

SECRET

PDB MEMO

DATE: 12/21/2000
SUBJECT: Potential for Significant Terrorist Acts Through Next Month
BODY:

21 December
2000

SUBJECT: Potential for Significant Terrorist Acts Through Next Month

1. Within the next month, Islamic extremist groups, Iraq, and guerrillas in Colombia are the most likely actors to conduct significant terrorist attacks. Progress in Middle East peace talks, the Israeli elections, Ramadan, the transition to a new US administration, and [REDACTED] provide motives. [REDACTED]

2. Usama Bin-Ladin's al-Qa'ida and sympathetic groups are determined to carry out spectacular terrorist attacks against the US before yearend, [REDACTED] threats in Europe and the Middle East, but attacks in other regions, including the US, are possible.

--- Al-Qa'ida can conduct large car-bombings and crude chemical or biological attacks and has demonstrated an ability to launch simultaneous attacks. [REDACTED]

3. The risk is growing that Palestinian rejectionists will mount mass-casualty attacks in Israel and the occupied territories. The Palestine Islamic Jihad, HAMAS, Hizballah, and possibly new groups may carry out more sophisticated attacks than they have in recent months if, [REDACTED] and Hizballah's terrorist wing are becoming more directly involved. [REDACTED]

4. [REDACTED] may try to take advantage of the cover afforded by increased tension in the Middle East to conduct an anti-US terrorist attack to embarrass the new US administration. If [REDACTED] role in such terrorist activity were uncovered, however, it would undermine [REDACTED] efforts to regain a key role in the Arab world and to further erode sanctions.

--- [REDACTED]

SECRET

SECRET

[REDACTED]

--- [REDACTED] this spring
formed a new terrorist unit, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] to strike US, British, Kuwaiti, and Israeli
targets in the Persian Gulf states and countries
neighboring Israel. [REDACTED]

5. [REDACTED] has threatened to retaliate against the US for
its role in [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] members have discussed shooting
down [REDACTED] helicopters [REDACTED] but [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] plans
to conduct a major terrorist attack against US targets within
the next month [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

SECRET