

TOT. 251609Z JUL 07 DIRECTOR

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TEXT:

1. ACTION REQUIRED: THIS CABLE PROVIDES FORMAL AUTHORIZATION TO PROCEED WITH PORTIONS OF THE NEXT PHASE OF THE INTERROGATION OF ABU ZUBAYDAH. FORMAL APPROVAL FOR THE REMAINDER WILL FOLLOW ONCE WE HAVE RECEIVED APPROVAL FROM THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT. HQS DEFERS TO AS TO WHETHER TO PROCEED WITH THE PARTIAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEXT PHASE AT THIS TIME OR TO AWAIT FINAL JUSTICE DEPARTMENT APPROVAL FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TECHNIQUES.

2. BACKGROUND: CIA PLANS TO IMPLEMENT MORE AGGRESSIVE TECHNIQUES IN OUR INTERROGATION OF ((ABU ZUBAYDAH)), IN ORDER TO OBTAIN ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE ABOUT AL-QA'IDA OPERATIVES IN THE

UNITED STATES AND PLANNED AL-QA'IDA LETHAL ATTACKS AGAINST U.S. CITIZENS AND U.S. INTERESTS. THE INTERROGATION TEAM HAS CONCLUDED THAT ABU ZUBAYDAH CONTINUES TO WITHHOLD CRITICAL THREAT INFORMATION, INCLUDING THE IDENTITIES OF AL-QA'IDA OPERATIVES IN THE UNITED STATES; THAT IN ORDER TO PERSUADE HIM TO PROVIDE THOSE IDENTITIES, THE USE OF MORE AGGRESSIVE TECHNIQUES IS REQUIRED; AND THAT THE USE OF THOSE TECHNIQUES WILL NOT ENGENDER LASTING AND SEVERE MENTAL OR PHYSICAL HARM.

-- SOME OF THESE TECHNIQUES INCORPORATE MILD PHYSICAL PRESSURE, WHILE OTHERS MAY PLACE ABU ZUBAYDAH IN FEAR FOR HIS LIFE. IT IS NOT INTENDED, HOWEVER, THAT ABU ZUBAYDAH ACTUALLY SUFFER SEVERE PHYSICAL OR MENTAL PAIN; IN ADDITION, APPROPRIATELY TRAINED MEDICAL PERSONNEL WILL BE PRESENT THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS.

-- THE USG STAFF EMPLOYEES ENGAGED IN THE INTERROGATION OF ABU ZUBAYDAH ARE COMPLEMENTED BY EXPERT PERSONNEL RETAINED ON CONTRACT WHO POSSESS EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE, GAINED WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, ON THE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PHYSICAL METHODS OF INTERROGATION AND THE RESISTANCE TECHNIQUES EMPLOYED AS COUNTERMEASURES TO SUCH INTERROGATION.

-- ALTHOUGH THE INTERROGATION PROCESS HAS PRODUCED A LIMITED AMOUNT OF SUCCESS TO DATE, ABU ZUBAYDAH REMAINS ADROIT AT APPLYING A HOST OF RESISTANCE TECHNIQUES. HE IS THE AUTHOR OF A SEMINAL AL QA'IDA MANUAL ON RESISTANCE TO INTERROGATION METHODS AND THE AGENCY ASSESSES HE CONTINUES TO WITHHOLD CRITICAL, ACTIONABLE INFORMATION ABOUT THE IDENTITIES OF AL-QA'IDA PERSONNEL DISPATCHED TO THE UNITED STATES AND ABOUT PLANNED AL-QA'IDA TERRORIST ATTACKS. SIMPLY STATED, COUNTLESS MORE AMERICANS MAY DIE UNLESS WE CAN PERSUADE AZ TO TELL US WHAT HE KNOWS.

-- OUR ATTORNEYS HAVE PRESENTED THESE DETERMINATIONS AND OUR LEGAL ANALYSIS TO THE LEGAL ADVISER TO THE NSC, TO THE OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL AT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, AND TO THE CRIMINAL DIVISION AT JUSTICE. THE CHIEF OF STAFF TO FBI DIRECTOR MUMFORD ALSO HAS PARTICIPATED IN THESE DISCUSSIONS, AND THE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN BRIEFED AS WELL.

3. DISCUSSION. WE HAVE SECURED FORMAL APPROVAL FROM THE ACTING GENERAL COUNSEL TO EMPLOY THE CONFINEMENT BOX, AS DESCRIBED IN REF, IN THE COURSE OF THE INTERROGATION OF ABU ZUBAYDAH. WE ALSO HAVE SECURED FORMAL APPROVAL FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO EMPLOY THE FOLLOWING TECHNIQUES, WHICH ARE MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH 5 BELOW: THE ATTENTION GRASP; WALLING; FACIAL HOLD; FACIAL SLAP (INSULT SLAP); CRAMPED CONFINEMENT; WALL STANDING; STRESS POSITIONS; SLEEP DEPRIVATION; USE OF DIAPERS; AND USE OF HARMLESS INSECTS. WE NOTE THAT THESE TECHNIQUES ARE USED ON U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL DURING SERE TRAINING (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF DIAPERS AND REAL INSECTS -- ALTHOUGH SERE TRAINING DOES MAKE USE OF SIMULATED SNAKES, INSECTS, ET CETERA, AS WELL AS FORCED

CROSS-DRESSING). A MEDICAL EXPERT WITH SERE EXPERIENCE WILL BE PRESENT THROUGHOUT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE PROCEDURES. PER THE SERE PSYCHOLOGISTS, THE ANTICIPATION OF THESE TECHNIQUES IS OFTEN WORSE THEN THE ACTIONS THEMSELVES.

4. PLEASE NOTE THAT WE STILL ARE AWAITING FINAL JUSTICE DEPARTMENT APPROVAL FOR THE USE OF THE WATER BOARD AND/OR THE USE OF MOCK BURIAL AS PART OF A THREAT AND RESCUE SCENARIO. WE DEFER TO AS TO WHETHER TO AWAIT THAT APPROVAL BEFORE COMMENCING THE NEXT PHASE OF THE INTERROGATION.

5. IN ADDITION TO THE CONFINEMENT BOX DESCRIBED IN REF, THE INTERROGATION TEAM IS AUTHORIZED TO EMPLOY ANY OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING TECHNIQUES:

- ATTENTION GRASP: IN A CONTROLLED AND QUICK MOTION, GRASP THE INDIVIDUAL WITH BOTH HANDS, ONE ON EACH SIDE OF THE COLLAR OPENING. IN THE SAME MOTION, DRAW THE INDIVIDUAL TOWARD YOU.

-- WALLING: THE INDIVIDUAL IS STOOD IN FRONT OF A SPECIALLY CONSTRUCTED FLEXIBLE WALL. THE INDIVIDUAL'S HEELS TOUCH THE WALL. THE INDIVIDUAL IS PULLED FORWARD AND THEN QUICKLY AND FIRMLY PUSHED INTO THE WALL. THE HEAD AND NECK ARE SUPPORTED WITH A ROLLED HOOD OR TOWEL THAT PROVIDES A 2-COLLAR EFFECT TO HELP PREVENT WHIPLASH. CONTACT WITH THE WALL IS MADE WITH THE INDIVIDUAL'S SHOULDER BLADES. TO REDUCE THE PROBABILITY OF INJURY, THE INDIVIDUAL IS ALLOWED TO REBOUND FROM THE WALL.

-- FACIAL HOLD: ONE OPEN PALM IS PLACED ON EITHER SIDE OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S FACE, FINGERTIPS WELL AWAY FROM THE INDIVIDUAL'S EYES. THE GOAL IS TO HOLD THE HEAD IMMOBILE.

- FACIAL SLAP (INSULT SLAP): THE SLAP IS DELIVERED WITH FINGERS SLIGHTLY SPREAD. CONTACT SHOULD BE MADE WITH THE AREA DIRECTLY BETWEEN THE TIP OF THE CHIN AND THE BOTTOM OF THE CORRESPONDING EARLOBE. THE GOAL OF THE FACIAL SLAP IS TO INDUCE SHOCK AND SURPRISE, NOT SEVERE OR LASTING PAIN.

-- CRAMPED CONFINEMENT: INDIVIDUALS ARE PLACED IN A CONFINED SPACE THE DIMENSION OF WHICH RESTRICTS MOVEMENT. THE CONTAINER IS USUALLY DARK. INDIVIDUALS MAY BE KEPT IN LARGER CONFINEMENT SPACES FOR UP TO 18 HOURS, AND SMALLER CONFINEMENT BOXES FOR ONE HOUR.

-- WALL STANDING: THIS TECHNIQUE IS USED TO INDUCE FATIGUE. THE INDIVIDUAL STANDS APPROXIMATELY 4 OR 5 FEET FROM A WALL, WITH HIS FEET SPREAD APPROXIMATELY SHOULDER WIDTH. WITH ARMS OUT STRETCHED IN FRONT, FINGERS RESTING ON THE WALL SUPPORTING BODY WEIGHT. INDIVIDUALS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO MOVE OR REPOSITION THEIR FEET OR HANDS.

-- STRESS POSITIONS: A VARIETY OF STRESS POSITIONS ARE POSSIBLE. THEY FOCUS ON PRODUCING MILD PHYSICAL DISCOMFORT FROM PROLONGED MUSCLE USE, RATHER THAN PAIN ASSOCIATED WITH CONTORTIONS OR TWISTING OF THE BODY. THE TWO DISCUSSED WERE (1) ABU ZUBAYDAH SITTING ON THE FLOOR WITH LEGS EXTENDED STRAIGHT OUT IN FRONT OF HIM WITH HIS ARMS RAISED ABOVE HIS HEAD; AND (2) HAVING ABU ZUBAYDAH KNEEL ON THE FLOOR AND LEAN BACK AT A 45 DEGREE ANGLE.

-- SLEEP DEPRIVATION: PREVENTING SLEEP IS INTENDED TO HAVE THE EFFECT OF REDUCING ABU ZUBAYDAH'S ABILITY TO THINK ON HIS FEET AND TO MOTIVATE HIM TO COOPERATE BECAUSE OF THE DISCOMFORT ASSOCIATED WITH THE LACK OF SLEEP. FOR MOST PEOPLE, THE EFFECTS OF SLEEP DEPRIVATION REMIT AFTER ONE OR TWO NIGHTS OF UNINTERRUPTED SLEEP. IN RARE CIRCUMSTANCES, INDIVIDUALS PREDISPOSED TO PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS MAY DISPLAY ABREACTIONS, BUT THESE TOO GENERALLY REMIT AFTER THE INDIVIDUAL SLEEPS. THE RECORD (GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS) FOR VOLUNTARY SLEEP DEPRIVATION IS 205 HOURS WITH THE SUBJECT SHOWING NO SIGNIFICANT PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND QUICK RECOVERY AFTER ONE OR TWO DAYS OF SLEEP.

-- USE OF DIAPERS: ABU ZUBAYDAH APPEARS TO BE VERY FASTIDIOUS. HE SPENDS MUCH TIME CLEANING HIMSELF AND SEEMS TO GO OUT OF HIS WAY TO AVOID CIRCUMSTANCES LIKELY TO BRING HIM IN CONTACT WITH POTENTIALLY UNCLEAN OBJECTS OR MATERIAL. HE IS VERY SENSITIVE TO SITUATIONS THAT REFLECT A LOSS OF STATUS OR ARE POTENTIALLY HUMILIATING. ONE WAY TO LEVERAGE HIS CONCERNS, WHILE HELPING ENSURE HIS WOUND DOES NOT BECOME INFECTED WITH HUMAN WASTE WHEN IN CRAMPED CONFINEMENT IS TO PLACE HIM IN AN ADULT DIAPER. IF SOILED, CARE WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN TO KEEP HUMAN WASTE OUT OF HIS LEG WOUND.

-- INSECTS: ABU ZUBAYDAH APPEARS TO HAVE A FEAR OF INSECTS. ONE POSSIBILITY IS TO THREATEN TO PLACE STINGING INSECTS INTO THE CRAMPED CONFINEMENT BOX WITH HIM, BUT INSTEAD PLACE HARMLESS INSECTS. THE PURPOSE OF THIS WOULD BE TO PLAY OFF HIS FEARS AND INCREASE HIS SENSE OF DREAD AND MOTIVATE HIM TO AVOID THE BOX IN THE FUTURE BY COOPERATING WITH THE INTERROGATOR'S REQUESTS.

6. WE WILL ADVISE BY IMMEDIATE PRECEDENCE ONCE WE HAVE A FINAL DETERMINATION ON THE WATER BOARD AND/OR THE MOCK BURIAL SCENARIO. BEST REGARDS AND GOOD LUCK.

END OF MESSAGE