

~~Top Secret~~

PDB MEMO

DATE: 04/29/98
SUBJECT: No Evidence Taliban Plans To Hand Over Bin Ladin
BODY:

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This memorandum was prepared by [REDACTED] of the Office of Near Eastern, South Asian, and African Analysis. The author can be reached on [REDACTED] secure.

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29 April 1998

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1. [REDACTED] the group is willing to continue acting as host to Usama bin Ladin. In the meeting [REDACTED], Taliban officials stuck to their line that the Saudi financier is a guest but would not be permitted to engage in acts of terrorism from Afghan soil, [REDACTED]

--- The Taliban has acknowledged in the past [REDACTED] that bin Ladin's presence carries diplomatic costs, but its wish to preserve his financial support and its gratitude for his assistance during the Soviet occupation make the group reluctant to alienate him by monitoring or controlling his activities. [REDACTED]

2. Before [REDACTED] visit to Afghanistan, speculation arose in Pakistan's Urdu press as well as in the London-based Arabic daily Al-Quds al-Arabi about a possible trade of bin Ladin for US recognition of the Taliban government. These reports appeared following increased US involvement in the search for peace in Afghanistan-- [REDACTED]

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