

~~TOP SECRET~~ [redacted]

SENIOR EXECUTIVE INTELLIGENCE BRIEF
7 August 2001
[redacted]

Terrorism: Bin Ladin Determined To Strike in the US [redacted]

[redacted] *indicate Usama Bin Ladin since 1997 has wanted to conduct terrorist attacks in the US.* Bin Ladin implied in US television interviews in 1997 and 1998 that his followers would follow the example of World Trade Center bomber Ramzi Yousef and "bring the fighting to America."

-- A [redacted] service reported that Bin Ladin was planning to exploit an operative's access to the US to mount a terrorist strike. [redacted]

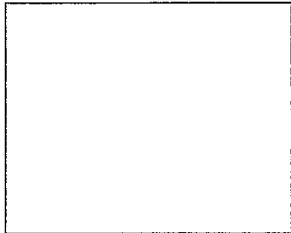
The millennium plotting in Canada in 1999 may have been part of Bin Ladin's first serious attempt at a terrorist strike in the US. Convicted plotter Ahmed Ressam says that he conceived the idea to attack Los Angeles International Airport himself, but also that Bin Ladin lieutenant Abu Zubaydah encouraged him and helped facilitate the operation. Ressam also said that in 1998 Abu Zubaydah was planning his own US attack.

-- Ressam says Bin Ladin was aware of the Los Angeles operation. [redacted]

His attacks on the US Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998 show that he prepares operations years in advance and is not deterred by setbacks. Bin Ladin associates surveilled the Embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam as early as 1993, and some members of the Nairobi cell planning the bombings were arrested and deported in 1997. [redacted]

Al-Qa'ida members, including some US citizens, have resided in or traveled to the US for years, and the group apparently maintains a support structure here. Two al-Qa'ida members found guilty in the conspiracy to bomb the US Embassies in East Africa were US citizens, and a senior Egyptian Islamic Jihad member lived in California in the mid-1990s.

-- A Bin Ladin cell in New York in 1998 was recruiting Muslim-American youth for attacks [redacted]



APPROVED FOR
RELEASE DATE:
25-April-2012

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