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Terrorism: Omar Sees Bin Ladin as Problem but Balks at Surrendering Him [REDACTED]

1. Taliban leader Mullah Omar last week agreed with some senior Taliban members that Bin Ladin and his organization increasingly are a liability for the Taliban but rejected the officials' recommendation to expel Bin Ladin, [REDACTED]. Omar said that Bin Ladin and his followers were becoming too radical, noting that Al-Qa'ida Arabs had become more fundamentalist than the Taliban and had evolved into a "Muslim Brotherhood"-style organization that might pose a threat to the Taliban or to him in the near future.

— Omar reacts strongly to perceived threats to his leadership. In January, he rejected Bin Ladin's offer to pay Taliban fighters \$100 a month, possibly fearing that the money would reduce their loyalty to Omar. [REDACTED]

2. [REDACTED] Omar assesses that giving up Bin Ladin would prompt the US to make additional demands for human rights and representative government, gaining the Taliban nothing in return. [REDACTED] Omar also wants to protect the Taliban's stature in the Islamic world, which might be diminished if Bin Ladin were forced to leave Afghanistan. [REDACTED]

3. Bin Ladin's wealth and influence over foreign militants, some of whom fight for the Taliban, also will discourage Omar from giving up Bin Ladin, particularly at a time when the Taliban is battling the Northern Alliance. Bin Ladin's contributions of ammunition, fuel, and Arab fighters were important in the Taliban's offensive in [REDACTED] Province in July and this month, [REDACTED]

— An end to the war in Afghanistan might diminish the Taliban's reliance on Bin Ladin.

— If the Taliban were securely in power, it might rethink its decision to harbor the terrorist, particularly if doing so advanced its aim of gaining international recognition. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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