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Report of the Joint Inquiry Into the Terrorist Attacks of September 11, 2001

9-11 Commission Report Chapter 8 p. 256

that a plane call to U.S. military had warned that Bin Ladin аппаратов were planning an attack in the United States using "high explosives." On May 17, based on the government's appeal, the first case for the CEGS agenda was granted the "US-Operation Planted in U.S." The anonymous call's could not be included.

May brought reports of a possible joint threat against American abroad to inform the presence of Islamic terrorists in various countries, and the first elaborate plan for the 1993 plot to bomb the World Trade Center (WTC) was leaked to New York City. The report noted that operation might be aimed at the Manhattan or another U.S. city center. The report also stated a "Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) information circular to advise the potential (for an unidentified terrorist threat) to the FAA and foreign authorities." The circular stated that there were "fourteen passengers and crew members from an American airline who had been identified as potential terrorist threats." The report was, however, not substantiated by any credible information.

The FAA circular, titled " anticipating the identified threat to American citizens in the United States," was published in the Federal Register and was later withdrawn. The report contained no specific information about the fourteenth passenger identified as a potential terrorist threat, and the FAA circular was later found to be a prank by a then-exiled Pakistani citizen.

A public, nationwide circular issued by the State Department on June 22, warning Americans traveling abroad of the increased risk of terrorism attack.

Four terrorist warnings reports or warning reports extension issued by the Department of Defense on June 22 and 26, and July 6 and 20, respectively, to alert U.S. military forces and the Department of Defense to signs that Bin Ladin's network was planning a near-term, anti-U.S. terrorist operation.

A State Department statement to Taliban representatives in Pakistan on June 26, 2001, declaring that the Taliban would be held responsible for terrorist attacks carried out by Bin Ladin or al-Qa'ida.

An FBI communication on July 7, advising federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies of increased terrorist threat reports about groups aligned with or sympathetic to Bin Ladin. The communication noted that the major threat to the United States was the possibility of a terrorist attack carried out by Bin Ladin or his allies.

High Probability of Near-Term "Spectacular" Attacks

The threat reports issued in June and July indicated an ongoing high level of concern. The threat of new terrorist attacks increased as principal threats were identified on Al-Qaeda's Chechen leader, Khattab, a possible terrorist target in Pakistan, and two possible targets in Afghanistan. The FBI's threat reports warned of potential terrorist attacks in various countries, including Pakistan, Afghanistan, and other areas.

FBI Director Robert Mueller spoke about the threat of terrorist attacks in a speech at the FBI's National Academy in Quantico, Virginia, on August 21, 2001. He stated that the FBI had assessed the threat of terrorist attacks to the United States as "real and significant." The FBI's assessment was based on intelligence received from foreign intelligence agencies and other sources.

The New York Times reported that the FBI had received information indicating that Bin Ladin was planning a terrorist attack in the United States. According to the report, Bin Ladin had instructed his followers to prepare for a "southern attack" on the United States. The report stated that the attack was expected to take place in the southeastern part of the United States.

Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage described the situation to the joint inquiry: In the last few weeks, we have seen the United States take several steps. We started by Christmas and September nine, five of them global, because of the threat information we were receiving from the intelligence agencies in the