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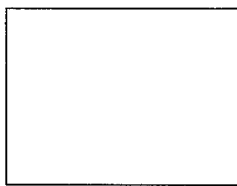
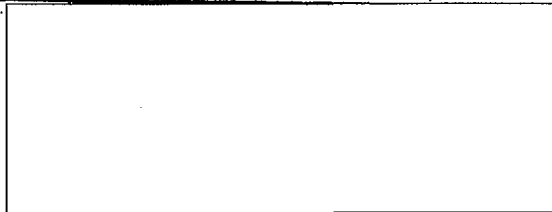
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EO 12958 1.4(c)<25Yrs

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EO 12958 3.5(c)



NOTE FOR:

FROM:

Michael F. Scheuer

OFFICE:

CTC/TFL

DATE:

05/17/99

SUBJECT:

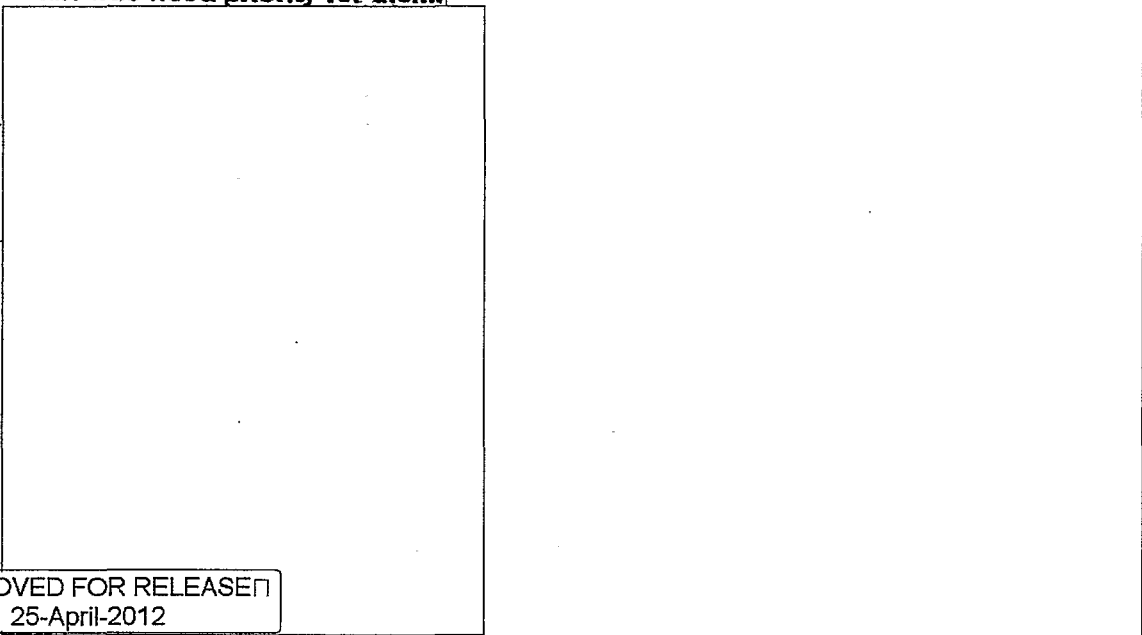
your note

[redacted] thanks for your note. your guys did a splendid job [redacted] and i wish you would give them my best and tell them how much all hands here admire their determination and responsiveness. they did all they could, and then some, to get this job done.

I believe you are exactly right when you say [redacted] don't do it, it won't get done. if/when the history of this operation gets written from the hqs end it will show that for the past 40 months the cia, and especially the do, has been in this endeavor virtually alone. for the first two-plus years--really until the african bombings--the u.s. military did not believe that ubl was a problem/threat

[redacted] saying

ubl was not a priority for them.



APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DATE: 25-April-2012

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[Redacted]

[Redacted] we have been kept perpetually short-handed.

[Redacted] and are still troubled or at least confounded, by the still unexplained decision to forego the capture op at tarnaq last may, which in my estimate is still the best opportunity we have had.

[Redacted]

regret the length of this bleat, but having a chance to get ubl three times in 36 hours and foregoing the chance each time has made me a bit angry. i've driven [Redacted] officers relentlessly--at time ruthlessly [Redacted] and the administration has passed up a half-dozen good-to-excellent chances to complete the operation. my perception is that everytime a chance comes up the dci finds himself alone at the table, with the other principles basically saying "we'll go along with your decision mr. director," and implicitly saying that the agency will hang alone if the attack doesn't get bin ladin. it's a frustrating business, and indeed it's hard to understand [Redacted]

[Redacted] their stark fear of attacking a terrorist bent on killing as many Americans as possible.

still, you and we will continue to pursue the target with determination and professionalism, and hope [Redacted] best always. scheuer.

CC:  
Sent on 17 May 1999 [Redacted]

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[Redacted]