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EO 12958 3.5(c)

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SUBJECT: Further Options Available Against Usama Bin Ladin

1. [redacted] effort against Usama Bin Ladin has been ongoing [redacted]. During this period, there have been several times when it appeared possible that a capture attempt would take place, yet in each case, the effort was not made for one reason or another. It is perhaps a good time to review the ongoing initiative and consider other options which might be launched concurrent with [redacted] initiative.

2. One option would be to revitalize [redacted] effort by providing more direct tasking which would allow them to directly assault his quarters. This option would be much less complicated than a capture attempt of a road convoy and would perhaps be more in line with the type of raids [redacted] conducted during the war. It might require modification of the existing MON covering this operation. Given the threat posed by UBL to the United States, this is an option worth considering.

3. A second option would be to enlist the support to Afghan warlord Ahmed Shah Masood. Masood is currently in Northern Afghanistan fighting Taliban forces who are attacking him. It is thought that he will be able to successfully withstand the Taliban attacks and will be a force to consider in Afghanistan for many years to come. Masood is a soldier and accomplished guerrilla fighter. He has demonstrated an ability to plan and execute difficult operations. [redacted]

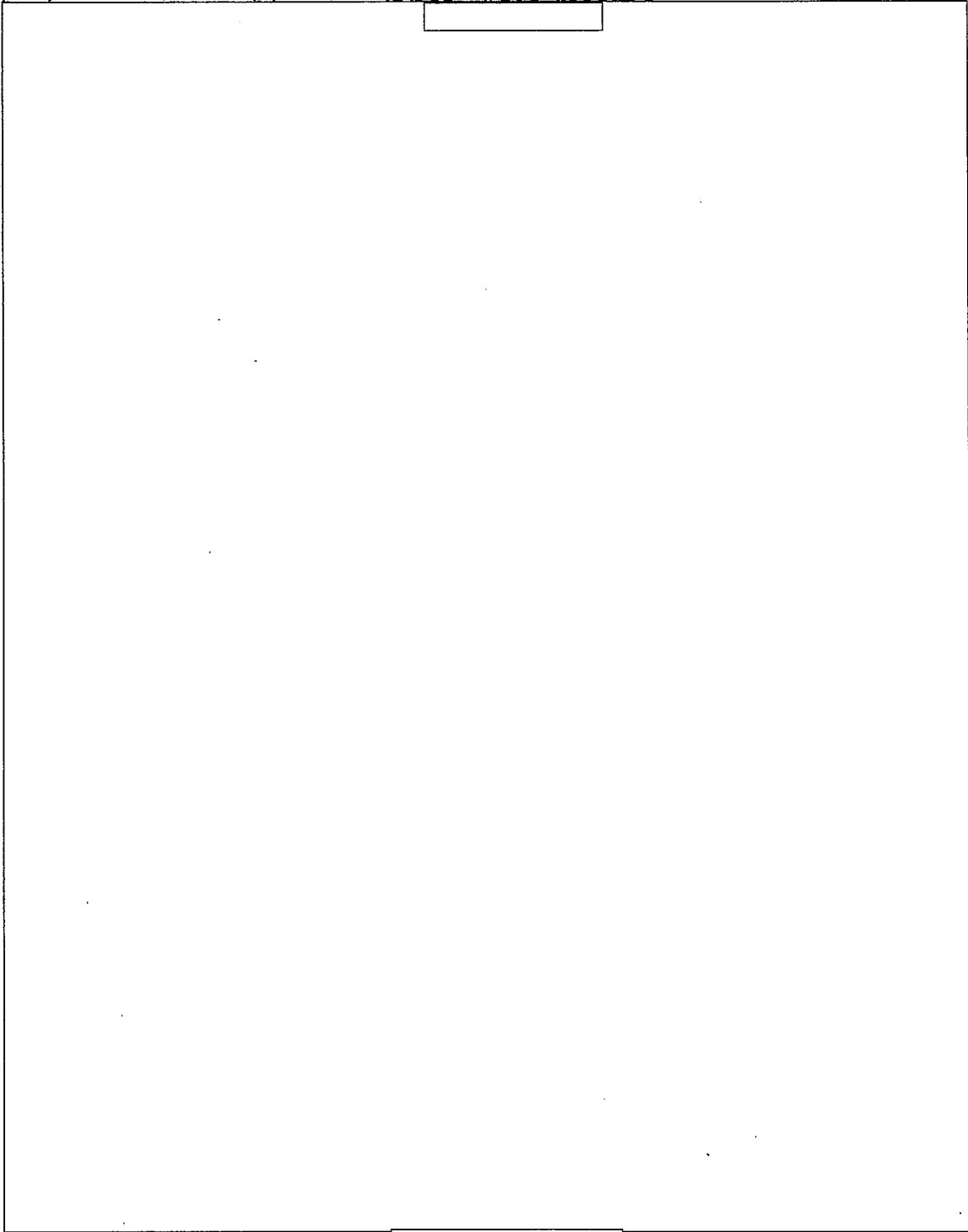
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[Redacted]

Many of these options are not in and of themselves a clear best choice.

[Redacted]

The more options we pursue, the greater the likelihood that one will succeed.

[Redacted]

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