



INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY AFFAIRS

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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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INFO MEMO

OSD 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(6)

I-02/001165-NESA
January 24, 2002 5:03 PM



D1/28

DSO Summary
Answer

FOR: ^{Deputy} SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

FROM: Assistant Secretary of Defense, International Security Affairs
(Peter W. Rodman [redacted])

25 JAN 2002

SUBJECT: (S) Links Between al-Qaida and Iraq

(S) You asked if we'd made progress on our analysis of links between al-Qaida and Iraq.

(S) So far we have discovered few direct links. However, we have uncovered evidence suggesting more robust indirect links. This is not surprising given the denial and concealment strategies employed by Saddam's intelligence service.

(S) Direct Links:

- Iraqi nuclear scientist dispatched to Afghanistan to help al-Qaida develop an atomic weapon in late 1990's.



(S) Indirect Links:

- Abu Nidhal Organization (ANO) headquartered in Baghdad.
- ANO has following known links to al-Qaida:

[redacted] met in January 1998 with the General Secretary of ANO. Agreed to provide financial assistance in return for unspecified assistance to al-Qaida.

Classified by Multiple Sources
Reason: 1.4(c)(6)
Declassify on: X6

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Office of the Secretary of Defense 5 U.S.C. § 552
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
Date: 24 NOV 2014 Authority: EO 13526
Declassify: Deny in Full:
Declassify in Part: X
Reason: 1.4(c) + 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6)
MDR: 14-M-1209

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Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: NOV 24 2014

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- [REDACTED] sent his deputy to Lebanon in 1998 to meet with ANO operatives to explore areas of cooperation.

- ANO has links with Hizbollah, which in turn has significant links to al-Qaida.

- ANO responds expeditiously and fully to Iraqi government directives (October 2001).
- [REDACTED] expressed concern (October 2001) to ANO leaders that Baghdad's alliance with ANO would lead the US to hold Iraq accountable for al-Qaida terrorism.
- Suggests ANO functions to serve Iraqi objectives and that Iraq is aware of ANO ties to al-Qaida.

(S) Finally, we know Ramzi Yusef (first WTC bombing) has a connection to [REDACTED] when Yusef fled to Asia in the mid-1990's he was supported financially [REDACTED]

COORDINATION: Tab A

Attachments:
As stated

OSD 1.4 (C)

DASD *Wf Smith*

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