore you do not have the right to object to like treatment. Every action solicits a reaction. It is a punishment that is equally inflicted. At the same time our primary target are military and those in its employment.

Our religion forbids us to kill innocent children, women who are not combatants. However, women soldiers who place themselves in the battle trenches receive the same treatment as fighting men.

*QUESTION: Is there a high council of the leaders of the different groups like yours that decide on ways and means to attack America?*

BIN LADEN: After the Americans entered the Holy Land sympathy and emotions were roused in the Muslim world, more than we have seen before. A great meeting took place a few days ago in Pakistan, it was attended by 150 scholars in Pakistan the goal of the meeting is to work towards liberating the land of Al-Haramain and to coordinate efforts between Muslim masses in the area.

Also, with Allah's blessings, scholars from Afghanistan, India, and other Muslim nations, individual fatwahs were passed, but here great joint fatwahs were passed. The coordination has been expanding between general supported of this religion. From this effort, the International Islamic Front for the Jihad Against Jews and Crusaders was formed which we are members of with other groups. It has a higher council to coordinate rousing the Nation to carry Jihad against the Jews and the crusaders and in this, matters are promising due to God's grace.

*QUESTION: The American people by in large do not know the name Bin Laden, but they soon likely will. Do you have a message for the American people?*

BIN LADEN: I say that the American people gave leadership to a traitorous leadership. This became very clear and especially in Clinton's government. The American government is called the American government, but we think it is an agent that represents the Israel inside America. If we look at sensitive departments in the present government like the Defense Department or the State Department, or sensitive security departments like the CIA and others we find that Jews have the first word in the American government, which is how they exploit America to carry out their plans in the world and especially the Muslim world.

The presence of Americans in the land of Al-Haramain (Saudi Arabia) supports the Jews in the prophet's Holy Land, peace be upon Him, and gives them a safe back. The American

001427

FOIA-06131

ABC NEWS Interview of Usama Bin Laden

May 28, 1998

Page 8

government at the time there are millions of Americans living on the street and those living below the standard of living, and in stricken poverty, we find the American government turning towards helping Israel in occupying our land and building settlements in the prophet's Holy Land peace be upon Him.

The American government is throwing away the lives of Americans in the land of Al-Haramain (Saudi Arabia) and other places for the interests of the Jews. The Jews are a people that Allah cited in his holy book the Qura'an as those who attacked their prophets with lies and killings and attacked Mary, may peace be upon her, and accusing her of being a whore. They are a people who didn't abstain from killing God's prophets. How would they refrain from killing, raping and stealing from humans.

They believe that all humans are animals to be exploited by them, and found that the Americans are the best created beings for that use. The American government is driving America to destruction and rational people have no doubt that America will not be a superpower at the turn of the next century.

So, we tell the American people, and we tell the mothers of soldiers, and American mothers in general, if they value their lives and those of their children to find a nationalistic government that would look after their interests and not the interests of Jews.

The continuation of the repression will bring the fighting to America, like Ramzi Yousef and others. This is my message to the American people to look for a serious government that looks out for their interests and does not attack others, their lands or their money.

*QUESTION: Mr. Bin Laden these are most of the questions we came with. Is there anything that I did not ask that you would like to add?*

**BIN LADEN:** I would like to stress that we are at a close contact with Muslim masses, praise be to Allah, and the issue of liberating Holy Lands is not my personal cause, but I am just a worshiper of Allah and one of Allah's soldiers in the Muslim nation.

The reaction is increasing fast. And I am sure of our victory with Allah's help against Americans and the Jews. We see this then in the strength of the reaction, that every day the Americans delay their departure for every day they delay they will receive a new corpse from Muslim countries to America

The Saudi Arabian government captured a few months ago in Ramadan a number of missiles, which they didn't report. The missiles included anti-aircraft missiles, SAM and Stinger missiles.

Can the Saudi government explain to its people when a SAM missile is launched against a

001428

FOIA-06132

**ABC NEWS Interview of Usama Bin Laden**

**May 28, 1998**

**Page 9**

passenger airplane with 250 soldiers aboard? Can they justify to the American public about the death of these soldiers? What the Saudi Arabian government had captured was definitely much less than what was not captured. The American government if it has anything left to hold on to it has no choice but to pull its sons from the land of Al-Haramain in particular, especially the Muslims land in general, and to refrain from supporting in any way the Israeli government and Jews who occupy our land.

We place total responsibility on the American government for any attack against Muslims and its support of regimes in our countries against the best interest of the people. We also hold them responsible for its attack on Islamic symbols, Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman, who is considered one of the most prominent Islamic scholars who Allah gave the courage to speak the truth.

We hear that he is in a bad health condition, and he is a man beyond 60 years of age and is blind, and America treats him badly. The imprisonment of Sheikh Omar is an attack on the Islamic religion in general and the Muslim countries. We hold it completely responsible for the imprisonment of Sheikh Omar and the imprisonment of other Muslims in America.

My words are to the American journalists not to ask why we did that, but ask what had their government done that forced us to defend ourselves. They should ask why are we defending ourselves.

This is all I have to say.

*QUESTION: What are you going to do - just picking up a word or two - did he mention by any chance the new fatwah that Rahman issued from jail like last week? No. Okay. I heard the name come up so it just reminded me. I was wondering if you could tell me the story of the gun behind you and how you got it. It is a kind of legend in many ways, that during the Afghan war you got it in hand to hand combat with Russians who were on a three day assault of a camp.*

**BIN LADEN:** Praise be to Allah. We went through vicious battles with the Russians. It is enough to just say with Russians, they are known in the West for their brutality and viciousness. They used poisonous gas against us. I was personally injured by this. They used airplanes against our position, we lost many fighters, and we consider them martyrs but we were able to deter many commando attacks, unlike anything before.

*QUESTION: From history: 1897, a man named Teddy Roosevelt who was a wealthy man who grew up in a privileged situation who fought on the front lines put together his own team not from the army, hand picked his own men and went into battles. You are like, the Middle East version of Teddy Roosevelt.*

**BIN LADEN:** We are worshipers of Allah and we carry out our duties. Our duty is to call on all

001429

FOIA-06133

ABC NEWS Interview of Usama Bin Laden

May 28, 1998

Page 10

nations to join the light of Islam. Our first duty is not only to preach for this religion, but also to defend those who embraced this religion.

Since we grew up, American weapons were on our heads and the heads of our children and mothers, like in Qana and others.

The Westerners have been under the impression that Muslims are butchers. They just only need to look at your brothers in Eastern Europe, Turkey and Albania to see those who embraced Islam and lived happily with it for centuries. The Western masses have fallen under the effect of Jewish media who do not broadcast on Muslims except that we are butchers, and without showing that the number of those of us who were butchered are many times. . .

001430

FOIA-06134