

~~TOP SECRET~~

(18 October 1999) Bin Ladin's involvement in narcotics deepening

The terrorist chief has made a substantial investment in 57 narcotics laboratories associated with Taliban leader Omar, [REDACTED] In addition, Bin Ladin has ordered a senior associate to establish two heroin labs [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

- With Taliban consent, Bin Ladin has assembled a group of narcotics processing experts to develop more addictive drugs--possibly ecstasy or methamphetamine-- [REDACTED]

Bin Ladin's increasing involvement in the production and trafficking of narcotics in Afghanistan provides him various options for earning money--he also has a connection to traffickers' money-laundering networks--as well as an alternative infrastructure to facilitate his activities. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Bin Ladin was collecting a tax on narcotics he was shipping out of Afghanistan on behalf of Arab businessmen in the Gulf region, [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED] Bin Ladin in August may have commissioned narcotics traffickers to move explosives--he previously has used his own personnel for terrorist activities--from southern Afghanistan [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

~~TOP SECRET~~