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OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

MEMO TO: Secretary Rumsfeld

DATE: July 19, 2002

FROM: Paul Wolfowitz *PW*

*7/19*

SUBJECT: Al Qaeda Ops Sec

OSD 1.4 (c)

CIA 1.4 (c)

Don,

When pressed on why they believe Osama bin Laden is still alive the main explanation offered by the intelligence community is that his death would be too important a fact for them to be able to keep it secret.

However, the fact that he is alive would be an equally important "secret." If, as the intelligence community believes, they would have to communicate with one another about bin Laden's death, they would also have to communicate with one another about his survival.

The only conclusion that can actually be drawn is that they must be able to communicate quite effectively on important subjects without our detecting anything.

The bottom line is that Al Qaeda is able to communicate within its organization

I fear we are so mesmerized that we find it impossible to adequately account for the fact that the terrorists know that we do this. We are a bit like the drunk looking for our keys under the lamppost because that is the only place where there is light.

The most disturbing conclusion from all of this is that we are susceptible to deliberate manipulation by the terrorists,

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