

~~SECRET~~

PDB MEMO

DATE: 10/20/2000
SUBJECT: Multiple Suspects for Attack on USS Cole
BODY:

20 October
2000

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1. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Some suspect groups are trying to distance themselves from the attack, anticipating US retaliatory strikes.

--- [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] ~~Bin Laden~~ knew before the attack that the team that carried it out had left Afghanistan, and he is keeping a low profile in hope of avoiding blame.

2. [REDACTED] however, blame other Islamic extremist groups. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] the Islamic Army of Aden-Abyan, which has ties to ~~Bin Laden~~, was responsible.

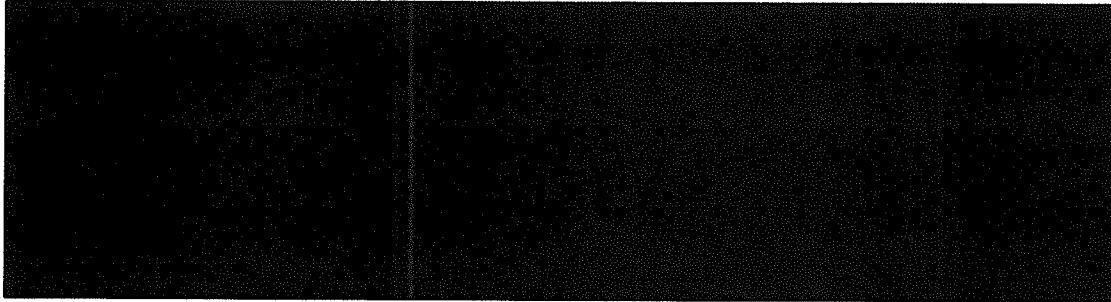
--- [REDACTED] the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group carried out the attack in coordination with ~~Bin Laden~~.

--- [REDACTED] the bombing is the first of a series against US interests in the Middle East and Europe. [REDACTED]

3. [REDACTED] ~~Bin Laden~~ lieutenant Abu Zubaydah told an associate that ~~Bin Laden~~ "may have" carried out the attack but that a Yemeni group also may have been responsible. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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