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PDB MEMO

DATE: 09/04/98
SUBJECT: Americans Face Increased Terrorist Threat in US and Europe
BODY:

[REDACTED]

This memorandum was prepared by
of the DCI Counterterrorist Center [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The author can be
reached on [REDACTED] secure.
[REDACTED]

4 September
1998

SUBJECT: Americans Face Increased Terrorist
Threat in US and Europe

1. The most serious threat comes from
Usama Bin Ladin, but affiliated extremist
groups such as the Egyptian Islamic Jihad
(EIJ) and the Egyptian al-Gama'at
al-Islamiyya, which have a presence in North
America and Europe, could conduct independent
attacks or collaborate in terrorist operations
against US interests.

--- The members of al-Gama'at who tried
to assassinate Mubarak in Ethiopia in
1995 received safehaven at a Bin Ladin
camp in [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

2. In addition to seeking retaliation for
the missile strikes and the US role, Bin Ladin
and the EIJ might seek revenge for the recent
arrests of senior EIJ operatives in [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Bin Ladin has threatened to
"cut off the head of the snake," and a faction
of the EIJ just prior to the Embassy bombings
publicly threatened to target US interests.

--- [REDACTED] during the past

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three months, [REDACTED] Bin Ladin has considered conducting attacks in the US.

--- Bin Ladin has associates in the US, but the network appears less structured than his cells in other countries, and [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

3. The near-term threat to Americans is greater in Europe, where Bin Ladin's infrastructure is better established. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Bin Ladin has plans to attack US interests in Europe.

-- [REDACTED]

4. [REDACTED] Bin Ladin is cutting his dependence on his European network for financing and access to high-tech equipment. Without such contacts to lose, he might be more willing to risk the fallout from attacks in Europe. [REDACTED]

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