

Exhibit 27

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(Dissem)

(Header)

[REDACTED]
(Body)

MAR 19 2004 Mr. Thomas O'Connell Assistant Secretary of Defense, Special Operations/Low Intensity Conflict Department of Defense Dear Mr. O'Connell: (TS/[REDACTED]NF) ACTION REQUESTED: The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) requests that the Department of Defense (DoD), on behalf of CIA, take control of [REDACTED]

Suleiman Abdullah [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] We request that the military service in Bagram take immediate custody and control of these individuals, accord the ICRC appropriate access to them, and hold them in an appropriate detention facility until the U.S. Government determines otherwise. We believe this transfer of detainees to DoD control will assist the USG in addressing some of the concerns raised by the ICRC, while ensuring these individuals are removed from the battlefield. (TS/[REDACTED]NF) BACKGROUND: Following is information pertaining to each of the individuals:

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Suleiman Abdullah (S/[redacted]/NF) Abdullah is a Tanzanian national suspected of involvement in al-Qa'ida's East Africa cell, specifically as a [Page 3] facilitator of al-Qa'ida's 1998 attacks against the U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. Abdullah first came to Kenya in 1993 and stayed in Mombasa with East African embassy bombing fugitive Fahid Mohamed Ally Msalam, with whom he later trained in Afghanistan. In Afghanistan, Abdullah received six months of training on assault rifles, explosives and fighting techniques. Abdullah returned to Mombasa with Msalam in 1995, but frequently traveled to Nairobi and Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. Abdullah remained in Mombasa until two weeks after the 1998 East Africa bombings, at which point he fled to Somalia. In 1998, Msalam informed Abdullah that al-Qa'ida was planning terrorist acts against U.S. embassies, but Abdullah claims he was kept ignorant of the exact locations and the dates. Abdullah has admitted that he was recruited as a facilitator by al-Qa'ida operatives for his local knowledge, language skills and boat-driving ability. Abdullah has also admitted to being an associate of numerous other individuals, including Khalfan Khamis Mohammed (convicted 1998 bomber), Issa Osman Issa (wanted in connection with the 2002 Mombasa attacks), and Aboud Rogo (an associate of the 1998 and 2002 al-Qa'ida terrorists), among others.

(U//~~ATUO~~) LEGAL BASIS FOR
DETENTION: The Law of Armed Conflict is a sufficient but not the sole legal basis for detention of the Subjects. Under that theory, parties to the hostilities have the right to target enemy combatants engaged active hostilities, including the right to capture and detain. This is especially true where such detention is necessary to prevent an individual from further engaging in hostilities. A 'combatant' can also be an individual affiliated with an organization engaging in hostilities, or one actively support or facilitating such attacks. (TS//NF) Each of these individuals is linked to al-Qa'idi members and known terrorists or was captured engaging in active attacks against coalition forces. Al-Qa'ida is an entity engaged in an armed conflict against the United States and has supporters in Afghanistan and Pakistan actively engaging in operations hostile to the United States. (S//NF) CONCLUSION: Based on our assessments, these individuals are combatants engaged in hostilities or supporting a force hostile to the United States. Their detention by the United States is proper. We further believe that their detention under DoD control at an appropriate facility is consistent with our activities in the war on terrorism and should be maintained until the United States Government determines otherwise. If you have any questions or desire further information, please contact [redacted] my staff, who can be reached at [redacted].

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Sincerely, Jose A. Rodriguez Jr- Director DCI Counterterrorist Center [Page 6]
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