

MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT KHATAMI FROM PRESIDENT CLINTON:

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS RECEIVED CREDIBLE EVIDENCE THAT MEMBERS OF THE IRANIAN REVOLUTIONARY GUARD CORPS (IRGC), ALONG WITH MEMBERS OF LEBANESE AND SAUDI HIZBALLAH, WERE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE PLANNING AND EXECUTION OF THE TERRORIST BOMBING IN SAUDI ARABIA OF THE KHOBAR TOWERS MILITARY RESIDENTIAL COMPLEX ON JUNE 25, 1996.

NINETEEN AMERICAN CITIZENS WERE KILLED. THE UNITED STATES VIEWS THIS IN THE GRAVEST TERMS. WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE BOMBING OCCURRED PRIOR TO YOUR ELECTION. THOSE RESPONSIBLE, HOWEVER, HAVE YET TO FACE JUSTICE FOR THIS CRIME, AND THE IRGC MAY BE INVOLVED IN PLANNING FOR FURTHER TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST AMERICAN CITIZENS.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ACKNOWLEDGES THE POSITIVE STEPS YOU HAVE TAKEN IN SEEING THAT THOSE IRANIANS INVOLVED IN CORRUPTION, DRUGS, DOMESTIC TERRORISM AND INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES ARE CALLED TO ACCOUNT FOR THEIR ACTIONS. HOWEVER, THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE IRGC IN TERRORIST PLANNING AND ACTIVITY ABROAD REMAINS A CAUSE OF DEEP CONCERN TO US.

THE UNITED STATES HAS NO HOSTILE INTENTIONS TOWARDS THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN AND SEEKS GOOD RELATIONS WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT, BUT WE CANNOT ALLOW THE MURDER OF U.S. CITIZENS TO PASS UNADDRESSED.

IN ORDER TO PROTECT OUR CITIZENS, WHICH IS THE FIRST RESPONSIBILITY OF ANY GOVERNMENT, AND IN ORDER TO LAY A SOUND BASIS FOR BETTER RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES, WE NEED A CLEAR COMMITMENT FROM YOU THAT YOU WILL ENSURE AN END TO IRANIAN INVOLVEMENT IN TERRORIST ACTIVITY, PARTICULARLY THREATS TO AMERICAN CITIZENS, AND WILL BRING THOSE IN IRAN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BOMBING TO JUSTICE EITHER IN IRAN OR BY EXTRADITING THEM TO SAUDI ARABIA.