

TOP SECRET

(Security Classification)

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: 25-April-2012

Unauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sanctions

0801443



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(Security Classification)

DCI
Counterterrorist
Center

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Central
Intelligence
Agency

COUNTERTERRORIST CENTER COMMENTARY

6 January 1997

Terrorism: Usama Bin Ladin Trying to Develop WMD Capability? [redacted]

Summary

[redacted] *agents of Usama Bin Ladin purchased a container of uranium* [redacted] *but* [redacted]
[redacted] *bogus nuclear material* [redacted]

efforts by Bin Ladin suggests he is taking steps to develop the capability to use weapons of mass destruction (WMD)—possibly involving chemical agents and biological toxins as well as nuclear material—for terrorist operations, or may plan to give these substances to supporters. [redacted]

[Large redacted area]

[redacted]

CTC# 97-30002
[redacted]

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Pursuing WMD? [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

effort by Bin Ladin's agents in 1994 to purchase uranium:

[redacted]

[redacted]

in a metallic cylinder

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

bogus weapons-grade nuclear material

[redacted]

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~~TOP SECRET~~ [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] information from the past several years tying Bin Ladin to other efforts to acquire WMD capabilities:

[redacted]

[redacted] was exploring the possibility of mounting operations with WMD. [redacted]

To What End? [redacted]

[redacted] Bin Ladin's stated intention to undertake hostile acts against the US presence in the Persian Gulf region--based as it is on an implacable antipathy toward the United States--could be abetted strongly by access to WMD material.

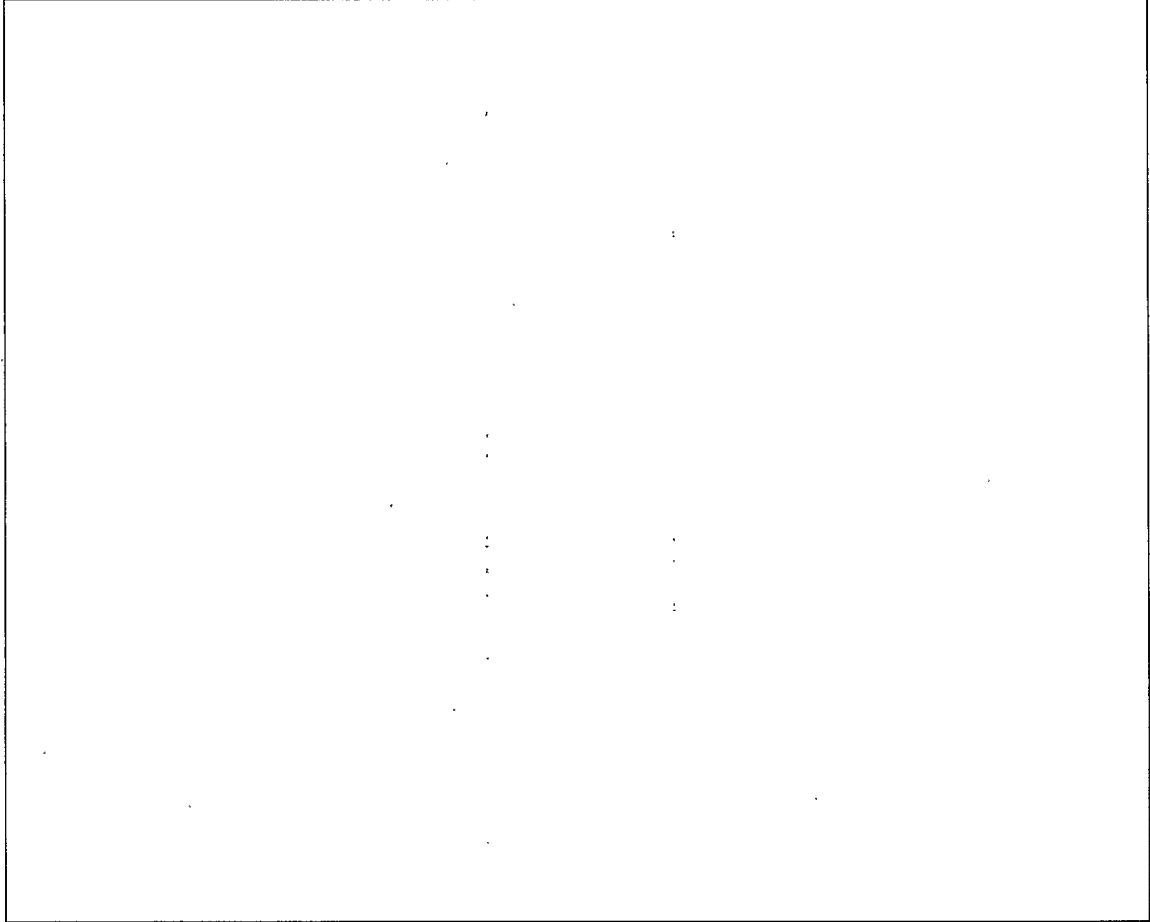
- In public statements made in late November, Bin Ladin warned that "qualitative operations" would be necessary to pursue "a real battle between the Islamic Nation and US forces." We do not know exactly what Bin Ladin might be threatening or how serious he is about following threats with action.

[redacted]

[redacted] targeting US interests in the Persian Gulf. [redacted]

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Subject: **Terrorism: Usama Bin Ladin Trying to Develop WMD Capability?** [redacted]

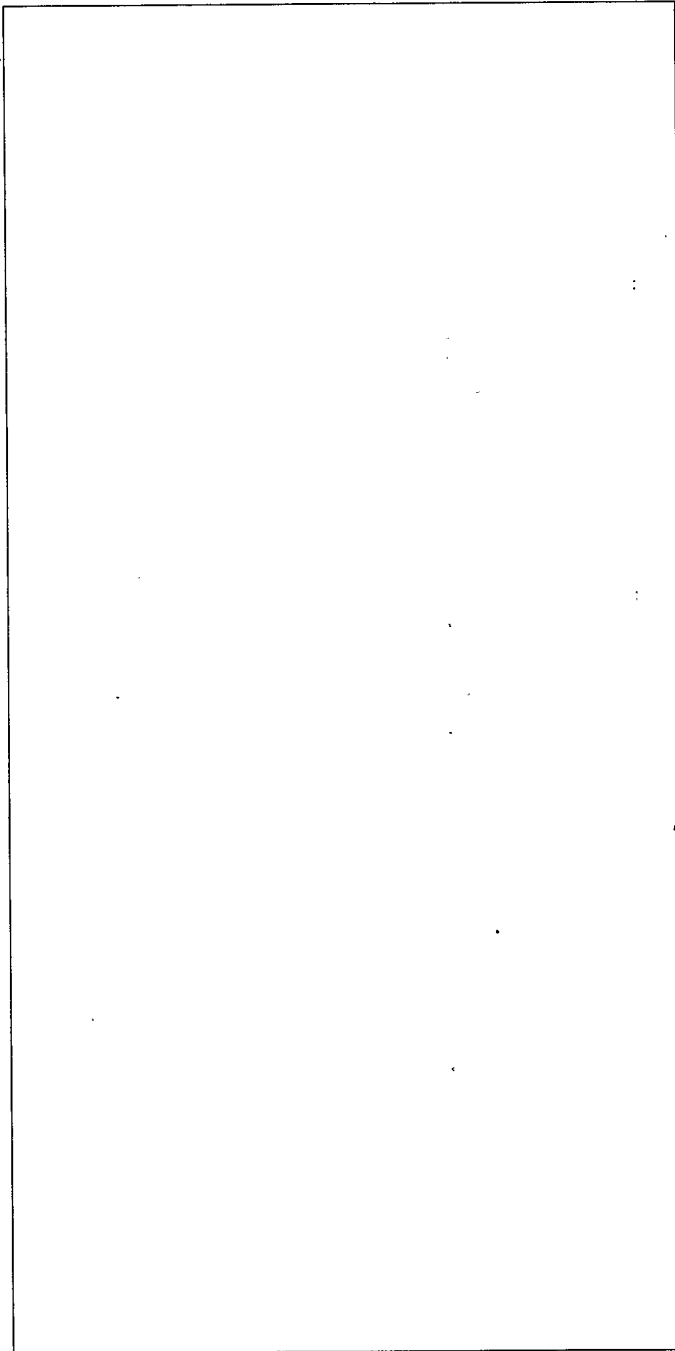
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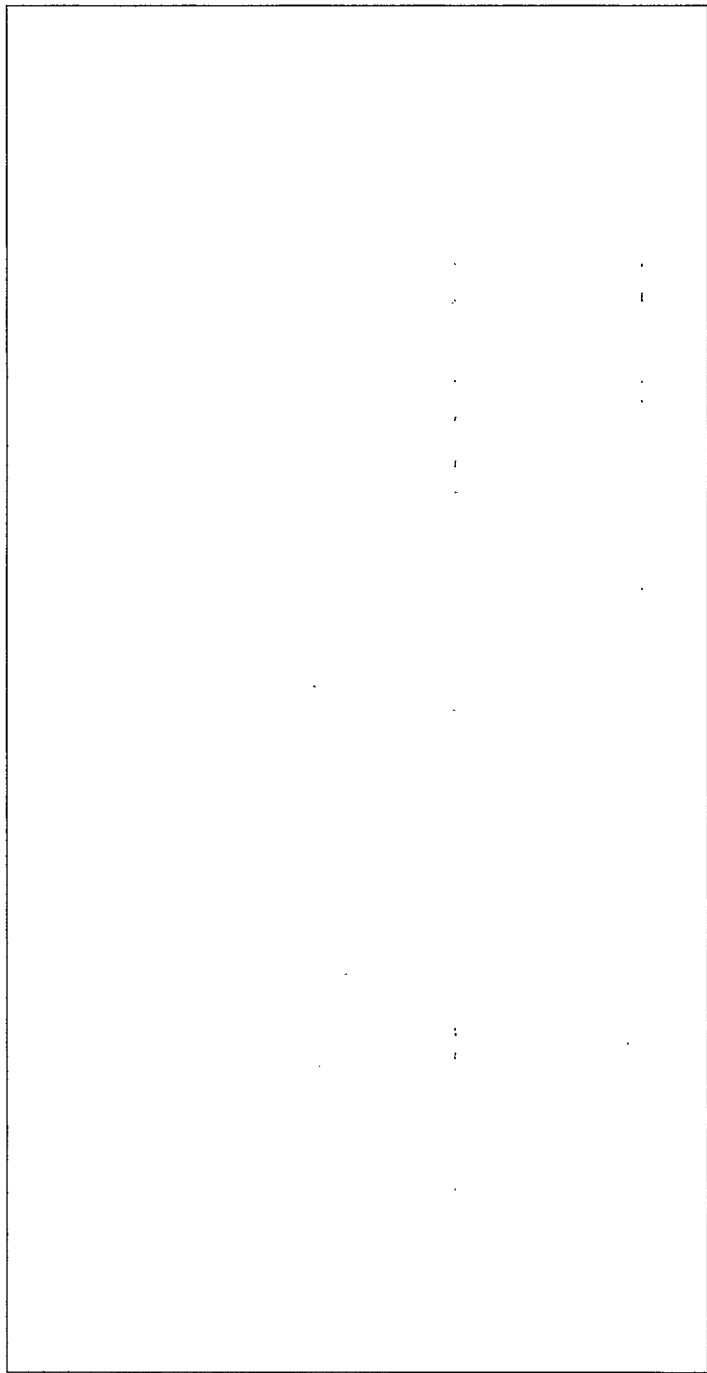
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