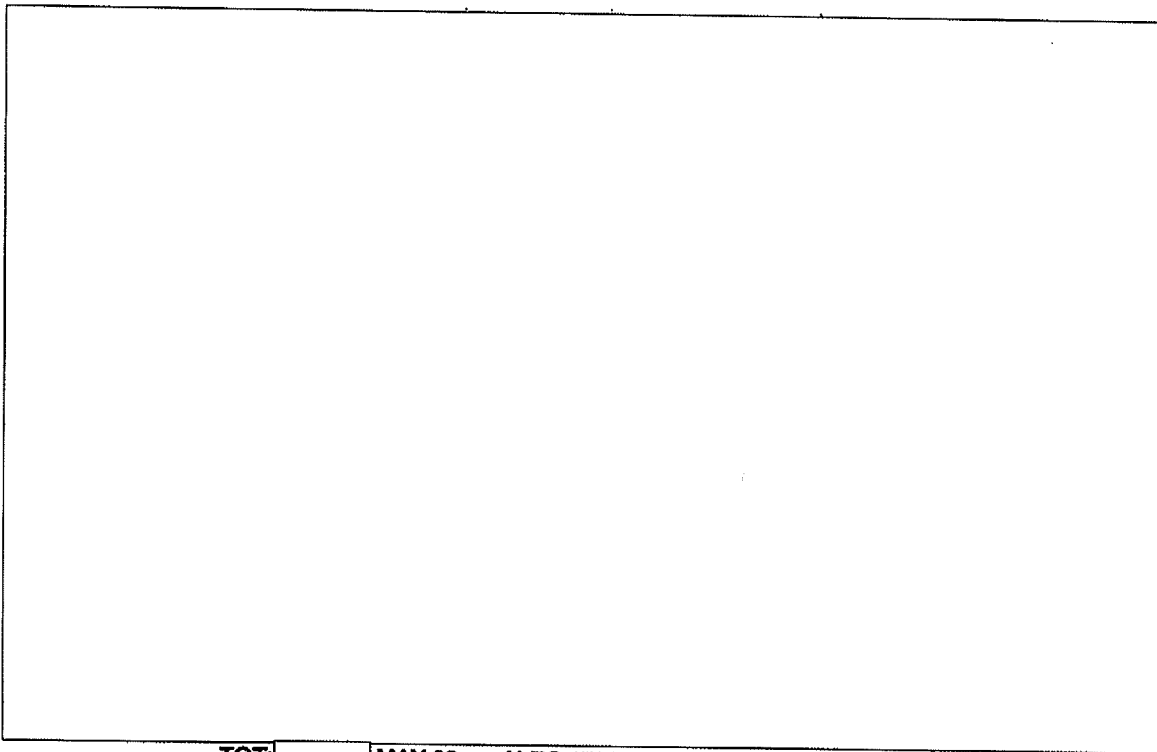


Exhibit 54

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TOT: [redacted] MAY 02 ALEC 176237

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[redacted] ALEC 176237
TO: [redacted]

[redacted]

FROM: [redacted]

SUBJECT: EYES ONLY - SUMMARY OF ABU ZUBAYDAH INTERROGATION STATUS
[redacted]

REF: NONE

TEXT:

1. ACTION REQUIRED: NONE, FYIO.

2. BELOW [redacted] CONTAINS THE TEXT OF THE SUMMARY [redacted]
[redacted] ON THE INTERROGATION STATUS OF AL-QA'IDA

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OPERATIONS OFFICER ((ABU ZUBAYDAH)). THE SUMMARY CONTENT HAS BEEN COORDINATED WITH CIA AND FBI PERSONNEL AT [REDACTED] AS WELL AS THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP OF OUR AGENCIES IN WASHINGTON. [REDACTED]

SUMMARY [REDACTED] ON THE INTERROGATION OF ABU ZUBAYDAH

BACKGROUND. THE PRIMARY NATIONAL INTEREST IN ABU ZUBAYDAH IS THE ACQUISITION OF CRITICAL INTELLIGENCE THAT MAY BE EXPLOITED BY THE UNITED STATES TO PREVENT TERRORIST ATTACKS. THE POTENTIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT EQUITIES -- THAT IS, THE ACQUISITION OF ADMISSIBLE EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS -- ARE OUTWEIGHED BY THAT REQUIREMENT FOR ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE. ACCORDINGLY, CIA IS CONDUCTING THE INTERROGATION OF ABU ZUBAYDAH, ASSISTED BY TWO FBI SPECIAL AGENTS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE INTERROGATION TEAM.

AS THIS IS NOT A LAW ENFORCEMENT INTERROGATION, NO MIRANDA RIGHTS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED TO ABU ZUBAYDAH, AND THE INTERROGATION TEAM IS NOT LIMITED TO THE USE OF TRADITIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT METHODS. SIMILARLY, HE IS NOT ENTITLED TO THE LEGAL PROTECTIONS OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS, AND SO THE INTERROGATION TEAM SIMILARLY IS NOT BOUND BY THEIR SEPARATE PROVISIONS. NONETHELESS, SHOULD ABU ZUBAYDAH PROVIDE INFORMATION TO HIS INTERROGATORS THAT IMPLICATES ANY OTHER PERSONS IN CRIMINAL OFFENSES, THAT INFORMATION STILL MAY BE ADMISSIBLE IN FEDERAL CIVILIAN COURTS AND MAY BE USED TO PROSECUTE THOSE OTHER INDIVIDUALS; MOREOVER, SHOULD ABU ZUBAYDAH'S STATEMENTS ULTIMATELY INCRIMINATE HIMSELF, THOSE STATEMENTS LIKELY WOULD BE ADMISSIBLE IN ANY TRIAL BEFORE A U.S. MILITARY COMMISSION (ALTHOUGH NOT IN A FEDERAL CIVILIAN COURTROOM).

THE INTERROGATION TEAM. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THAT OFFICER IS THE DESIGNATED TEAM LEADER, THE PRIMARY INTERROGATOR, AND IN SOME RESPECTS THE DE FACTO CHIEF OF THE CIA BASE ESTABLISHED FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE INTERROGATION. [REDACTED] ADDITIONAL INTERROGATORS -- THE TWO FBI SPECIAL AGENTS ON THE TEAM, AS WELL AS AN INTERROGATOR FROM CIA'S OFFICE OF SECURITY -- WORK UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE CIA TEAM LEADER. ADDITIONAL TEAM MEMBERS INCLUDE CIA PSYCHOLOGISTS, SUBSTANTIVE AND REPORTS OFFICERS, AND MEDICAL PERSONNEL; IN ADDITION, THE LEGAL AND POLICY GUIDANCE PROVIDED BY CIA HEADQUARTERS IS PROVIDED TO ALL TEAM MEMBERS FOR THEIR REVIEW.

BASED UPON THE COLLECTIVE JUDGMENT OF THE EXPERT PERSONNEL ENGAGED IN THIS INTERROGATION, THE TEAM EMPLOYS INTERROGATION METHODS THAT, ALTHOUGH LAWFUL, DO NOT ALWAYS COMPORT WITH THE TRADITIONAL INTERROGATION METHODS THAT ARE NORMALLY EMPLOYED BY FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL OR MILITARY INTERROGATORS. THESE TACTICS, FOR EXAMPLE, INCLUDE STEPS DESIGNED TO MAXIMIZE THE

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PSYCHOLOGICAL PRESSURE UPON ABU ZUBAYDAH (AS VALIDATED BY THE TRAINING METHODS EMPLOYED FOR U.S. SPECIAL FORCES), SUCH AS THE PROVISION OR DENIAL OF CLOTHING, THE CONSTANT ILLUMINATION OF THE DETENTION CELL, AND THE INTERMITTENT USE OF LOUD MUSIC OR A WHITE NOISE GENERATOR.

PRIOR TO EACH INTERROGATION SESSION, AND REGARDLESS OF WHICH OF THE INTERROGATORS MAY BE CONDUCTING THE SESSION, THE ENTIRE TEAM MEETS AS A GROUP. THE TEAM MEMBERS PREPARE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PARTICULAR SESSION; READ AND PREPARE REPORTS CONCERNING ABU ZUBAYDAH, THE INTERROGATION PROCESS, AND THE INTELLIGENCE PRODUCT; AND ADDRESS ANY OTHER MATTERS THAT MAY ARISE. IN THESE MEETINGS THE TEAM DEVISES THE STRATEGY FOR EACH PARTICULAR INTERROGATION SESSION; WHILE THE STYLE AND APPROACH MAY VARY FROM ONE SESSION TO ANOTHER, AND FROM ONE INTERROGATOR TO ANOTHER, EACH SESSION WITH ABU ZUBAYDAH IS DESIGNED TO ACQUIRE ACTIONABLE THREAT INFORMATION.

FOLLOWING EACH INTERROGATION SESSION, THE TEAM REVIEWS THE RESULTS OF THE SESSION AND BEGINS PLANNING FOR THE NEXT ONE. THE PARTICULAR INTERROGATOR ALSO PREPARES A FORMAL INTERROGATION REPORT, WHICH IS SUBMITTED TO CIA HEADQUARTERS [REDACTED] [REDACTED] THAT SET FORTH ANY INTELLIGENCE THAT MAY HAVE BEEN PRODUCED DURING THE SESSION. IN ADDITION, THE TEAM PREPARES A TWICE-DAILY SITUATION REPORT [REDACTED] TO CIA HEADQUARTERS, AND THE FBI REPRESENTATIVES PROVIDE A SEPARATE DAILY SITUATION REPORT TO THEIR OWN HEADQUARTERS [REDACTED]

NEXT STEPS. THE INTERROGATION TEAM PLANS TO CONTINUE ITS ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO ACQUIRE ACTIONABLE THREAT INFORMATION FROM ABU ZUBAYDAH FOR SEVERAL MORE WEEKS. IN ADDITION, AT SOME POINT IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS THE INTERROGATORS MAY ADVISE ABU ZUBAYDAH THAT HIS COOPERATION TO DATE HAS BEEN INSUFFICIENT, AND THAT THE TEAM THEREFORE PLANS TO TURN HIM OVER TO SOME OTHER NATION [REDACTED] [REDACTED] WHOSE SECURITY SERVICES HE MAY FEAR MORE THAN THE TEAM.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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