0 161428Z JUN 98
FM AMEMBASSY RIYADH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4204
FAA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO DOT WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT IMMEDIATE
GCC COLLECTIVE

CONFIDENTIAL RIYADH 002085

DEPT FOR DS/OP/NEA, DS/ICI/PII, DS/DSS/ITA, DS/DSS/OSAC
DEPT ALSO FOR S/CT, NEA/ARP, NEA/EX, EB/TRA
ROME FOR FAA
BRUSSELS FOR FAA/JAMISON

CONFIDENTIAL
FRANKFURT FOR FAA/BURGESS  
MANAMA PLS PASS VISITING CASLO REYNOLDS  

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/16/03  
TAGS: ASEC, PTER, EAIR, PREL, CASC, SA  
SUBJECT: saudi arabia: meeting with __________________ re bin laden threat  

REF: RIYADH 2057 (NOTAL) AND PREVIOUS  

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY DCM THEODORE H. KATTOUF, REASON 1.5 (B). CONTAINS PROPRIETARY INFORMATION - DO NOT RELEASE OUTSIDE U.S. GOVT.  

2. (C) ON JUNE 16, RIYADH RSO, ECONCHIEF AND CIVIL AVIATION OFFICER MET WITH __________________ AT KING KHALID INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, TO DISCUSS THE OSAMA BIN LADEN THREAT (REFTEL), AND PRESS FOR ENHANCED VIGILANCE BY SAUDI SECURITY SCREENERS AND POLICE PATROLS AROUND THE AIRPORT. WE NOTED THAT WHILE WE HAVE NO SPECIFIC INFORMATION THAT INDICATES BIN LADEN IS TARGETING CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT, HE MADE A THREAT DURING THE JUNE 11 ABC NEWS INTERVIEW AGAINST "MILITARY PASSENGER AIRCRAFT" IN THE NEXT "FEW WEEKS." BIN LADEN ALSO SPOKE OF SAM MISSILES. WE TOLD __________________ THAT THE USG WAS TAKING BIN LADEN'S THREAT VERY SERIOUSLY. WE ALSO MENTIONED THAT SINCE THE 1995 AND 1996 BOMBINGS, U.S. MILITARY IN SAUDI ARABIA HAD IMPROVED FORCE PROTECTION. CONSEQUENTLY, WE COULD NOT RULE OUT THAT A TERRORIST MIGHT TAKE THE COURSE OF LEAST RESISTANCE AND TURN TO A CIVILIAN TARGET. TO UNDERSCORE OUR POINT, WE NOTED THAT BIN LADEN HAD SAID, "WE DO NOT DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN THOSE DRESSED IN MILITARY UNIFORMS AND CIVILIANS...." WE PROVIDED __________________ WITH A COPY OF THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE BIN LADEN INTERVIEW, AS WELL AS A COPY OF THE RECENT EMBASSY WARDEN FAXNET STATEMENT.  

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RIYADH 02085 161438Z  
AND CIVILIANS...." WE PROVIDED __________________ WITH A COPY OF THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE BIN LADEN INTERVIEW, AS WELL AS A COPY OF THE RECENT EMBASSY WARDEN FAXNET STATEMENT.  

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