



INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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INFO MEMO

JAN-25 2002 <sup>①</sup>



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

D1/28  
DSD Snowflake  
ANSWER

FOR: <sup>Deputy</sup> SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

FROM: Assistant Secretary of Defense, International Security Affairs  
(Peter W. Rodman, (b)(6))

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.

follow  
→ DSD  
Should we  
organize a  
briefing for you  
to review the  
underlying  
intell?  
Doug Feist

(S) Direct Links:

- Iraqi nuclear scientist dispatched to Afghanistan to help al-Qaida develop an atomic weapon in late 1990's.
- Muhammad Atta met twice in Prague with Iraqi Intelligence Service Prague station chief, al-Ani.
- Overlap of al-Qaida and Iraqi front companies (b)(1)

(S) Indirect Links:

- Abu Nidhal Organization (ANO) headquartered in Baghdad.
- ANO has following known links to al-Qaida:
  - Bin Laden 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: 1.5(c)(d)  
Declassify on: X6

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- Bin-Laden sent his deputy to Lebanon in 1998 to meet with ANO operatives to explore areas of cooperation.
- The al-Qaida cell (b)(1) has received weapons and ammunition from the ANO.
- Vehicle Muhammad Atta used to visit Prague registered to an ANO agent.
- 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).
- Iraqi government 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 bin Laden: when Yusef fled to Asia in the mid-1990's he was supported financially by bin Laden's brother-in-law and senior financial deputy for al-Qaida.

COORDINATION: Tab A

Attachments:  
As stated

DASD *W. P. [Signature]*

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