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TOT: 182232Z APR 97

TO: NIMA NAVY YARD WASHINGTON DC, DIRNSA,
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WARNING: INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE

DIST: 18 APRIL 1997

COUNTRY: AFGHANISTAN

SUBJ: TERRORISM: USAMA BIN LADIN'S HISTORICAL LINKS TO
 'ABDALLAH AZZAM

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
 DATE: 25-April-2012

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SUMMARY: DURING THE AFGHAN WAR, USAMA BIN LADIN MET 'ABDALLAH AZZAM, WHO INFLUENCED HIM (BIN LADIN) TO ESTABLISH A NETWORK TO ENHANCE THE MUJAHEDIN'S ABILITY TO RECRUIT NEW FIGHTERS.

[REDACTED]

USAMA ((BIN LADIN)) FIRST TRAVELED TO AFGHANISTAN IN THE 1980S WITH ((ASMARAI)) [REDACTED] HAD KNOWN EACH OTHER PREVIOUSLY IN SAUDI ARABIA AND DECIDED TO JOIN THE FIGHT TOGETHER.

[REDACTED]

((ASMARAI)), AKA WALI KHAN AMIN SHAH, A SAUDI NATIONAL AND ASSOCIATE OF RAMZI AHMED ((YOUSEF)), WHO WAS INVOLVED WITH YOUSEF IN THE JANUARY 1995 PLOT IN THE PHILIPPINES TO BOMB U.S. AIRLINERS. USAMA ASMARAI IS CURRENTLY IN U.S. CUSTODY.)

[REDACTED]

AZZAM MET WITH BIN LADIN IN AFGHANISTAN. AZZAM KNEW BIN LADIN'S FAMILY AND THAT BIN LADIN HAD SIGNIFICANT SUMS OF DISPOSABLE INCOME [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

AZZAM CONVINCED BIN LADIN THAT HE (BIN LADIN) HAD THE ABILITY TO CREATE A NETWORK THAT COULD SIGNIFICANTLY ENHANCE MUJAHEDIN ABILITIES TO RECRUIT FIGHTERS AND OBTAIN CONTRIBUTIONS FROM AROUND THE ISLAMIC WORLD FOR THE WAR EFFORT. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, BIN LADIN JOINED AZZAM IN PESHAWAR AND THEY FORMED THE MAKTAB AL-KHIDMAT (MK).

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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OVERALL DOCUMENT.
END OF MESSAGE

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