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PDB MEMO

DATE: 07/30/98
SUBJECT: Status of Usama Bin Ladin
BODY:

[REDACTED]

This memorandum was prepared by
of the DCI Counterterrorist Center.

The author can be reached on [REDACTED] secure.

[REDACTED]

30 July 1998

SUBJECT: Status of Usama Bin Ladin

1. Usama Bin Ladin remains in Afghanistan.
[REDACTED] he changes his location frequently, dividing his time among Kandahar, two sites in Khowst, camps in Lowgar and Nangarhar Provinces, and Kabul. [REDACTED]

2. Recently he has spent most of his time at one site in Khowst, which offers better defenses than his compound at Kandahar and which has an extensive array of tunnels and caves. [REDACTED] many of his supporters, including members of the Egyptian Islamic Jihad (EIJ) and al-Gama'at al-Islamiyya, may have moved to Khowst.

--- [REDACTED] Bin Ladin moved his family to Kabul early this month and plans to move them to Khowst or Nangarhar. [REDACTED]

3. Bin Ladin remains on good terms with the Taliban, and [REDACTED] his frequent moves are to hide from the US and not from the Taliban. [REDACTED] he is concerned that the US will kidnap or assassinate him.

--- [REDACTED] the Taliban,

~~TOP SECRET~~

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responding to outside pressure, is urging Bin Ladin to maintain a low profile. [REDACTED]

4. [REDACTED] Bin Ladin continues to plan terrorist attacks against the US and Saudi Arabia with help from elements of the EIJ and al-Gama'at. Bin Ladin's supporters are urging him to mount an attack soon, reminding him of his promise on 26 May to mount operations "within a few weeks," and [REDACTED] he may be planning an attack involving unconventional weapons, possibly against civilians.

--- We are reviewing available information for operational leads and tactical indicators of such an attack. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

5. As of last month, Bin Ladin was still infiltrating operatives into Saudi Arabia from Yemen to attack US and Saudi targets, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Bin Ladin was considering conducting attacks in the US.

--- Arrests of operatives and allies in Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Egypt, Pakistan, and Albania over the past four months may have delayed his plans. [REDACTED]

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