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EO 12958 1.4(b)<25Yrs
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The Director of Central Intelligence
Interagency Intelligence Committee on Terrorism
Community Counterterrorism Board

18 October 2000

INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY TERRORIST THREAT ASSESSMENT

The Threat to US Personnel in Yemen [redacted]

Summary (U)

The potential for terrorist attacks against US personnel responding to the USS Cole bombing in Aden, Yemen, is high. [redacted] Attacks may originate from terrorist groups seeking to exploit high-profile targets as well as local extremists opposed to the US presence in Aden [redacted]

Terrorist Presence (U)

Aden presents a potentially hostile environment for US Government personnel responding to the attack on the USS Cole. Several transnational terrorist groups—including Usama Bin Ladin's al-Qa'ida organization [redacted] maintain a presence in Yemen [redacted] in [redacted] including some who have targeted US interests in Aden.

- In December 1998 the Islamic Army of Aden (IAA), an offshoot of the Yemen Islamic Jihad (YIJ) with ties to transnational Islamic extremists, kidnapped 16 Western tourists, prompting a government rescue effort which resulted in the death of four captives. The Islamic Army previously had claimed allegiance to Usama Bin Ladin.
- The IAA had targeted US and UK tourists for kidnapping in part to force the Yemeni Government to release five Britons and an Algerian arrested in Yemen less than a week.

This Intelligence Community Terrorist Threat Assessment was initiated by the Chief, DCI Counterterrorist Center, and drafted by the Central Intelligence Agency. It was coordinated by the Community Counterterrorism Board.

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earlier for allegedly planning bombings and acts of sabotage against Yemeni, US, UN and British targets in Aden.

- In December 1992 three bombs exploded outside the two hotels in Aden [redacted] [redacted] US military personnel supporting Operation Restore Hope in Somalia had been billeted at one of the hotels. Seven people died in the attacks, but no US citizens were injured. Yemeni authorities blamed the attack on the YD [redacted] [redacted]

In addition to domestic terrorists, transnational terrorist groups—including Usama Bin Ladin's al-Qa'ida organization—have targeted US interests in Yemen.

[redacted]

[redacted] the US Embassy publicly warned US citizens in Yemen of a possible terrorist threat. [redacted]

[redacted]

Security Environment (U)

Yemen has taken limited steps against terrorists within its borders but faces obstacles to undertaking more sweeping counterterrorist measures. The government does not control large areas of the country, which historically has been dominated by tribes, some of whose leaders sponsor foreign and indigenous Islamic extremists.

[redacted]

[redacted] As a result, a number foreign terrorists continue to operate in Yemen with little apparent fear of adverse government reaction. [redacted]

Yemeni Government officials have made a commitment to provide security to US personnel working in Aden, but in the aftermath of the Cole attack their initial support to the US team was slow and inadequate and the team is operating without clearly defined physical security standards. US officials have limited resources on their own to implement

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[redacted]

Threat to US Personnel (U)

Even as US and Yemeni authorities take steps to enhance security, the opportunities for deliberate attacks against US personnel are increasing. [redacted]

[redacted] he coverage of the ongoing investigation by local and international media is certain to raise the team's profile with the local population and terrorist groups.

[redacted]

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