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Date: 200212

TO: ALEC

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FROM:

SUBJECT: EYES ONLY - DETAILS OF NOVEMBER 2002 INTERROGATION SESSIONS WITH 'ABD AL-RAHIM HUSAYN MUHAMMAD 'ABDU NASHIR

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TO: PRIORITY ALEC INFO DIRECTOR.

FOR: (b)(1)  
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SUBJECT: EYES ONLY - DETAILS OF NOVEMBER 2002 INTERROGATION SESSIONS WITH 'ABD AL-RAHIM HUSAYN MUHAMMAD 'ABDU NASHIR

REF: NONE (b)(1)  
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TEXT:

COMBINE: COMPLETE

1. ACTION REQUIRED: NONE, FYI. ALSO DEFER TO HEADQUARTERS ON DISSEMINATION OF ALL OR PART OF THE BELOW IN INTEL FORMAT.

2. SUMMARY: ON NOVEMBER 2002, DAY 16 OF BASE AGGRESSIVE PHASE INTERROGATIONS OF SENIOR AL-QA'IDA OPERATIVE 'ABD AL-RAHIM HUSAYN MUHAMMAD 'ABDU ((NASHIR)), AKA MULLAH ((BILAL)) (SUBJECT), SUBJECT WAS QUESTIONED FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE-AND-A-HALF HOURS BY HVT

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INTERROGATOR [ ] ON TOPICS RELATED TO CURRENT THREATS TO U.S. INTERESTS. DURING THE INTERROGATION, SUBJECT EXHIBITED SIGNS OF RESISTANCE AND PROVIDED LITTLE NEW OR VERIFIABLE INFORMATION. [ ]

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[ ] AFTER THE MORNING INTERROGATION SESSION CONCLUDED, SUBJECT WAS LEFT ALONE FOR APPROXIMATELY 45 MINUTES, A SECOND PLANNING MEETING WAS HELD, AND [ ] ORCHESTRATED A THEATRICALY FLAWLESS "RESCUE" SCENARIO DESIGNED TO ACCOMPLISH FOUR THINGS, ALL AIMED AT DECREASING SUBJECT'S ABILITY TO PREDICT OR CONTROL EVENTS AS A RESISTOR:

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- DISRUPT SUBJECT'S EXPECTATIONS OF EVENTS AND HOW HE CAN CONTEND WITH / CONTROL THEM;
- INCREASE SUBJECT'S ANXIETY FOR HIS SAFETY;
- INCREASE CONDITIONING OF LEARNED HELPLESSNESS;
- INCREASE SUBJECT'S FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN.

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4. [ ] OPENED BY TELLING SUBJECT IT WAS TIME TO GO TO WORK, AND THAT INTERROGATORS HAD TAKEN GREAT PAINS TO CLEARLY AND REPEATEDLY EXPLAIN TO SUBJECT THAT THINGS WOULD GO WORSE FOR HIM IF HE CONTINUED TO DELAY PROVIDING TRUTHFUL, COMPLETE INFORMATION ON THREATS TO U.S. INTERESTS. SUBJECT WAS TOLD THAT INTERROGATORS WOULD FACTOR HIS COOPERATION INTO THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HIS TREATMENT AT THE NEW, MUCH WORSE PLACE TO WHICH [ ] PROMISED SUBJECT HE WOULD BE GOING WITHIN DAYS. SUBJECT NODDED AND SAID HE UNDERSTOOD AND WOULD TELL EVERYTHING HE KNEW. SUBJECT WAS TOLD TO BEGIN BY TALKING ABOUT HIS KNOWLEGE OF OPERATIONS THAT WERE EITHER BEING PLANNED,

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DISCUSSED, OR CONSIDERED BY AL-QA'IDA OR ITS SUPPORTERS DURING GATHERINGS [REDACTED] TO OCCUR ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, "BUT ESPECIALLY IN THE GULF WHERE WE KNOW YOU HAD RESPONSIBILITIES."

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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11.  TOLD SUBJECT TO GET BACK ONTO THE TOPIC AT HAND:

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12. [REDACTED] SAID THAT HE WAS NOT PLEASED WITH SUBJECT'S ANSWERS, AND THAT THEY WOULD CHANGE TOPICS TO GIVE SUBJECT ANOTHER CHANCE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS, AND TO HOPEFULLY MAKE SUBJECT'S LIFE LESS INTOLERABLE AT THE "NEW PLACE" SUBJECT WAS GOING. SUBJECT WAS TOLD TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT AND ALIASES [REDACTED]

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25. "THESE [ ]" [ ] SAID, POINTING TO TWO BLACK-SUITED SECURITY TEAM MEMBERS STANDING NEXT TO SUBJECT, "WERE PARTICULARLY

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CHOSEN BECAUSE THEIR BROTHERS WERE [REDACTED] AND THEY ARE VERY AGITATED ABOUT WHAT YOU HAVE SAID AND NOT SAID. I SUGGEST YOU BE VERY CAREFUL IN HERE." WITH THAT, [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] HOODED SUBJECT AND DEPARTED, LEAVING SUBJECT STANDING AGAINST THE WALL. SECURITY TEAM MEMBERS GUIDED SUBJECT TO THE CORNER OF THE CELL AND HAD HIM SIT DOWN, AND LOCKED THE CELL DOORS AT APPROXIMATELY [REDACTED]

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26. ENACTMENT OF "RESCUE" SCENARIO: SUBJECT WAS LEFT ALONE FOR APPROXIMATELY 45 MINUTES. BASE STAFF HELD A MEETING THAT INCLUDED SECURITY TEAM MEMBERS. DURING THE MEETING, [REDACTED] EXPLAINED [REDACTED] PLANS FOR STAGING A FAKE RESCUE SCENARIO. [REDACTED] EXPLAINED THAT AS WITH EVERYTHING IN AN INTERROGATION, THE THEATRICS WOULD NOT BE GRATUITOUS, AND THAT THEY HAD A PURPOSE. THE FIRST PRIORITY OF ALL INVOLVED WOULD BE TO NOT HURT THE SUBJECT, AND THE SECOND PRIORITY WOULD BE TO MAKE THE RESCUE SCENARIO SEEM REAL ENOUGH TO THE SUBJECT TO HAVE THE DESIRED EFFECTS, NAMELY FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN, A LACK OF CONTROL OVER AN UNPREDICTABLE SCENARIO. [REDACTED] EXPLAINED THAT IF SUBJECT FOUND WAYS TO "JUSTIFY" TO HIMSELF PROVIDING INFORMATION ONLY UNDER THREAT, SUBJECT COULD BEGIN TO "CONDITION" INTERROGATORS' BEHAVIOR INSTEAD OF BEING CONDITIONED HIMSELF, AND THUS EXACT A MEASURE OF CONTROL OVER HIS ENVIRONMENT. [REDACTED] LAID OUT AND REHEARSED THE THEATRICS WITH FOUR SECURITY TEAM MEMBERS, WHO WERE CAUTIONED REPEATEDLY TO MAKE A LOT OF NOISE, AVOID HURTING THE SUBJECT, AND NOT TO SHOUT ANYTHING IN ENGLISH.

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27. AT APPROXIMATELY [REDACTED] SECURITY TEAM MEMBERS BURST INTO SUBJECT'S CELL, SHOUTING AND HOWLING, KICKING THE CELL BARS, AND THROWING THE CELL DOOR OPEN WITH A SCREAM AND A CRASH. SUBJECT WAS BROUGHT TO HIS FEET AND MOVED QUICKLY TO THE WALLING PANEL. [REDACTED] - WHO COULD NOT BE SEEN BY HOODED SUBJECT - AND SECURITY TEAM MEMBERS YELLED, KICKED THE CELL BARS AND SMALL BOX, AND POUNDED THE WALLING PANEL WITH THEIR FISTS. THIS CONTINUED WHILE [REDACTED] PUT THE ROLLED TOWEL/NECK SUPPORT AROUND THE NECK OF THE COWERING SUBJECT AND WALLED HIM FIVE TIMES. WHILE SHOUTING CONTINUED, SUBJECT WAS TURNED AROUND AND LED BACK TO HIS CORNER. AT THIS POINT, APPROXIMATELY 20 SECONDS AFTER THE TEAM FIRST ENTERED THE CELL, [REDACTED] SHOUTED ANGRILY IN ENGLISH, "WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON IN HERE? YOU THERE, ALL OF YOU, GET OUT OF HERE." SECURITY TEAM ABRUPTLY LEFT, WITH SUBJECT SITTING IN THE CORNER OF HIS CELL.

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28. WITH THE CELL SUDDENLY QUIET, SUBJECT COULD BE HEARD SOBBING, AND WAS SEEN TO BE SHAKING. [REDACTED] SQUATTED DOWN AND REMOVED SUBJECT'S HOOD AND ASKED SUBJECT, "DID THEY HURT YOU? WHAT HAPPENED?" SUBJECT SAID NOTHING BUT SHOOK HIS HEAD. [REDACTED] ASKED AGAIN IF SUBJECT HAD BEEN HURT, AND ASKED SUBJECT, "WHAT STARTED THIS, WHAT DID YOU DO?" AFTER DETERMINING, SUBJECT WAS UNHURT, [REDACTED] GOT TO [REDACTED] FEET AND SHOUTED TO SECURITY TEAM TO SHUT THE GATE. AFTER A MINUTE, [REDACTED] RE-ENTERED THE CELL WITH TRANSLATOR [REDACTED] AND REPEATED HIS QUESTIONS. SUBJECT CONTINUED TO CRY, BUT SAID THAT HE WAS NOT HURT. SUBJECT WAS LEFT ALONE AND MONITORED CLOSELY BY PSYCHOLOGICAL/MEDICAL TEAM FOR THIRTY MINUTES. HE COULD BE

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SEEN [REDACTED] CRYING AND BLOWING HIS NOSE, AND AFTER PERHAPS 10 MINUTES COMPOSED HIMSELF, AND COULD BE SEEN SITTING QUIETLY IN THE CORNER OF HIS CELL ON SOME TISSUE PAPER WHICH HE HAD CAREFULLY FOLDED INTO A PAD. [REDACTED] JUDGED THAT THE RESCUE THEATRICALS HAD GONE EXACTLY AS PLANNED AND HAD SERVED THEIR INTENDED PURPOSE.

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