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ITOS THREAT UPDATE WEBPAGE

DAILY UBL / RADICAL FUNDAMENTALIST THREAT UPDATE

Friday June 22, 2001

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Newly Reported Threats and Incidents

The following information has not been published in previous editions of the UBL Unit / Radical Fundamentalist Unit Daily Threat Update.

- (U) 1). ~~(S//NF)~~ State notified all embassies and the national security community of a terrorist threat warning on 6/22/01. "The State Department has been made aware of the following uncorroborated threat information indicating a possible near term strike against U.S. interests (NFI). Usama Bin Laden reportedly intends to strike against U.S. interests within the next two days according to information held by an Arab in Kabul, Afghanistan on 6/21/01. The Arab in Kabul was sure that the strike, whose location he did not disclose, would generate an American response. The DOD European Command also put out a similar warning to all military commands. (State 109228 & HQ USEUCOM VAHINGEN GE//ECJ23-C! 220915Z Jun 01)

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(S) report of an Iranian walk-in from December 2000 that was later determined to be a fabrication.) In 12 June 2001, an Iranian named Abbas Kowsari HASHEM, alleging to be an Iranian government employee, walked into the Kenyan embassy in Tehran to inform the Ambassador that UBL was planning to bomb the U.S., British, and Israeli embassies in Kenya. Having been refused the opportunity to see the Ambassador, Hashem faxed a message to the Kenyan embassy on 13 June claiming that the bombings would take place on 6 July.

(S) (S//NF) According to Hashem, the group of bombers consisted of 17 Afghans, four Kenyans and four Pakistanis. Hashem further stated that U.S. \$600,000 had been paid to the group to execute the operation. As of 13 June, the bombers were already in Kenya, having used a British-flagged chartered ship to reach Kenya. (CIA 6221627)

Updated Threats and Incidents

The information set forth below is updated information of current threats reported in previous editions.

No Updates

Previously Reported Threats and Incidents

(S) 1). (S//NF,OC) CIA contact, with indirect access, alleges that Usama Bin Laden has planned an attack against a United States Embassy in Africa or the Middle East. According to the CIA contact the attack will occur between June 20 -30, 2001. Members of the Taleban have warned Bin Laden not to proceed with the attack because the repercussions would have dire consequences for the Afghan people. The Taleban reportedly told Bin Laden that if he proceeds he could be forced to leave Afghanistan. (TD-314/20861-01)

(S) 2). (S//NF,OC) According to a foreign liaison service the Lebanese extremist group, the Asbat Al-Ansar is purportedly planning to attack an Embassy (NFI) in Beirut. It is believed that a Toyota vehicle, possibly laden with explosives will be used in the attack. Additionally, the Lebanese service reports that members of the Abu Muhjin Wing of the Absat Al-Ansar met with Bin Laden representatives in the Ayn Al-Hilwah Palestinian Refugee Camp in Lebanon. During the meeting(s) the attendees discussed how U.S. interests can be damaged. (TD-315/20706-01)

(S) 3). (S//NF,OC) CIA contact reports that members of the Yemeni extremist group, the Abyan Abu Al-Hassan (aka Aden-Abyan Islamic Army) have initiated efforts to secure the release of associates in a San'a, Yemen prison. The group members are in prison as a result of their involvement in the December 1998 kidnaping of western tourists in the Abyan region of Yemen. According to the CIA contact four members of the group recently arrived in San'a in order to meet with a Yemeni military leader. The group members hope to obtain his support for the release of their incarcerated associates. (TD-314/20722-01)

(S) 4). (S//NF, OC) CIA reported dated 5/21/01 regarding a threat to U.S. diplomatic facilities in Europe. The following is a tear line. The U.S. government has received information that the

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(S) Vatican and or U.S. diplomatic targets in Italy, France Germany or Switzerland may be the subject of a terrorist attack(s), possibly using dynamite, by Islamic extremists including members of the Salafist Group For Call and Combat. Individuals associated with planning the alleged attack may be traveling to Italy from Pakistan or Afghanistan. This attack appears to be only in the formative stages at this time. (TD-315/18133-01)

(S) (S//NF, OC) Legat Rome advised via email on 5/22/01 that some of the subjects who are believed to be involved in this attack plan remain under surveillance by the Italian authorities.

(S) (S//NF) CIA reported on 5/25/01 that Rome based Islamic extremist Hussain TASSADAQ, who previously told fellow Islamists he would be willing to drive an explosives laden vehicle onto the U.S. embassy compound in Rome, claimed to have visited the Consular section of the Embassy on 22 May on the pretext of asking for information on obtaining a visa.

(S) (S//NF) Italian officials were advised by French officials on 25 May 2001 that the French had lost contact with Ghulam Rasool CHISTHI, a Pakistani citizen and Muslim religious figure, who has been identified as a suspect Salafist terrorist coordinator, involved in the possible plan to attack the U.S. embassy in Rome an/or the Vatican. (TD-315/18855-01)

(U) (S//NF/OC) It has been determined that an individual identified as Ghulam Chisti may have recently entered the United States at JFKIA. According to the U.S. Customs Declaration form, Chisti arrived at JFKIA on an Air France flight and is destined for the URI Offices (NFI) located in San Francisco.

UPDATE: (LES) Subject was arrested in Salt Lake City by DSS and FBI on 6/4/01 on visa fraud charges without incident. Subject claimed during questioning that he had left his luggage with a friend in New York named Mohammed Zafar Raja who lives at 2373 Boynton Pl., Brooklyn, NY. DSS and FBI will be attempting to obtain a warrant or consent to search his luggage and electronic organizer.

(S) 5). (S//NF) Intelligence community terrorist threat alert issued 5/29/01 for 30 days: threat of armed assault in Yemen. A group of Islamic extremists are reportedly preparing to attack an unknown target in Yemen, probably in Aden, by the end of May 2001. The group has allegedly been training to conduct an armed assault with Kalashnikov assault rifles, grenades and pistols. (CIR 316/01326-01)

Other Related Intelligence

IRAN/HEZBOLLAH UNIT THREATS

No new items.

MIDDLE EAST UNIT THREATS

No new items.

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