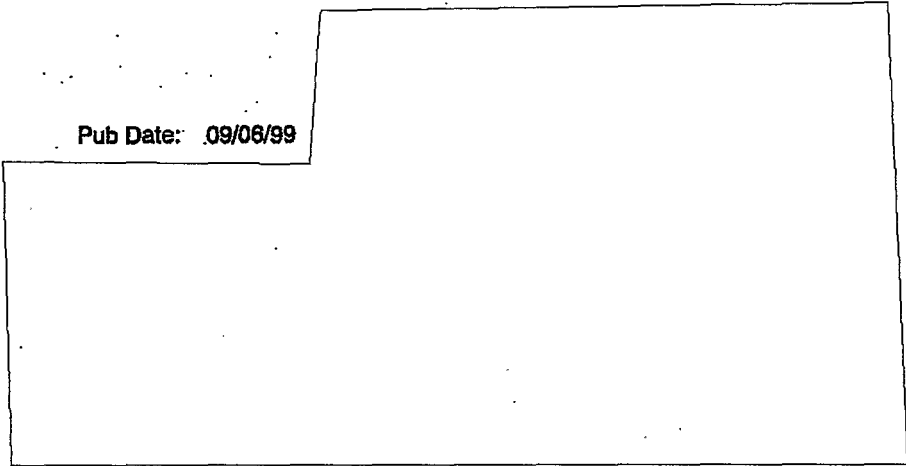


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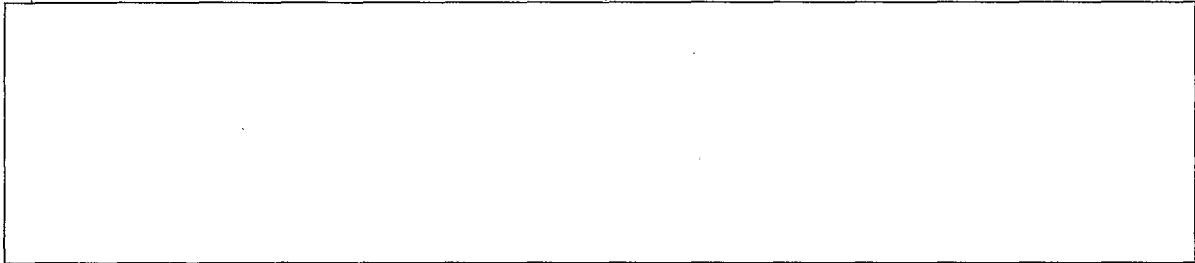


Title: NEAR EAST: UAE: Imposition of Sanctions Could Disrupt Bin Ladin's Finances [redacted]

NEAR EAST: UAE: Imposition of Sanctions Could Disrupt Bin Ladin's Finances [redacted]

Analytic Perspective

If the UAE halted flights of the Taliban- controlled Ariana Airlines to Dubai and Sharjah, Bin Ladin's cash-flow would be at least temporarily disrupted. Bin Ladin has come to rely on cash shipments aboard Ariana flights from the UAE as a key method of obtaining spendable funds.



Ariana Airlines, Afghanistan's only commercial air carrier, is running out of foreign destinations: India on 23 August agreed to halt Ariana flights to Amristar [redacted] Ariana's flight to Jiddah most likely is only for the transport of haji pilgrims. In the UAE, Ariana accounts for a scant share of the cargo transiting Dubai and Sharjah airports [redacted] so halting these flights would have little economic impact on the emirates [redacted]

[redacted]
closing of Ariana's UAE offices would force them to find alternative - and most likely less secure - carriers, routes, and methods for moving Bin Ladin's cash. The money changers might be forced to hire third-country airlines, private aircraft, and possibly fly the cash to Pakistan for overland delivery to Afghanistan - a slower and riskier method. [redacted]



- Dubai is a key financial center where hard currencies are readily available and traded for the Afghan and Pakistani currencies used by Bin Ladin and the Taliban.



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- Afghanistan's antiquated banking system, with hard currency constraints and few international contacts, is ill suited to accommodate such transactions.

