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   2. (U) REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS
   A. (U) WORLDWIDE: ISLAMIC FRONT AND ISLAMIC ARMY THREATEN MORE
   ANTI-US ATTACKS
   [1] (U) IN ITS 19 AUGUST EDITION THE ARABIC DAILY AL HAYAT
   NEWSPAPER CARRIED THREE NEW STATEMENTS FROM THE ISLAMIC ARMY FOR THE
   LIBERATION OF THE HOLY PLACES [ISLAMIC ARMY] AND ONE NEW STATEMENT
   FROM THE INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC FRONT FOR JIHAD AGAINST CRUSADERS AND
   JEWS [ISLAMIC FRONT]. THESE STATEMENTS WARNED AGAINST FURTHER
   ATTACKS AGAINST WORLDWIDE US INTERESTS. THE RHETORIC WITHIN THE
   STATEMENTS RESEMBLED PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED VERBIAGE AND REITERATED THE
   GROUP'S DEMANDS/COMPLAINTS, INCLUDING A US WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL MUSLIM
   LANDS, THE CESSATION OF US SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL, AND THE CESSATION OF
   THE US WAR AGAINST ISLAM. IN ONE OF ITS THREE STATEMENTS, THE
   ISLAMIC ARMY CLAIMED THE OPERATION IN NAIROBI WAS NOT INTENDED TO
   HARM KENYANS; HOWEVER, THE GROUP BLAMED THE KENYAN AND US GOVERNMENTS
   FOR BRINGING WAR TO KENYA. THOUGH THE ISLAMIC FRONT'S AND ISLAMIC
   ARMY'S STATEMENTS ARE NEARLY IDENTICAL IN CONTENT AND TONE, NONE OF
   THE STATEMENTS MENTION A DIRECT LINK BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS.
   [2] (U) COMMENT: THE ISLAMIC ARMY ANNOUNCED ITS FORMATION AND
CLAIMED CREDIT FOR THE NAIROBI AND DAR ES SALAAM BOMBINGS IN THREE
STATEMENTS ISSUED IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE NEAR-SIMULTANEOUS
ATTACKS. THE GROUP NAMED THE OPERATIONS AFTER THE AL AQSA MOSQUE IN
JERUSALEM AND THE KAABA LOCATED IN THE GRAND MOSQUE IN MECCA. THE
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DELIBERATE NAMING OF THE OPERATIONS CORRESPONDS TO ONE OF THE GROUP'
STATED GOALS—LIBERATING MUSLIM HOLY SITES. THE ISLAMIC FRONT IS THE
SELF-CHOSEN NAME GIVEN TO THE UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION CREATED BY USAMA
BIN LADIN EARLIER THIS YEAR. IN FEBRUARY, A BIN LADIN-SPONSORED
FATWA WAS ISSUED UNDER THE MONIKER OF THE FRONT AND CALLED FOR A
WORLDWIDE JIHAD AGAINST US AND ISRAELI INTERESTS. THE FATWA WAS
SIGNED BY BIN LADIN, Aiman Zawahiri of the Egyptian Islamic Jihad
[EIJ], Fazlur Rahman of the Pakistani Harakat al Ansar, Meir Hamza of
the Pakistani Jamiat I Ulema, Abd Al Salam Muhammad of the
Bangladeshi Harakat al Jihad, and Rifai Musa of the Egyptian Islamic
Group [IG]. In late July Musa officially disassociated the IG from
the front, but claimed to support the front’s goals.

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IT IS ASSESSED THE ISLAMIC ARMY FOR THE LIBERATION OF THE HOLY
PLACES IS NOTHING MORE THAN AN AD HOC NAME USED BY BIN LADIN RELATED

ACTIVISTS FOR THE EAST AFRICA BOMBINGS. PRACTICALLY SPEAKING THE
ISLAMIC FRONT FOR JIHAD AGAINST CRUSADERS AND JEWS IS A BIN LADIN
ORGANIZED AND SPONSORED LOOSE GROUPING OF MILITANT ISLAMISTS OF
VARIOUS NATIONALITIES. WITHIN THE FRONT, THE EIJ LIKELY PLAYS A
PRIMARY ROLE. BIN LADIN, THE EIJ, AND THE IG REMAIN THE PRIMARY
SUSPECTS BEHIND THE BOMBINGS.

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REGIME IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES BASED ON SHARIA ISLAMIC LAW.

ALTHOUGH GIA TERRORISTS HAVE TARGETED WESTERN INTERESTS, THEY HAVE NOT ATTACKED US INTERESTS.

3. (U) SPECIAL ANALYSIS
A. (U) USAMA BIN LADIN: A PRIMER ON ONE OF THE SUSPECTS IN THE EAST AFRICA BOMBINGS

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[1] (S/NF) SUMMARY: USAMA BIN LADIN'S ORGANIZATION IS ONE OF THE


[B] THE CONCERN OVER BIN LADIN THREAT TO US INTERESTS. BESIDES HIS ORGANIZATION’S OPERATIONAL CAPABILITIES [SEE BELOW], THERE IS CONSIDERABLE CONCERN BIN LADIN’S RHETORIC ALONE WILL INSPIRE THOSE WHO ARE PREPARED TO USE VIOLENCE IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THEIR AIMS.

SINCE BIN LADIN’S INITIAL CALL FOR JIHAD AGAINST THE US IN THE ARABIAN PENINSULA IN AUGUST 1996, THERE HAS BEEN A STEADY FLOW OF THREAT REPORTING ALLEGING FUTURE ANTI-US ATTACKS IN THE MEASURING STICK WHEN BIN LADIN REFERS TO NEAR-TERM ATTACKS MAY BE CONTRARY TO HIS MIDDLE EASTERN MINDSET OF MONTHS OR YEARS.

OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS, BIN LADIN’S THREATS AGAINST US FORCES HAVE BEEN GETTING MORE NUMEROUS AND MORE SPECIFIC, MENTIONING BOTH A TIMEFRAME AND GENERAL TARGETS. IN FEBRUARY BIN LADIN PUBLICLY ISSUED A RELIGIOUS DEGREE URGING ALL MUSLIMS TO KILL AMERICANS WHEREVER THEY ARE FOUND. DURING A MAY PRESS CONFERENCE IN KHOWST, AFGHANISTAN BIN LADIN STATED THE RESULTS OF HIS JIHAD AGAINST THE US PRESENCE IN SAUDI ARABIA AND THE RULING REGIME WOULD BE FELT WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. IN HIS RECENT PRONOUNCEMENTS, BIN LADIN HAS ALSO FOCUSED ON THE TARGETING OF US CIVILIANS.

IN A LATE-MAY INTERVIEW WITH A US TELEVISION NETWORK, BIN LADIN...
MADE A VEILED THREAT TO US MILITARY AIRCRAFT. BIN LADIN ASKED
HYPOTHetically HOW THE US COULD JUSTIFY THE DEATHS OF 250 SOLDIERS
ABROAD FROM A SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE ATTACK AGAINST A MILITARY
PASSenger AIRplane. HE ALSO ADMITTED SAUDI AUTHORITIES HAD RECENTLY
CAPTURED A NUMBER OF MISSILES FROM HIS SUPPORTERS, INCLUDING
STINGERS. HOWEVER, HE CLAIMED HIS SUPPORTERS, PRESUMABLY IN THE
KINGDOM, HAD MANY MORE SUCH WEAPONS AVAILABLE.

INTENTIONS TO COMMIT TERRORIST ACTS, COUPLED WITH VARIOUS CONNECTIONS
to KNOWN MILITANT GROUPS AND ACCESS TO AND FUNDING FOR WEAPONY LEADS
TO AN ASSESSMENT THAT BIN LADIN FOLLOWERS ARE CAPABLE OF CARRYING OUT
ATTACKS AGAINST US INTERESTS. THIS INCLUDES ASSASSINATIONS, ARMED
ASSAULTS, AND BOMBINGS. BIN LADIN'S PERSuASIVE NETWORK INCLUDES:
MULTIPLE COMMUNICATIONS CONDUITS, BOTH DIRECT AND INDIRECT;
SUPPORTERS, INCLUDING OPERATIVES; AND ACCESS TO WEAPONS. THE NETWORK
HE IS ESTABLISHED IS INHERENTLY DANGEROUS BECAUSE: BIN LADIN HAS
THE IDEOLOGICAL/Political MOTIVES FOR CARRYING OUT ATTACKS; HE HAS
ACCESS TO VAST SUMS OF MONEY, WEAPONS, AND FIGHTERS; AND ACCESS TO
EXTREMIST CIRCLES OUTSIDE OF HIS OWN ORGANIZATION.

HIS FOLLOWERS ARE WELL ARMED, WELL FINANCED AND WELL MOTIVATED.
MANY WITH MILITARY EXPERIENCE THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN THE VARIOUS
JIHADS WHICH BIN LADEN HAS SUPPORTED. HE HAS CLAIMED PUBLICLY TO HAVE
PROVIDED FIGHTERS FROM HIS ORGANIZATION TO TAKE PART IN VARIOUS JIHAD
AROUND THE GLOBE:

HIS FIGHTERS CURRENTLY IN AFGHANISTAN SPEND

TIME AT THE FRONTLINES FIGHTING ALONGSIDE TALIBAN MILITIA.MEN.

BIN LADIN ADMITTED TO WEAPONS SEIZURES IN SAUDI ARABIA DURING
A LATE-MAY 1998 INTERVIEW ON A US TELEVISION NETWORK, DURING WHICH HE
MADE A VEILED THREAT TO US MILITARY AIRCRAFT. HE CLAIMED SAUDI
AUTHorITIES HAD RECENTLY CAPTURED A NUMBER OF MISSILES, INCLUDING
STINGERS. HOWEVER, HE CLAIMED THERE WERE MANY MORE SUCH WEAPONS
AVAILABLE, PRESUMABLY IN THE KINGDOM, AND ASKED HYPOTHetically HOW
THEUS COULD JUSTIFY THE DEATHS OF 250 SOLDIERS ABROAD FROM A MISSILE
ATTACK AGAINST A MILITARY PASSENGER AIRPLANE. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE
BIN LADIN SUPPORTERS ARE IN POSSESSION OF SAMS, TO

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INCLUDE STINGERS; HOWEVER, IT IS LIKELY BIN LADIN'S ORGANIZATION HAS THEM IN AFGHANISTAN. IN FACT, A REPORTER AT HIS 26 MAY PRESS CONFERENCE IN KHOWST REPORTED SEEING SA-7S IN THE HANDS OF HIS GUARDS. REGARDLESS, IF BIN LADIN WANTS TO GET SUCH WEAPONS HE IS CAPABLE OF DOING SO.

(E) NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS. SOME ISLAMIC NGOS ARE EXPLOITED BY TERRORISTS AS KEY SEGMENTS OF A WORLDWIDE LOGISTICS NETWORK.

(b)(1), (c)
TODAY EGYPTIANS COMPRIS A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF BIN LADIN'S SENIOR GROUP OF LIEUTENANTS AND ADVISORS.

(U) A LEADING AL-JIHAD MEMBER CLAIMED IN A JULY 1995 INTERVIEW WITH EGYPTIAN JOURNALISTS THAT BIN LADIN HELPED FUND THE GROUP AND WAS AT TIMES WITTING OF SPECIFIC TERRORIST OPERATIONS MOUNTED BY THE GROUP AGAINST EGYPTIAN INTERESTS. EGYPTIAN SECURITY SERVICES HAVE ALSO PUBLICLY ACCUSED BIN LADIN OF FUNDING AL-JIHAD AND OTHER EGYPTIAN AFGHANS.

THE EIJI, PARTICULARLY THE ZAWAHIRI FACTION, WILL BECOME FURTHER IMMERSED IN THE BIN LADIN NETWORK AS TIME PASSES. WHETHER OR NOT THIS INCREASES THE THREAT TO US INTERESTS WILL DEPEND UPON BIN LADIN'S WILLINGNESS TO TARGET US INTERESTS.
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THE FOUR SAUDI SUNNI RADICAL ISLAMISTS BEHEADED FOR THE
NOVEMBER 1995 OPM/SANG BOMBING IN RIYADH CLAIMED DURING THEIR
TELEVISION CONFESSIONS THAT BIN LADIN HAD "INSPIRED" THEM.
(ROH) BIN LADIN HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONDUCTING ATTACKS
AGAINST US INTERESTS IN YEMEN AND SOMALIA, MOST NOTABLY THE ATTACKS
THAT OCCURRED AT TWO HOTELS IN ADEN, YEMEN, ON 29 DECEMBER 1992.

HOWEVER, TWO AUSTRIAN TOURISTS AND A YEMENI BYSTANDER WERE
KILLED. BEYOND BIN LADIN'S CLAIM OF RESPONSIBILITY, THE ISLAMIC
EXTREMISTS ARRESTED FOR THE BOMBINGS ALSO CLAIMED THAT BIN LADIN
FINANCED THEIR GROUP.
(U) AL-KHALIFAH WAS ALSO ONE OF 25 PERSONS CHARGED -- AND LATER ACQUITTED -- IN JORDAN FOR ORGANIZING AN ISLAMIC EXTREMIST GROUP, CARRYING OUT CINEMA BOMBINGS THERE, AND PLOTTING TO BOMB AND ASSASSINATE PALESTINIAN OFFICIALS AND THE JORDANIAN PRIME MINISTER. ONE OF LEADERS OF JORDANIAN BOMBING PLOT, ABDULLAH KAMEL ABDULLAH AL HASHAIKAH, LEFT JORDAN IN MID-1993 TO WORK IN THE IMAM AL-SHAFI CENTER, RUN BY KHALIFAH, IN THE PHILIPPINES. ANOTHER OF THE ORGANIZATION'S LEADERS REPORTEDLY TRAVELLED TO YEMEN, ALLEGEDLY STAYING IN A BIN LADIN-SPONSORED TRAINING CAMP FOR THREE MONTHS TO LEARN BOMB-MAKING.