

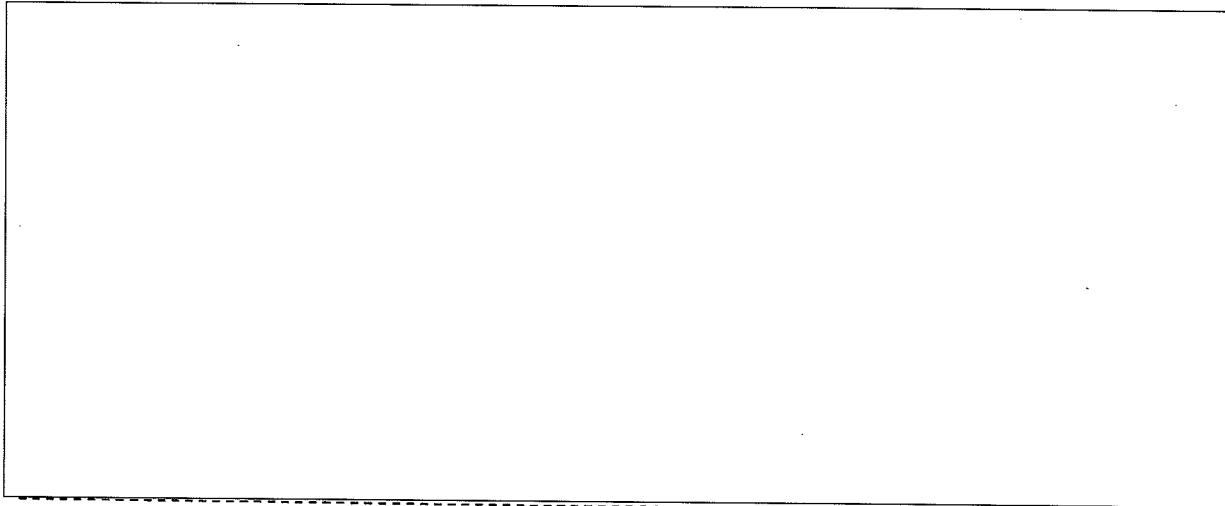
Exhibit S

Date: 20020810

TO: ALEC

FROM:

SUBJECT: EYES ONLY - [REDACTED] TEAM ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT STATUS OF THE AGGRESSIVE INTERROGATION STRATEGY OF ABU ZUBAYDAH



[REDACTED]

TOR: 100335Z AUG 02 [REDACTED] 10607

~~SECRET~~ 100331Z AUG 02 STAFF

CITE [REDACTED] 10607

TO: IMMEDIATE ALEC INFO DIRECTOR, [REDACTED]

FOR: CTC [REDACTED] INFO [REDACTED] CTC/LGL, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] OMS [REDACTED] OTS [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: EYES ONLY - [REDACTED] TEAM ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT STATUS OF THE AGGRESSIVE INTERROGATION STRATEGY OF ABU ZUBAYDAH

REF: [REDACTED]

TEXT:

1. ACTION REQUIRED: PLEASE SEE PARA 7 ON DESIRABILITY OF HOLDING A VTC WITH HQS AT [REDACTED] AUGUST (HQS TIME), AND PARA 8 REQUEST FOR INDICATIONS OF STEPS TO BE TAKEN POST-INTERROGATION.

[REDACTED] RESPECTFULLY REQUESTS RESPONSE BY OOB 11 AUGUST [REDACTED].

2. SUMMARY: [REDACTED] TEAM'S COLLECTIVE PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT IS THAT IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY ((ABU ZUBAYDAH)) (SUBJECT) HAS ACTIONABLE NEW INFORMATION ABOUT CURRENT THREATS TO THE UNITED STATES. TEAM THINKS, HOWEVER, SUBJECT IS STILL HOLDING BACK INFORMATION ABOUT HIS INVOLVEMENT IN PAST OPERATIONS. THE CURRENT LEVEL OF PSYCHOLOGICAL PRESSURES WILL BE MAINTAINED FOR THE TIME BEING TO REFINE THIS PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT. THE CONDITIONING PROCESS HAS BEEN FASTER THAN ANTICIPATED, PRIMARILY BECAUSE THE WATERBOARD QUICKLY OVERWHELMED SUBJECT'S ABILITY TO RESIST. TO AVOID THE RISK OF GOING BEYOND LEGAL AUTHORITIES, WE DO NOT RECOMMEND ESCALATING THE PRESSURE. IF A HQS TEAM CANNOT VISIT SITE EARLY THE WEEK OF 12 AUGUST, RECOMMEND A VTC WITH [REDACTED] STATION [REDACTED] AT 0900 ON 13 AUGUST (HQS TIME) TO DISCUSS TEAM'S PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT AND POST-INTERROGATION STEPS WITH SUBJECT. END SUMMARY.

3. THIS CABLE HAS BEEN COORDINATED WITH COS [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WHAT FOLLOWS IS [REDACTED] COLLECTIVE TEAM ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE AGGRESSIVE INTERROGATION STRATEGY VIS-A-VIS THE CRITICAL QUESTION OF WHETHER SUBJECT HAS ANY ACTIONABLE NEW INFORMATION ABOUT CURRENT THREATS TO THE UNITED STATES. THIS ASSESSMENT TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE SESSIONS CONDUCTED FROM 4 AUGUST TO DATE. THESE SESSIONS INVOLVED USE OF MOST OF THE APPROVED PSYCHOLOGICAL TECHNIQUES AUTHORIZED PER REF C, INCLUDING THE WATER BOARD.

4. AT THIS JUNCTURE IN THE AGGRESSIVE INTERROGATION PROCESS, IT IS THE TEAM'S COLLECTIVE PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT THAT IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY SUBJECT HAS ACTIONABLE NEW INFORMATION ABOUT CURRENT THREATS TO THE UNITED STATES. THIS SAID, THE TEAM PLANS TO MAINTAIN THE CURRENT LEVEL OF PSYCHOLOGICAL PRESSURES FOR THE TIME BEING TO DEVELOP AND REFINE THIS PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT.

5. AS NOTED ABOVE, THE INTERROGATION STRATEGY COMMENCED ON 4 AUGUST AND WE HAVE IMPLEMENTED MOST OF THE APPROVED PSYCHOLOGICAL TECHNIQUES, INCLUDING THE WATER BOARD. LARGELY BECAUSE OF USE OF THE WATER BOARD, THE CONDITIONING PROCESS HAS BEEN FASTER THAN ANTICIPATED. IN OUR COLLECTIVE OPINION, THE WATERBOARD HAS OVERWHELMED SUBJECT'S ABILITY TO RESIST. FURTHERMORE, IT IS OUR ASSESSMENT THAT THE INTENSITY OF THE PRESSURE APPLIED TO HIM THUS FAR APPROACHES THE LEGAL LIMIT. FOR THE TIME BEING, CURRENT LEVELS CAN BE MAINTAINED WITHOUT VIOLATING THE LAW. FOR THIS REASON, WE DO NOT RECOMMEND ESCALATING THE INTENSITY OF THE PRESSURE, BUT RECOMMEND HOLDING IT AT PRESENT LEVELS TO ALLOW FOR MORE DEFINITIVE JUDGMENT. ACCORDING TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER ON THE SCENE, UNDER CURRENT MEDICAL INTERVENTION SUBJECT'S MEDICAL STATUS IS LIKELY TO DETERIORATE TO AN UNACCEPTABLE LEVEL OVER THE NEXT TWO WEEKS, AND THUS WILL CONTINUE TO BE CLOSELY MONITORED.

6. ABOVE NOTWITHSTANDING, [REDACTED] TEAM THINKS SUBJECT IS STILL HOLDING BACK INFORMATION. IT IS LIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT THIS INFORMATION IS RELATED TO SUBJECT'S INVOLVEMENT IN PAST OPERATIONS. IT IS ALSO OUR OPINION THAT: SUBJECT CAN STILL BE A PRODUCTIVE SOURCE OF INFORMATION CONCERNING PAST OPERATIONS; SUBJECT CAN IDENTIFY AND PROVIDE BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON OTHER OPERATIVES; AND SUBJECT CAN PROVIDE INSIGHT INTO THE WAY THE AL QA'IDA NETWORK FUNCTIONS.

7. AS NOTED REF B, [REDACTED] SUGGESTED THAT AN OBSERVER TEAM INCLUDING A SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE OF CTC TRAVEL [REDACTED] TO OBSERVE ONGOING INTERROGATIONS DURING THE WEEK OF 12 AUGUST 02. THE PURPOSE OF THIS REQUEST WAS TO GIVE A HQS TEAM AN ON-THE-GROUND APPRECIATION FOR THE TACTICS/TECHNIQUES BEING USED AS A WAY OF ASSURING HQS THAT TECHNIQUES ARE BEING APPLIED TO THE LETTER/INTENT OF THE LAW, ALLOW A HQS TEAM THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS TEAM CONCERNS REGARDING POSITIVE/NEGATIVE IMPACT OF INCREASED PYSCHOLOGICAL PRESSURE TO ACHIEVE OUR GOALS RE ACTIONABLE THREAT INFORMATION, AND REINFORCE TEAM REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF THE END GAME STRATEGY RE SUBJECT. GIVEN THE SPEED WITH WHICH SUBJECT HAS REACTED TO THE WATERBOARD PROCEDURE, OVERALL CONCERNS THAT CURRENT PRESSURES NOT BE EXCEEDED, THE FACT THAT THIS PHASE IS POSSIBLY BEST BROUGHT TO CLOSURE WITHIN THE NEXT TEN DAYS, AND ON-THE-GROUND DISCUSSIONS WITH COS WHICH FORMED THE BASIS FOR THIS CABLE, TEAM PROPOSES A VTC (WITH TAPE FOOTAGE FOR HQS TO OBSERVE) AT 0900 ON 13 AUGUST HQS TIME [REDACTED]. WHILE TEAM CONTINUES TO BELIEVE A FIRST-HAND, ON-THE-GROUND LOOK IS BEST, IF A HQS TEAM CANNOT MAKE IT BY EARLY THE WEEK OF 12 AUG, THE VTC WILL ACCOMPLISH THE IMMEDIATE REQUIREMENT AS WE SEE IT.

8. LOOKING AHEAD: [REDACTED] TEAM STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT THE ABOVE PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT, AND REFINEMENTS OF IT TO FOLLOW, MAKE EVEN MORE URGENT THE NEED TO ADDRESS STEPS TO BE TAKEN WITH SUBJECT AFTER THE AGGRESSIVE INTERROGATION PHASE ENDS. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ALL CONCERNED -- HQS/ALEC, STATION, [REDACTED] - MUST DEVELOP A COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF AT LEAST THE NEXT STEP, IF NOT THE NEXT SEVERAL STEPS. ALEC/HQS COMMENTS WELCOME AND SOLICITED. REGARDS.

9. [REDACTED]

CABLETYPE: [REDACTED]

END OF MESSAGE

SECRET