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April 9, 2003

Hon. Thomas E. Kean, Chairman
National Commission on Terrorist Attacks
Upon the United States
c/o GSA Agency Liaison Division
701 D Street, SW
Room 7120
Washington, DC 20407

Dear Chairman Kean:

As lead counsel to over 3,600 victims of the September 11, 2001 attacks, Ness, Motley, P.A. shares in the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States' agenda and goal of examining the continuing threat and funding sources of transnational terrorism as well as the failures and deficiencies of government and industry leading up to the 9/11 attacks. As a Firm, our clients and attorneys deeply appreciate the noble and daunting work the Commission has courageously undertaken for the betterment of our country. I had the honor and privilege of attending the Commission's very powerful opening hearings in New York City on March 31-April 1, and I look forward to following the Commission's important work in the coming months.

As Ness, Motley endeavors to root out and bankrupt the logistical and funding sources of terrorism, we wish to contribute and share in the Commission's work and, where appropriate, provide insights and materials in an effort to enhance the overall impact of this monumental initiative. We have spent a considerable number of months investigating, collecting and analyzing evidence concerning prior terrorist threats and

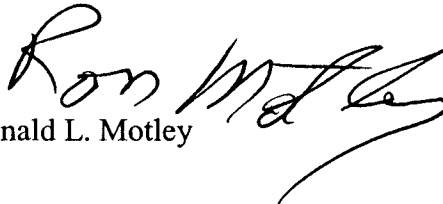
attacks. In our work to illustrate the complicity and liability of terrorist financiers in the September 11th attacks, we are striving to answer the following probative question: "Did the financiers of terrorism have sufficient pre-9/11/01 information to be placed on notice that funding Al-Qaeda would result in a catastrophic attack on the U.S. homeland?"

Indeed, there was sufficient information and tangible evidence available, not only to relevant government and industry decision-makers, but also to financiers of terrorism of a likely plot whereby suicidal hijackers would use civilian aircraft as a weapon of mass destruction years in advance of the September 11, 2001 attacks. As such, we believe there is tremendous value in the Commission examining issues of foreseeability and prior government and industry knowledge of similar terrorist plots. An examination of these issues will inform the Commission, relevant government actors, and the American public about what we as a country knew about the possibility of this plot being carried out prior to 9/11.

In an effort to contribute to this sensitive and vitally important discussion, Ness, Motley has compiled a timeline and an historical summary of critical terrorist events. We hope the enclosed memorandum will assist the Commission in examining the systemic failures of the aviation industry and our intelligence agencies in preparing for and responding to similar terrorist threats and activities involving commercial aircraft prior to September 2001.

Again, Ness, Motley, P.A. appreciates the Commission's substantive examination of these important issues. I encourage Commission members or staff to contact me to further discuss ways in which our Firm may be of assistance to the work of the Commission.

Sincerely,


Ronald L. Motley

RLM/me

cc: Executive Director Philip D. Zelikow
Commission Vice-Chair Lee Hamilton
Commission Member Richard Ben-Veniste
Commission Member Max Cleland
Commission Member Fred F. Fielding
Commission Member Jamie S. Gorelick
Commission Member Slade Gorton
Commission Member John F. Lehman
Commission Member Timothy J. Roemer
Commission Member James R. Thompson
9-11 Families United to Bankrupt Terrorism Steering Committee

9/11 FAMILIES UNITED TO BANKRUPT TERRORISM

POSITION PAPER 1:

Foreseeability of the 9-11-01 Attacks on the U.S. Homeland

Overview

In its work to root out and bankrupt the logistical and funding sources of terrorism, Ness, Motley, on behalf of the 9/11 Families United To Bankrupt Terrorism, has compiled significant evidence and information that illustrates a requisite knowledge, years in advance of September 11, 2001, by industry, government, and financiers of terrorism of a likely plot whereby suicidal hijackers would use civilian aircraft as a weapon of mass destruction against high profile domestic landmarks.

We believe the below analysis regarding pre-September 11th terrorist activities and the failure of government and industry to protect the public from these threats may be of value to the Commission as it attempts to identify the systemic deficiencies in government and industry leading up to the attacks. Specifically, the compilation of the referenced information illustrates:

- A decades-long pattern of increased violence and lethality of terrorist attacks against commercial aircraft;
- A number of earlier plots by Al-Qaeda and other terrorist groups to use airplanes as guided missiles against high-profile landmarks;
- An inability by government and industry to prevent such an attack from taking place;
- An understanding and acknowledgement of these terrorist activities by financial supporters of Saudi Arabian based charities.

We hope the Commission will utilize this information in its broader effort to enhance our nation's understanding of the events leading up to the 9/11 attacks.

Historical Trends

It is instructive to examine the history of terrorist acts against civilian aircraft in order to better understand the overarching trends of terrorism and challenges in aviation security. Government, industry, and terrorist financiers have long understood the increasing threat of mass terrorist violence from hijacking civilian aircraft and the likely plot scenarios for inflicting maximum loss of life and strategic impact on economic and political centers. Yet, as the world has so dramatically seen, government did not effectively counteract these threats with adequate safety and security measures to prevent a coordinated and large scale hijacking attack from occurring on airliners. Furthermore, there is ample evidence available from government and news sources which illustrates that the aviation industry consistently ignored persistent security threats against American civilian aircraft.

Terrorist hijackings of airliners are not a new problem. During the first fifty years of commercial aviation, there were 1,098 attacks on civilian airliners and the most

common form of attack has been hijackings—constituting 87 percent of all attacks on airliners (959 of 1,098 incidents). Paul Wilkinson and Brian Jenkins, Aviation Terrorism and Security, (1999). While the actual number of attacks and hijackings on commercial airliners has declined since the 1970s, the lethality of attacks has dramatically increased. For instance, from 1967-1976, when there were the greatest number of attacks and hijackings of commercial airliners, there were 679 fatalities that occurred as a result of these acts. However, from 1987-1996, when the number of attacks against airliners were far fewer, there were 1,051 fatalities. *Id. at 18.*

Important to note, however, is the fact that during the same time period when the lethality of attacks was increasing, 1976-1996, the rate of thwarting hijackings and attacks actually decreased:

In North America the rate of thwarting of hijackings over the most recent two decades has been 43 percent and in Western Europe 24 percent (still a better than two-to-one chance of success for the average hijacker, respectively). Yet, in the most recent decade the thwarting rate in North America has dropped to 23 percent and in Western Europe to merely 8 percent.

Id.

When evaluating whether the September 11th attacks could have been foreseen, it is easy to confuse the result of the hijacking with the cause of the hijacking. The reality is that once an aircraft has been hijacked, there is little, if anything, that can be done. Therefore, the question of what is preventable must stem from the cause and not the result. The hijacking of a commercial airliner will always remain a favorite terrorist target because such events are extraordinarily dangerous, always widely televised and invoke tremendous public fear. Following is a chronological timeline of events from the onset of airline terrorism through the September 11th, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States. The information highlights the growing threat of increasingly lethal attacks on civilian aircraft. Significantly, the compiled data illustrates the foreseeability and advance knowledge and understanding that financiers of terrorist organizations, government officials and industry experts had regarding the possibility of suicide hijackers commandeering a plane and flying the aircraft into high profile economic and political landmarks as occurred on September 11, 2001.

A Timeline of Terrorism

1961

The first hijacking of an American carrier occurred in the United States.
(*White House Commission on Aviation Security and Terrorism, 1996*)

May 7, 1964

A former member of Philippine Olympic Yachting team boarded a Pacific Airlines plane shot the pilot and co-pilot and crashed the plane.

July 1968

An El Al Boeing 707 flying from Rome to Tel Aviv was hijacked by three members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and flown to Algeria. Male Israeli crew and passengers were held hostage until September 1, when Israel and the Algerian government strike a deal to release 16 Arab prisoners in exchange for the freeing of the 12 remaining hostages. The hijackings established an historical precedent: the first terrorist hijacking in which political demands were met. The incident led to a dramatic rise in politically motivated airline hijackings over the ensuing years.

(The Terrorist Threat to Commercial Aviation, 1989)

September 6, 1970

Members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) hijacked Pan Am Flight 93, TWA Flight 741 and a Swissair flight, all bound for New York. The same day, members of the PFLP attempted to hijack El Al Flight 219 but were thwarted by air marshals during the flight. On September 9, 1970, a BOAC VC-10 from Bombay to Beirut was hijacked by the PFLP to urge the realization of their demands. The hijackers demanded the release of Palestinian extremists imprisoned in Germany, Switzerland and Israel.

On the Pan Am Flight, two passengers with handguns and grenades ordered the plane to Lebanon and then Egypt. At a stop in Beirut, the plane was loaded with explosives which detonated shortly after landing, leaving little time for passengers and crew to escape. All of the passengers were held hostage until September 12, 1970, when 255 hostages from the four flights were released; however, the terrorists continued to hold 56 passengers. The terrorists also destroyed the three remaining planes. The prisoners were released as a result of negotiations with Britain and several other governments. This series of events has come to be known as “Black September.”

June 1985

TWA Flight 847. The flight from Athens to Rome was hijacked one half hour into the flight by two men with guns and hand grenades. The terrorists claimed to be members of an Islamic jihad and commandeered the Boeing 727 to Beirut. When Beirut refused them permission to land, the terrorists threatened to crash the plane into the control tower or the presidential palace. The plane landed, refueled and released half a dozen women and children and departed for Algiers. More passengers were released over the course of several trips between Beirut and Algiers. Thirty-nine Americans were held hostage on the plane for seventeen days. All were eventually released except Robert Stephen, a US Navy Diver, who was murdered and hurled from the plane to the tarmac. The plane was eventually blown up.

July 19, 1985

National Security Decision Directive 180 signed by President Ronald Reagan:

International civil aviation is becoming a high visibility target for terrorist activities. Numerous terrorist acts directed against U.S. and other air carriers in recent weeks pose a significant threat to international commerce and our national

interests. Recent violent terrorist acts have resulted in the murder, torture and kidnapping of U.S. citizens and the death of hundreds of others. It is imperative to prevent and/or respond to subsequent terrorist acts.

The Department of Transportation, in coordination with the Interagency Working Group on Combating Terrorism and the Technical Support Working Group, will carry out an expanded research and development program covering detection of explosive and incendiary devices, hijack prevention, and other security system enhancements. Projects presently planned will be accelerated and necessary additional projects will be initiated this fiscal year and thereafter.

Enhanced Airline Security Training. The Department of Transportation shall ensure that appropriately enhanced security training and threat awareness briefings are provided for all crewmembers of U.S. air carriers who serve on high-risk flights. The FAA shall further require that for such flights a designated security coordinator is responsible for monitoring security systems and advising the pilot in command that all necessary security requirements have been met prior to departure.

December 7, 1987

Forty-three people died when a Pacific Southwest Airlines Flight 1771 crashed after a disgruntled former employee shot the pilots.

December 21, 1988

Libyan terrorists blow up Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 259 people on the plane and 11 people on the ground.

March 1989

RAND Corporation terrorism expert Brian Jenkins published his important study 'The Terrorist Threat to Commercial Aviation.' In the study, Jenkins eerily describes the possibility of a suicide hijacking:

The nightmare of governments is that suicidal terrorists will hijack a commercial airliner and, by killing or replacing its crew, crash into a city or some vital facility. It has been threatened in at least one case: In 1977, an airliner believed to have been hijacked, crashed, killing all on board. And in 1987, a homicidal, suicidal ex-employee boarded a commercial airliner where he shot his former boss and brought about the crash of the airliner, killing all 44 on board. Fear of such incidents is offered as a powerful argument for immobilizing hijacked aircraft on the ground at the first opportunity and also, some argue, for armoring the flight deck. What are we likely to see in the future? Perhaps fewer but deadlier and more sophisticated terrorist hijackings.

August 4, 1989

The President's Commission on Aviation Security and Terrorism is published. The Commission finds "the Federal Aviation Administration to be a reactive agency—preoccupied with responses to events to the exclusion of adequate contingency planning in anticipation of future threats." In addition, the Commission identified that "most threats to civil aviation have come primarily from Middle-East based terrorist cells and factions."

September 1989

Terrorists bombed French UTA Flight 772, from Brazzaville, Congo to Paris. The plane explodes in mid-air, killing 171.

November 1989

Latin American drug cartel terrorists bombed Columbia Avianca Flight 203 from Bogota to Cali, Columbia, claiming 107 lives.

February 1993

A bomb is detonated in the parking garage of the World Trade Center in New York City. The central figures in the successful plot were Khalid Sheik Mohammed, Ramzi Yousef and Sheikh Omar Abd al-Rahman, all of whom have been linked to Osama bin Laden. In June 2002, Khalid Sheik Mohammed confessed to Yosri Fouda, a reporter for the Al-Jazeera network, that he was the "mastermind of the 9-11-01 terrorist attacks." This confession was repeated to U.S. authorities following Khalid Sheik Mohammed's recent arrest in Pakistan.

June 1993

The FBI arrested eight individuals for plotting to bomb a number of New York City landmarks, including the United Nations building and the Lincoln and Holland tunnels.

1994

The National Intelligence Council compiles a comprehensive inter-agency intelligence report entitled 'Terror 2000: The Future Face of Terrorism.' Authored by senior U.S. government, private-sector, and international experts on counterterrorism and security, the report describes various terrorist plots, including how hijackers could use airliners to hit high profile national landmarks such as the Pentagon or White House. Complete copies of the report have never been released to the public.

Significantly, the report states:

Targets such as the World Trade Center not only provide the requisite casualties but because of their symbolic nature provide more bang for the buck. In order to maximize their odds for success, terrorist groups will likely consider mounting multiple, simultaneous operations with the aim of overtaxing a government's ability to respond, as well as to demonstrate their professionalism and reach.

(UPI, September 17, 2001)

April 7, 1994

A disgruntled Federal Express pilot used his identification badge to smuggle a spear gun, knife and hammer on board another Federal Express flight where he was riding in the jump seat. He charged the cockpit, fractured the skulls of the pilots and planned to crash into the Federal Express hub at the Memphis airport. Some of the crew members were miraculously able to recover control of the plane and safely land the aircraft.

December 1994

The Algerian Armed Islamic Group hijacked an Air France flight in Algiers and threatened to crash it into the Eiffel Tower. French authorities deceived the terrorists into thinking the plane did not have enough fuel to reach Paris and diverted it to Marseilles. A French anti-terrorist force stormed the plane and killed all four terrorists.
(*Senate Intelligence Committee Testimony*, 9/18/02)

January 1995

Philippine National Police raid turned up materials in a Manila apartment indicating that three individuals - Ramzi Yousef, Abdul Murad, and Khalid Sheikh Mohammad - planned, among other things, to crash an airplane into CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia. The Philippine National Police said that the same group was responsible for the bombing of a Philippine airliner on December 12, 1994.

Authorities also uncover the Bojinka plot to simultaneously blow up 12 commercial aircraft over the Pacific Ocean. In addition, a letter written by the terrorists who planned the failed 1993 WTC bombing is found on a computer disk by law enforcement officials in the Philippines. The letter warns that future attacks would be more precise and they would continue to target the WTC if their demands were not met.

(*U.S. v. Yousef*, Docket No. 98-1041, (2nd Cir., April 4, 2003); *FBI Documents*; *L.A. Times* 9/1/02; *Insight* 5/27/02; See April 10, 1995 entry for plot to fly plane into CIA headquarters)

January 6, 1995

Terrorist Ramzi Yousef is arrested in Pakistan. The next day, as Yousef is flying over New York City on his way to prison, an FBI agent says to Yousef, "You see the Trade Centers down there, they're still standing, aren't they?" Yousef responds, "They wouldn't be if I had enough money and enough explosives."
(*MSNBC*, 9/23/01)

April, 1995

In the April 3, 1995 edition of *Time*, the magazine's cover story reports on the potential for terrorists to kill thousands in highly destructive acts. Senator Sam Nunn outlines a scenario in which terrorists destroy the U.S. Capitol Building by crashing a radio controlled airplane into it. "It's not far-fetched," he says. His idea was taken from the popular Tom Clancy book *Debt of Honour* published in August 1994.

April 10, 1995

In an FBI confession interview, Abdul Hakim Hasim Murad a fellow Bojinka Plot conspirator and roommate of Ramzi Yousef, described the Manila cell's plan to fly a plane into the CIA headquarters (paraphrased here by the FBI):

What the subject has in his mind is that he will board any American commercial aircraft pretending to be an ordinary passenger. Then he will hijack said aircraft, control its cockpit and dive it at the CIA headquarters. There will be no bomb or any explosive that he will use in its execution. It is simply a suicidal mission that he is very much willing to execute.
(*FBI Documents; 9/18/02 Congressional Testimony*)

June 21, 1995

Memorandum from President William Jefferson Clinton to his Cabinet on the subject of U.S. Policy on Counterterrorism:

Within the United States, we shall vigorously apply U.S. laws and seek new legislation to prevent terrorist groups from operating in the United States or using it as a base for recruitment, training, fund raising or other related activities. (U)

G. Transportation - related terrorism: The Federal Aviation Administration has exclusive responsibility in instances of air piracy for the coordination of any law enforcement activity affecting the safety of persons aboard aircraft within the special aircraft jurisdiction of the U.S. as defined in public law. The Department of Justice, acting through the FBI, shall establish and maintain procedures, in coordination with the Departments of State, Defense, and Transportation, to ensure the efficient resolution of terrorist hijackings. These procedures shall be based on the principle of lead agency responsibility for command, control and rules of engagement. (U)

November 13, 1995

A car-bomb in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia kills seven people, five of them American military and civilian advisers for National Guard training. Al Qaeda-related groups including the "Tigers of the Gulf," "Islamist Movement for Change," and "Fighting Advocates of God" fax a letter to CNN claiming responsibility for the attacks and explaining that it was carried out in retaliation for the imprisonment of sheiks al-Ouda and al-Hawali.

(*United States v. Sami Omar Al-Hussayen, Case No. CR03-48-N, Testimony of Michael Gneckow, March 11-12, 2003*)

January 1996

The Intelligence Community obtained information concerning a planned suicide attack by individuals associated with Sheikh Omar Adb al-Rahman. The plan was to fly to the United States from Afghanistan and smash the plane into White House.

June 25, 1996

A bomb aboard a fuel truck explodes outside a U.S. air force installation in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. Nineteen U.S. military personnel are killed in the Khobar Towers housing facility, and 515 are wounded, including 240 Americans.

August 1996

Osama bin Laden issues a public *fatwa* entitled, "Declaration of War against the Americans Occupying the Land of the Two Holy Places." The statement, first published in *Al Quds Al Arabi*, authorizes attacks on Western military targets in the Arabian Peninsula. Bin Laden declares: "It is a duty now on every tribe in the Arab Peninsula to fight, Jihad, in the cause of Allah and to cleanse the land from those occupiers. Allah knows that their blood is permitted to be spilled and their wealth is a booty; their wealth is a booty to those who kill them."

October 1996

The Intelligence Community obtained information regarding an Iranian plot to hijack a Japanese plane over Israel and crash it into Tel Aviv. An individual would board the plane in the Far East. During the flight, he would commandeer the aircraft, order it to fly over Tel Aviv, and then crash the plane into the city. The plot was never carried out. (9/18/02 *Congressional Testimony*)

Autumn 1996-1997

Following the crash and suspected bombing of TWA Flight 800 in July 1996, President Bill Clinton established a White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security chaired by Vice President Albert Gore to assess the civilian aviation security and safety environment and provide recommendations for improvements.

During this study, top experts and government officials were made aware of the persistent and growing threat of large scale terrorist violence through airline hijackings and the use of airliners as missiles.

The 1996 White House Commission observed a video entitled "The Future Face of Terrorism." The transcript of the video depicts the face of terrorism as Ramzi Ahmed Yousef. Yousef was among the terrorists who planned to blow-up 12 U.S. airplanes simultaneously over the Pacific Ocean in the Bojinka Plot. The video transcript describes the dramatically increasing threat of mass terrorist violence using commercial aircraft:

Terrorists today are potentially much more dangerous. Open societies and computer literacy make a wealth of knowledge and information easily available. They can target a single individual. But typically their goal is maximum destruction and massive casualties--witness the bombing of the World Trade Center...

A terrorist attack against an aircraft or airport inside the United States remains a real threat. Many [terrorists] are young...repressed and very angry. They

see terrorism as a way out of their social situation or as a means to support religious and political ideals. Some even believe suicidal missions will gain them ever-lasting life.

This is the face of terrorism threatening the airline industry as America enters the 21st century. Ramzi Ahmed Yousef is well-educated, technically skilled in his deadly craft and highly motivated. And in 1995 he and a small cell of co-conspirators planned to spirit bombs aboard 11 US Flag aircraft and blow them from the sky—all on the same day.

Because they can be so difficult to detect, terrorists like Yousef can strike both within the United States and overseas.

Civil aviation has been and continues to be a major target for terrorist organizations. Terrorists tend to have a profile we can watch for. They may pay for their tickets in cash, arrange for one way travel or show up on the date of travel without having made reservations. Terrorists tend to use false or altered passports. Close scrutiny of passports and accompanying documents may reveal tampering.

(1996-97 White House Commission on Aviation Security)

November 23, 1996

Ethiopian Airlines Flight 961 flight from Ethiopia to Nairobi, Kenya was hijacked by three middle-aged individuals who instructed the pilot to fly to Australia. The pilot was aware there was not enough fuel to make it there, and when the plane's engines started shutting down due to lack of fuel, the hijackers tried to take control of the plane and crash it into a Gawala seaside resort near the Comoros Islands. The plane crashed 500 yards from the resort; 123 people died.

1997

One of the units at FBI headquarters became concerned about the possibility of a terrorist group using an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) for terrorist attacks. The FBI and CIA became aware of reporting that the unnamed group had purchased a UAV. At the time, the agencies' view was that the only reason that the group would need a UAV would be for either reconnaissance or attack. There was more concern about the possibility of an attack outside the United States, for example, by flying a UAV into a U.S. Embassy or a visiting U.S. delegation.

(9/18/02 Congressional Testimony)

1997

Members of Al Qaeda living in Madrid, Spain traveled to the United States and prepared several surveillance videos of the World Trade Center, Sears Tower, Golden Gate Bridge, Disneyland, and Las Vegas. These videos were recovered by Spanish authorities and turned over to the 9/11 Families United to Bankrupt Terrorism. One section of the video depicts the terrorist sitting in Manhattan and looking at the skyline as he states, "These buildings are going to come down."

February 23, 1998

Osama bin Laden issues a *fatwa*, declaring it a religious duty of all Muslims “to kill the Americans and their allies-civilians and military and plunder their money when and wherever they find it...in any country in which it is possible.” The statement is an expansion of an earlier *fatwa* issued in August 1996.

August 1998

The Intelligence Community obtained information that a group of unidentified Arabs planned to fly an explosive-laden plane from a foreign country into the World Trade Center. The information was passed to the FBI and the FAA. The FAA found the plot highly unlikely given the state of that foreign country’s aviation program. Moreover, they believed that a flight originating outside the United States would be detected before it reached its intended target inside the United States. The FBI’s New York office took no action on the information, filing the communication in the office’s bombing repository file. The Intelligence Community has acquired additional information since then indicating there may be links between this group and other terrorist groups, including al Qaeda.

(9/18/02 *Congressional Testimony*)

August 7, 1998

In its most deadly act of terrorism yet, al Qaeda claimed responsibility for bombing the U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. In Nairobi, 12 Americans are among the 291 killed, and over 5,000 are wounded, including 6 Americans. In Dar es Salaam, one U.S. citizen is wounded among the 10 killed and 77 injured.¹

September 1998

The U.S. Intelligence Community obtained information that Osama bin Laden’s next operation could possibly involve flying an aircraft loaded with explosives into a U.S. airport and detonating it; this information was provided to senior U.S. Government officials in late 1998.

(9/18/02 *Congressional Testimony*)

November 1998

The U.S. Intelligence Community obtained information that the Turkish Kaplancilar, an Islamic extremist group, had planned a suicide attack to coincide with celebrations marking the death of Ataturk, the founder of modern Turkey. The conspirators, who were arrested, planned to crash an airplane packed with explosives into Ataturk’s tomb during a government ceremony. The Turkish press said the group had cooperated with Osama

¹ In 1999, as a result of the bombings of the US embassies in Africa, the United States’ government sent a delegation to the United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to warn them significant funds from their countries were being used to finance al Qaeda’s terrorist attacks. In spite of these warnings, these countries failed to enact any serious regulations of banks, charities, or mosques. Instead, they turned a blind eye to this problem. See Statements given by William Wechsler and Lee Wolosky to instant plaintiffs counsel. The trip is also described by Dan Benjamin in The Age of Sacred Terror (2002).

bin Laden. The FBI's New York office included this incident in one of its Osama bin Laden databases.

(9/18/02 Congressional Testimony)

1999

A widely circulated interagency study commissioned by the National Intelligence Council entitled 'The Sociology and Psychology of Terrorism: Who Becomes a Terrorist and Why?,' laid out several hypothetical attack scenarios posed by the most dangerous terrorist organizations in the world. Among other possible terrorist plots, the study describes the possibility of al Qaeda suicide bombers crash-landing an aircraft into the Pentagon:

Al Qaeda's expected retaliation for the U.S. cruise missile attack against al Qaeda's training facilities in Afghanistan on August 20, 1998, could take several forms of terrorist attack in the nation's capital. Al-Qaeda could detonate a Chechen-type building-buster bomb at a federal building. Suicide bomber(s) belonging to al-Qaeda's Martyrdom Battalion could crash-land an aircraft packed with high explosives (C-4 and Semtex) into the Pentagon, the headquarters of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), or the White House. Ramzi Yousef had planned to do this against the CIA headquarters. In addition, both al-Qaeda and Yousef were linked to a plot to assassinate President Clinton during his visit to the Philippines in early 1995.

Following the August 1998 cruise missile attack, at least one Islamic religious leader called for Clinton's assassination, and another stated that "the time is not far off" for when the White House will be destroyed by a nuclear bomb. Al-Qaeda's retaliation, however, is more likely to take the lower-risk form of bombing one or more U.S. airliners with time-bombs. Yousef was planning simultaneous bombings of 11 U.S. airliners prior to his capture. Whatever form an attack may take, bin Laden will most likely retaliate in a spectacular way for the cruise missile attack against his Afghan camp in August 1998.

(Federal Research Division, September 1999)

February 1999

The Intelligence Community obtained information that Iraq had formed a suicide pilot unit that it planned to use against British and U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf.

(9/18/02 Congressional Testimony)

March 1999

The U.S. Intelligence Community obtained information regarding plans by an al-Qaeda member, to fly a hang glider into the Egyptian Presidential Palace and then detonate the explosives he was carrying. The individual was subsequently arrested and is in custody abroad.

(9/18/02 Congressional Testimony)

May 1999

An investigation in the Southern District of New York into the case of USA v. Ihab Mohamed Ali, reveals that the defendant, an accused al Qaeda operative, received pilot training in Oklahoma in 1994. This discovery illustrates government knowledge of al-Qaeda operatives receiving pilot lessons in the United States more than two years prior to September 11, 2001.

(USA v. Ihab Mohamed Ali, United States District Court, Southern District of New York)

July 1999

U.S. government informant Randy Glass records a conversation he shares with Pakistani arms dealers, held at a restaurant within view of the World Trade Center. R.G. Abbas, one of the Pakistani dealers, points to the WTC and says, "Those towers are coming down." Abbas later makes other references to an attack on the WTC. Glass passes these warnings on to government officials, but he claims "The complaints were ordered sanitized by the highest levels of government."

(NBC Dateline, 3/18/03)

October 31, 1999

Egypt Air Flight 900. The pilot, quietly repeating an Islamic prayer, crashed, apparently with intent, the Boeing 767 into the Atlantic Ocean shortly after its departure from New York's JFK Airport.

April 2000

The Intelligence Community obtained information regarding an alleged Bin Laden plot to hijack a 747 airliner. The source was a "walk-in" to the FBI's Newark office who claimed that he had been to a training camp in Pakistan where he learned hijacking techniques and received arms training. He also stated that he was supposed to meet five to six other individuals in the United States who would also participate in the plot. They were instructed to use all necessary force to take over the plane because there would be pilots among the hijacking team. The plan was to fly the plane to Afghanistan, and if they would not make it there, that they were to blow up the plane.

(9/18/02 Congressional Testimony)

May 2000

U.S. Department of Agriculture Loan Officer Johnelle Bryant met with 9/11 organizer Mohammed Atta in a USDA Miami-Dade County field office. Atta attempts to secure a \$650,000 loan for a crop-dusting business he supposedly developing. Atta tells Bryant that he had just arrived in the United States from Afghanistan "to start his dream, which was to go to flight school and get his pilot's license, and work both as a charter pilot and a crop duster too," Bryant told ABC news in a June 6, 2002 interview. Atta wanted to finance a twin-engine six-passenger aircraft, remove the seats and "build a chemical tank that would fit inside the aircraft and take up every available square inch of the aircraft except for where the pilot would be sitting." When Bryant explained that there was an application process, Atta became "very agitated." He thought the loan would be in cash, and that he would have no trouble obtaining it to purchase an aircraft. He also remarked about the lack of security in the building, pointing specifically to a safe behind Bryant's

desk. "He asked me what would prevent him from going behind my desk and cutting my throat and making off with the millions of dollars in that safe," said Bryant. According to anonymous law enforcement officials, packing twin-engine planes with explosive chemicals, making it a flying bomb, had been the terrorists' plan since the mid-1990s.

Before leaving Bryant's office, Atta became fixated with an aerial photo of Washington that was hanging on her office wall. "He just said that it was one of the prettiest, the best he'd ever seen of Washington," she said, remembering that he was impressed with the panoramic view that captured all the monuments and buildings in one photograph, pointing specifically to the Pentagon and the White House. "He pulled out a wad of cash," she said, "and started throwing money on my desk. He wanted that picture really bad." Bryant indicated that the picture was not for sale, and he threw more money down. "His look on his face became very bitter at that point," Bryant remembers. "I believe he said, 'How would America like it if another country destroyed that city and some of the monuments in it,' like the cities in his country had been destroyed?"

(ABC News, 6/6/02)

October 12, 2000

A terrorist bomb damages the destroyer U.S.S. Cole in the port of Aden, Yemen, killing 17 American sailors and injuring 39. Al Qaeda accepts responsibility for the attack.

October 24-26, 2000

Pentagon officials carry out a "detailed" emergency drill based upon the crashing of a hijacked airliner into the Pentagon.

(MDW News Service 11/3/00; Mirror 5/24/02)

April 2001

The Intelligence Community obtained information from a source with terrorist connections who speculated that Bin Laden would be interested in commercial pilots as potential terrorists. The source warned that the United States should not focus only on embassy bombings, that terrorists sought "spectacular and traumatic" attacks, and that the first World Trade Center bombing would be the type of attack that would be appealing. The source did not mention a timeframe for any attack. The information was not disseminated within the U.S. Intelligence Community.

(9/18/02 Congressional Testimony)

May 2001

Department of Defense medical personnel are trained for a hypothetical airliner hijacking attack on the Pentagon.

(U.S. Medicine, October 2001)

May 2001

An article appears on a Web site maintained by defendant Sami Omar Al-Hussayen, currently on trial in United States District Court, District of Idaho, Southern Division, written by radical Saudi sheik, Homed Ali (phonetic) which reads, "the holy warrior must kill himself if he knows that this will lead to the killing of a great number of the enemies:

“[H]e will not be able to kill them without killing himself first or demolishing a center vital to the enemy or its military force...” “This is not possible except by involving the human element in the operation. In this new era, this can be accomplished with the modern means of bombing or bringing down an airplane on an important location that will cause the enemy great losses.”

(United States v. Sami Omar Al-Hussayen, Case No. CR03-48-N, Testimony of Michael Gneckow, March 11-12, 2003)

June 22, 2001

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued an “information circular” to commercial airlines citing concern about possible hijackings.

(Reuters 5/16/02)

July 10, 2001

Phoenix, Arizona FBI agent Ken Williams sends a memorandum warning about suspicious activities involving a group of Middle Eastern men taking flight training lessons in Arizona. The memorandum specifically suggests that Osama bin Laden’s followers might be trying to infiltrate the civil aviation system as pilots, security guards or other personnel, and recommends a national program to track suspicious flight school students. The memo is sent to the counterterrorism unit division at FBI headquarters in Washington and to two field offices, including the counterterrorism section in New York. The memo is ignored at all three offices.

Late July 2001

The FAA issued information circular warning airlines that terrorist groups are planning and training for hijackings and urging carriers to use caution.

(Reuters 5/16/02)

August 2001

The Intelligence Community obtained information regarding a plot to either bomb the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi from an airplane or crash an airplane into it. The Intelligence Community learned that two people who were reportedly acting on instructions from Osama Bin Laden met in October 2000 to discuss this plot.

Based on information it had in its possession at the time, the CIA sent a message to the FAA asking the FAA to advise corporate security directors of U.S. air carriers of the following information:

A group of six Pakistanis currently based in La Paz, Bolivia may be planning to conduct a hijacking, or possibly a bombing or an act of sabotage against a commercial airliner. While we have no details of the carrier, the date, or the location of this or these possibly planned action(s), we have learned the group has had discussions in which”...Atlanta and New York, among other locations were mentioned as possible targets.
(9/18/02 Congressional Testimony)

August 6, 2001

President George W. Bush reviewed a one-and-a-half page “analytic report” during his daily intelligence briefing discussing Osama bin Laden’s historical methods of operation. National Security Adviser Condoleeza Rice says the report cited a general possibility of “traditional” hijackings by al Qaeda, perhaps to demand the release of Sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman, the radical Muslim who plotted the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. (*Reuters* 5/16/02)

August 15, 2001

Based on concerns raised by flight school staff at a Minnesota pilot training center, Zacarias Moussaoui, a French citizen, is arrested and detained on an immigration violation after illustrating alarming behavior and requesting pilot training to fly a plane and not take off or land. The FBI confiscates his possessions, including a computer laptop, but are not able to obtain a search warrant to examine computer contents. When arrested, Moussaoui had in his possession two knives, fighting gloves, and shin guards. On August 22, French authorities provide FBI officials with information connecting Moussaoui to radical Islamic groups and indicate that he has been on a terrorist “watch list” in France. From August 23-27, FBI agents in Minnesota attempt to obtain a search warrant under FISA to examine the contents of Moussaoui’s laptop but are refused. On the afternoon of September 11th, officials search Moussaoui’s computer and find information revealing that Moussaoui may have been planning an attack using a crop duster plane and contact information tying Moussaoui to Ramzi Binalshibh, lead hijacker Mohammad Atta’s former roommate.

August 16, 2001

The FAA issued an information circular warning carriers to be on alert for potential attack by people using weapons disguised as cellphones, key chains or pens.

September 20, 2001

Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta testified on September 20, 2001 that:

“They had box openers, which are this long with a sharp hook—razor sharp. But under the 4-H (ph) requirement at the time, it would not have been picked up as an illegal carry-on.”

November 1, 2001

Statement issued by William T. Barbour, President of Argenbright Security, a security screening company operating out of two of the terminals from which hijacked planes departed on September 11th:

...there is no evidence to date that these employees did a single thing incorrectly. In fact, [the screeners] were following Federal Aviation Administration regulations that, at the time, allowed knives of up to four inches, box cutters and corkscrews and other items to be carried onto an airplane.

Mr. Barbour's statement was issued in a letter to the editor of the Los Angeles Times and published on November 1, 2001.

[This paragraph has been redacted, pending a judicial determination on Sensitive Security Information.]

April 19, 2002

Ramzi Binalshibh and Khalid Sheik Mohammed met with Yosri Fouda, a reporter from the Al Jazeera network, for over 48 hours. A series of interviews were conducted wherein Khalid and Ramzi confessed to the September 11th attacks. Khalid Sheik Mohammed stated that he was the head of the military arm of Al Qaeda and he was the "mastermind behind the attack." Ramzi Binalshibh was the head of operations and coordinated communications between Afghanistan and Mohammed Atta. (Yosri Fouda's conversation with The 9/11 Families United to Bankrupt Terrorism. A translation of Ramzi's interview with Fouda is attached. Audio and videotapes of Khalid Sheik Mohammed were confiscated by the terrorists and not returned to Yosri Fouda.)

June 2, 2002

Newsweek reported that the FBI have prepared a detailed chart showing how agents could have uncovered the terrorist plot if the CIA had told them what it knew about the hijackers Almihdhar and Alhazmi sooner. One FBI official says, "There's no question we could have tied all 19 hijackers together."
(*Newsweek*, 6/2/02)

September 18, 2002

Eleanor Hill, Staff Director of the Joint Congressional Inquiry into the September 11, 2001 attacks, testified before Congress regarding the government's general awareness and knowledge of the attacks prior to 9/11:

Central to the September 11 attacks was the terrorists' use of airplanes as weapons. In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks, there was much discussion about the extent to which our Government was, or could have been, aware of the threat of terrorist attacks of this type and the extent to which adequate precautions were taken to address that threat. We therefore asked the question: Did the Intelligence Community have any information in its possession prior to September 11, 2001 indicating that terrorists were contemplating using airplanes as weapons?

Based on our review to date of the requested information, we believe that the Intelligence Community was aware of the potential for this type of terrorist attack, but did not produce any specific assessments of the likelihood that terrorists would use airplanes as weapons. Our review has

uncovered several examples of intelligence reporting on the possible use of airplanes as weapons in terrorist operations.

February 2003

Four plaintiffs in Burnett, et al, v. al Baraka, et al, all of whom are victims of the 9/11 attacks, testified in the Hamburg, Germany trial of Mounir el Motassadeq. On February 19, 2003, Motassadeq was sentenced to the maximum 15 years in prison for helping the Hamburg-based al Qaeda terror cell that included lead hijacker Mohammed Atta and two other suicide pilots. The plaintiffs' moving testimony regarding the September attacks highlighted the commitment of 9/11 families to holding terrorist groups and their financiers accountable for the attacks.

Conclusion

Numerous warnings and clues were given prior to September 11th from which terrorist financiers, our intelligence community and the aviation industry could have foreseen the hijacking attacks. In the history of commercial aviation, there are only two methods by which an airline has been attacked--by bomb or hijacking. These methods date back to the 1960's and are the most frequent means by which terrorists strike. The solution for preventing such attacks does not change regardless of the target or the resulting catastrophe. For that reason the proper inquiry is whether it was foreseeable for al Qaeda to hijack aircraft. No rational person could dispute the answer. Islamic extremists, like al-Qaeda, have on numerous occasions indicated that it was prepared, not only to hijack a commercial airliner, but to use it as a weapon. Moreover, al-Qaeda frequently identified the World Trade Center Towers, the Pentagon and the Capitol as its most sought-after targets.

Translation of Ramzi Binalshibah Audio Tape – 22 September 2002.

By Naouar Bioud

Time - 00.00 Hours BST

"I seek Allah's protection from Satan the Rejected One. In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful. Praise be to Allah who granted his servant victory, and glorified his soldiers and defeated the confederates alone, the one who says in his glorious book: "Fight them, and Allah will punish them by your hands, cover them with shame, help you (to victory) over them, heal the breasts of Believers." [9-14]

Prayers and salutations on the messenger of guidance who said: "I have been granted victory by frightening (the enemies though they were) a month's march away (from me), and the one who said: "My provision is gained under the shadow of my spear." And the one who said: "Lowliness and humiliation are befallen upon those who violate my teaching.", and prayers and salutations on his family and his companions and on those who follow his path and his guidance until the day of judgement.

No sane Muslim doubts that the operations of the blessed day of Tuesday, on 11th September in Washington and New York, was one of the glorious days of the Muslims, that have restored for them the days of Badr, Hittine, Al-Qadissya, Al-Yarmuk and Ain Jalut. This day represented a manifest victory and a great victory to the Muslims and at the same time, it represent a calamitous defeat for the greatest power on earth ever, America, and a fatal blow in her heart, which is filled of animosity and hatred for Islam and the Muslims. Allah the Almighty has decided to inflict upon her a punishment from him, and he has also decided for this punishment to be executed by the hands of this group of believing Mujahideen, whom Allah has chosen and ordained for this mighty task. So praise and glory be to him first and foremost.

As for your question with regard to the coordination, it is in a nutshell reflected in the process of linking the cells together, and forming a chain of communication between these cells and the general command in Afghanistan, and determining the priorities of the work to be undertaken by these cells and pursuing them until they complete the phases of the work, up until the hour of execution, and solving the problems that may face the brothers within these cells, and generating the appropriate security cover through which the brothers would operate.

First of all, with regard to the communications, these are the dangerous security gap through which the enemy could infiltrate and attempt to foil any operation. Hence, it was imperative to control this operation in a thorough manner. Therefore, it is imperative to determine the most secure means of communication and determine an alternative means in case this became necessary; also, to determine the language of communication and the time of communication, and to vary the places from which communications are made, whether this were through the internet or by phone or by any other means of communication. It is also imperative to determine the person responsible for contacting the person who is commissioned to carry out the communication as well as the person

who is commissioned to contact him. All these matters, which are part of the elaborate details, must be totally clear, and the conclusion in this issue, it is imperative to have simplicity in the language of communication and sophistication in the method of communication. These are practical matters that are not achieved through the mere theoretical lessons alone, but they require practical training and thank Allah, the land of Afghanistan had a great deal of goodness, and Allah the Almighty helps the one who performs Jihad with what other people do not possess. Allah the Almighty says: "So fear Allah, for it is He who teaches you." [2-282] And He Also says: "And those who strive in Our (Cause), We will certainly guide them to Our Paths: for verily Allah is with those who do right." [29-69].

And you can compare this with all the phases of this work. All Jihadi work that contains all the Sharia'ah (legitimate) conditions, in terms of sincerity and truthfulness and the like, so what is important in the issue of communications is that your messages or your speech must not contain any controversy. Be like the rest of the people who enter the world of communications in all their various types, thus placing the enemy in an awkward situation and between the hammer and the nail; either he monitors all the electronic communications and all telephone calls in the world, or he reverts back to the era before the telephone and the internet. Something which is very difficult, very difficult for him.

Roughly speaking, the work is divided into several phases, and each phase has a language of communication that differs from the following one; and before each phase, a meeting takes place and an agreement is reached over this language. If the meeting could not be convened and something unexpected occurred, we rely on a new means of communication, which is used only once and for this unexpected matter only, then we would not resort to it again. The matter is very broad and contains many ideas. As I said to you, the enemy is stupid and with the grace of Allah, Allah protects the Mujahid; the matter also requires a quick presence of mind first of all, and the two parties undertaking the communication should know each other very well; each one of them knows the personality and the disposition of the other. He knows exactly what the other party means. The matter also depends on the enemy that one is facing; despite what he possesses in terms of progress and technology, he is however very stupid and very slow to understand; he cannot perceive matters quickly.

Once all the details have been arranged and once all the final arrangement have been completed, and once the brothers who were about to execute the operations have arrived, the remaining 14 brothers, to the United States, and once they have entered without any hindrances or problems, thank Allah, for the care and protection of Allah had engulfed them from every side, for those persons were unique according to the testimony of all those who lived with them and mixed with them, they found them to be of high qualities and good morals, qualities that are not found in the people of this worldly life, but they were people of good manners, obedience, worship, and asceticism; they pray at night and fast during the day, they love to serve their brethren, they souls are pure and they were all united by the character of truthfulness and the love of martyrdom; they had a unique bravery and boldness, and all people spoke good of them, and none of them was affected by the American corrupt way of life whatsoever, despite the fact that they were all young

and the temptations were around them everywhere they went; all of them had an amazing aversion to this bestial life and its followers; we ask Allah to receive them well and to join us with them in Heaven. So when those brothers were ready and when the brothers in the Shurah (consultation) Council, whose members were from among the pilots, of which our brother Mohamed Atta was the leader and our brother Nawaf Al-Hazimi was his deputy, determined the opportune moment, which they had the free will to choose it, the time was conveyed, because the time was late, one and a half or two hours before dawn, or something like that, and the time in America was approximately 8 or 9 in the evening, so our brother Mohammed made contact, and with his light-hearted nature, despite the fact that he had always been serious and does not like to joke a great deal; this brother was amazing, extremely amazing, I have never come across anyone from among the brothers that I know who was more eager than him to perform the night prayers, to the point where I remember the neighbours complain about his reading of the Qur'an at night; he used to also perform voluntary fasts and his morals were impeccable; he was very pious; he would not eat a food that had even the slightest dubious substance; so he said to me in an Egyptian accent: "One of my friends related a puzzle to me and I cannot solve it; and I called you so that you can solve it for me." So I said to him: "Is this a time for puzzles, Mohamed?" Upon this he said: "Never mind; you are my friend and no one is going to solve it for me apart from you.", or words to that effect. So I said to him: "Go on, say it." So he said: "Two sticks and between them a dash, a cake from which a stick is dangling, what does it mean?" I said to him: "Is this the puzzle? You wake me from a deep sleep to tell me this puzzle? Two sticks and I do not know what?" He said: "You are my friend and no one can solve it for me but you." Nevertheless, the message arrives in this very natural manner and it was imperative to ascertain this time and this message through other means.

The puzzle meant the date, in other words the time of the operation; the two sticks represent the number 11 then the dash and then the cake from which a stick dangles represents number 9; thus the picture becomes complete: 11-9. Mohammed, may Allah have mercy on him, used to belittle the security services and he never used to give them much thought; so glory be to Allah, he used to extol Allah a great deal and he was obedient and used to protect himself through the invocation of Allah, just like the rest of his brothers. I can testify to the fact that they used to protect themselves through extolment and this was first and foremost due to their superiority, first and foremost, over those disbelieving folks.

The communications were constant and continuous until few hours before the night of the execution. The thinking was collective, for the work with the help of Allah was collective, and was not an individual action. So every brother would look at what suited him best in terms of cover, according to his age and his educational standard, his physiognomy and the like, and he would consult with his brothers and exchange views with them, and the operation of adopting a security cover is in essence a process aimed at deceiving the security services generally and mystifying the people around him; Allah the Almighty teaches us by saying: "and let him behave with care and courtesy, and let him not inform any one about you." [18-19]. Hence, this cover must be totally compatible with the personality of this brother and it is incumbent upon the brother to undertake his

role in the operation in a perfect manner. I was not myself present at the time; what is important is that the message had been sent, and the one who was conveying the message did not know anything about , and I learnt afterwards that brother Abu Abdullah, may Allah protect him, was in the camp, and when he received news about the time of the operation, he stood up and gathered the brothers, conveying to them the glad tidings, namely that a host of operations would take place in the next few days, Allah willing, and that the operations would change the face of history; this was emanating from his conclusive belief in the promise of Allah the Almighty and in his support for his believing servants. So he ordered the brothers to increase their invocations and their supplications to Allah the Almighty during their prayers, for the sake of their brothers, to protect them and to grant them victory over the Americans and then there was a general alert in all the camps and all the residential areas were evacuated and the brothers were dispersed; the message was a great news to the Sheikh Abu Abdullah, may Allah the Almighty protect him.

These latest communications which occurred before the crucial and critical last few hours from the time when the brigades of belief and the soldiers of the "Most Merciful" met with the legions of the disbelieving crusaders, were just to get reassurance that matters were proceeding and that all the brothers were safe, and to request that they make supplication on our behalf, for they were making supplications and insist upon us to make supplications for them and we were requesting from them to do the same for us, for they were in a battlefield and in an hour of confrontation; the countdown had started, and the days were passing. Also, our brother Mohammed had some money left and he wanted to return it, so I told him to keep that money with him in case of an emergency, he may need it. So he said: "No we have enough, and the brothers over there need it." This was because of his piety and his sincerity; may Allah have mercy upon his soul. I ask Allah the Almighty to accept from him and from all his brothers. These hours were awesome, for you engage in a great battle with all its dimensions, a huge battle; it is a military operation, that is unconventional, against the mightiest force on Earth, who possesses all the weapons and the intelligence equipments, and the spy satellites, while her agents are spread all over the world, and you are facing them on their own backyard, amidst their forces and their soldiers, with a group of youths numbering 19. The disparity in this aspect between us and them was very wide and the help Allah the Almighty and his care of the brothers and the adherence of these brothers to the boundaries of Allah has safeguarded them, as mentioned in the prophetic tradition, when the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) sent Ibnu Abbas, so he said to him: "O young man, observe (the boundaries of) Allah and He will protect you. Observe (the boundaries of) Allah and you will find Him in your direction." The certitude of these brothers of Allah's support for them used to constitute a tremendous element of tranquillity to the hearts.

The serenity was present in the hearts of all the youths. On one occasion, I talked to our brother Zyad, so I asked him a question saying: "How do you feel?" I wanted to know his feeling; he said: "By Allah, my heart is very reassured and I feel that the operation is going to be accomplished and praise be to Allah." I said to him: "By Allah I feel exactly the same as you." He said: "And all the brothers are exactly of the same disposition." I said: "Praise be to you Allah, praise be to you Allah."

Once I was reassured about him and about the brothers generally, and about matters proceeding with the care and protection of Allah, and he persisted that I make supplication for him and I requested from him and from the rest of the brothers to make supplication for us. For there are at an hour of strife and in a battlefield. I asked to forgive us and forgive the rest of us, in case there had been any abuse or neglect from our part, or in case we wronged him or the other brothers, he used to confirm to us that we would meet; his certitude was as such that he used to say to us: "We will meet Allah willing, do not be sad, we will meet in heaven Allah willing and that our meeting is imminent Allah permitting. So I requested from him that should he see the Messenger of Allah (pbuh)¹ and should he reach the highest ranks in heaven, to convey to him our greetings and likewise to convey this to Abu Bakr and Omar and the rest of the companions and those who succeeded them and the Mujahideen, so he said: "Inshallah" (Allah willing). Mohammed had already informed that Marwan and the rest of the youth with him, had good dreams. Those had several dreams, be it in Afghanistan or in America, and the vision of Marwan was very nice; he dreamt that he was flying in the sky like a flying man and that he was entering into things, and Marwan was very pleased and happy with these visions, and he even knew about the operation, as he was part of the Shurah (Consultation), in his quality as one of the pilots. So I got in and touch with Marwan and this was the last communication between me and him. This was on the eve of the operation and I said to him: "What is the news and what with the issue of the films over there?" He said: - I was referring to the visions- "Not just the films, by Allah the youths here are very, very happy." Imagine, this was on the eve of the execution and it was expressed in this manner. I said to him: "Good." He said: "They say they wish you were with them and they saw a bird or green birds in the house." So I thought he was joking, but he was talking about a real matter while fully awake. The green birds are not birds of this worldly life at all. At that moment, an indescribable feeling overwhelmed me. This confirmation and this miracle from Allah to these youths reminds me of the saying of the noble companion, Anas Ibnu Al-Nadher: "I truly find the scent of heaven beyond Uhud²." The one who read out the last will and the final directions which were written, it seems by our brother Abdul-Aziz Al-Umari, who is Abul Abbas Al-Zahrani, and Allah has willed that this gets spread in the media and be read by people, part of what he said was, and notice the strength of his certitude in Allah and the strength of his doctrine, "Slaughter the enemy, for slaughter is part of my Sunnah (tradition)."; as the Messenger of Allah (pbuh) had said, or as he (pbuh), addressing the disbelievers, had said: "I have come to you with an imminent slaughter." He also said: "Tighten your trousers, for it is part of the traditions of the predecessors when the armies meet." And he (pbuh) also said commending them: "The time to depart has drawn near, so open up your shirt, for you are about to meet the beautiful women with lustrous eyes." These words does not come from someone who is supposed to be deceived with vain hopes, as the hypocrites and the people of hypocrisy claim. It comes from a man who knows what he is doing and what he is about to do; not an ignorant man, but a man who is a believer, where all that is hidden and all that is seen have become equal to him. Everything to him is the same.

¹ Peace Be Upon Him.

² Uhud: Second major battle between the Muslims led by the Messenger and the disbelievers.

When only few hours were left before executing the operation, all the individuals and the cells operating abroad were withdrawn and the brothers were told that that day was the date of the operation. They were not initially aware of the magnitude of this operation, nor of its location, in a conclusive manner; so everyone was crying on the day of the operation and praying for the brothers and pursuing the news via the satellite channels. Some of them were pursuing the news via the internet. So when the news started and we heard the news of a collision of the first aircraft, while it was wrecking the World Trade Centre, and which was guided by our brother Mohammed Atta, may Allah have mercy on his soul, the brothers shouted "Takbir", so they did make Takbir (to shout Allah is Greatest) and they prostrated to Allah in gratitude and they wept. I mean, an operation that you see before you, before your eyes in this manner; and the brothers thought that this was the one and only part of the operation, so we said to them: "Patience, patience." And suddenly, our brother Marwan was wrecking the southern tower of the World Trade Centre in very fierce manner. I mean, in an unimaginable way, we are witnessing live on air; we were saying: "O Allah show the right way, show the right way. I mean no one had known that these operations would be recorded and the that they would be filmed and that the world would see it in this manner. So it was a blessing from Allah the Almighty, to act as an admonition and a remembrance to those who remember. And praise be to Allah. So the brothers prostrated in thanks to Allah and they shouted "Allah is Greatest" and they sometimes wept from joy and other times from sadness for their brothers. The brothers thought that the matter was effectively over. So we said to them: "Pursue the news, the matter is not over yet, make prayers for your brothers, pray for them. The matter is not over yet; then came the news of the aircraft which was flown by our brother Ziad Al-Jarrah, alias Abu Tariq the Lebanese, which was downed in the suburbs of the capital Washington. Upon this the brothers shouted "Allah is Greatest" and they prostrated to Allah; they embraced each other and they cried. This aircraft by itself was in fact another operation; and during this time, and within 45 minutes, imagine in the space of this record time the fourth and last aircraft was wrecking the Trade Centre, I mean the Pentagon building, the building of the American Defence Ministry. The aircraft was guided by our brother Hani Hunjour, alias Urwah Al-Taifi. So the joy was tremendous; no one had imagined that these towers would collapse and turn into rubble and dust in this manner. Hence, it was one of Allah's signs for the whole world to see. And Allah the Almighty says: "Do they not travel through the earth, and see what was the end of those before them (who did evil)? Allah brought utter destruction on them, and similar (fates await) those who reject Allah." [47-10]. So in this matter, the divine intervention was without a doubt very clear and palpable in a big way; so praise and gratitude be to Allah. First of all, in order for the picture to be clear, Allah the Almighty has forbidden us from mourning the tribulations of the disbelieving folks, as Allah says: "But sorrow thou not over (these) people without Faith." [05-68]. Not like what some of the Muslims have done unfortunately; they sent their condolences and they went and prayed for those disbelievers, and for the victims of those disbelievers in the mosques, and even in the churches. One of them went to donate 10 million dollars to the families of the victims, but it was not accepted of him and he was snubbed. Many farces and mockeries took place, and even the religion of Allah was abused in order to please the Jews and the Christians, despite the fact that what befell the Americans was a punishment from the

heavens, and at the hands of the soldiers of Allah. "for to Allah belong the Forces of the heavens and the earth; and Allah is Full of Knowledge and Wisdom." [48-04]

So do they object to the command of Allah? Besides what befell them was because of their own crimes and of their support for the occupation of the land of Palestine and for their occupation of the land of the two Sacred Mosques, among other crimes against Islam and the Muslims; and you do know that it is the American people who elect their presidents, and the members of parliament (Congress) in their country, and they in turn practise these policies that are hostile to Islam and the Muslims, on behalf of their people. How could they be sad for them, while they supplicate ...while the Muslims supplicate in their prayers: "O Allah destroy the Americans! O Allah destroy the Jews and their allies!", and when Allah the Almighty destroys the Jews and behind them the Americans, they cry for them and they go to console them. This is a contradictory. The media coverage that took place, especially the visual aspect of it, the pictures of the operations, which was transmitted by all the world media, on a daily basis and almost constantly, and which are repeated up until now, this was very positive thing with the grace of Allah the Almighty. It had an extraordinary impact on the Muslim viewer in particular, for it has brought joy into the hearts of the Muslims, especially our brethren in occupied Palestine, who suffer under the yoke of the army of occupation. Their faith in the Islamic peoples and in faculties, powers and capabilities of their sincere children was restored, thanks to the victory of Allah the Almighty bestowed upon them, for it has helped its cause, after the huge armies which were armed to the teeth and the treacherous and collaborating governments had let them down. These peoples, with the help of Allah and his leave, are capable of confronting the American enemy who practices terrorism in all its form, but he is even the biggest military, security and media terrorist against the Muslims. Their fear and their terror has led the American enemy throughout the whole of New York and Washington has suffered from a serious constitutional vacuum. President Bush was hiding and no one knew his whereabouts, his deputy (Vice-President) hides underground, and the members of the American Congress scattered all over the place, while the whole of the American people was in a state of hysteria, horror and fear because of these operations. These matters happen in the mightiest country in the world. Allah is truthful when he says: "And slacken not in following up the enemy: if ye are suffering hardships, they are suffering similar hardships; but ye have hope from Allah, while they have none. And Allah is full of Knowledge and Wisdom." [04-104]. Without a doubt, the grandeur and the veneration of this country has fallen before people's eyes; they have fallen before people's eyes thanks to Allah alone. This state of affairs in which they live today, the state of terror and fear and the psychological ailments and depression that has befallen most of the Americans, especially in the city of New York, where the problem of alcoholism and drug abuse is on the increase, to escape from what had happened to them on the 11th September; what is concealed is even greater and "For your Lord is (as a Guardian) on a watch-tower." [89.14]

With regard to the brothers, the pilots, their return from Afghanistan to Germany specifically, in the period between February to March 2000, starting with the return of our brother Abu Tariq the Lebanese, alias Zyad Al-Jarrah, we ask Allah to receive him, then the return of our brother Mohamed Atta, Mohammed Al-Amir, whose nickname was

Abdul-Rahman Al-Masri, and the return of our brother Yusuf Al-Shihi, whose nickname was Al-Qaa'qaa Al-Qatari. Their passports were replaced, and they set about acquiring their visas for the United States; this step had already been taken by our brother Marwan in the Emirates. He changed his passport and he acquired the visa.

Unfortunately, putting forward such a topic, by certain authors and intellectuals, and even by some of those working within the Islamic framework and adopt the Islamic agenda, generates a great deception and a belittling of the Muslims' minds, and it spreads lies amongst them, as if those claim that the American were not backing the Jews with their F16 fighter planes and the American Apache helicopter gunships, which assassinate the Mujahideen from among the movements of Hamas and (Islamic) Jihad inside their homes and amidst their families and their children. It is as if the Americans were not giving the Zionists the green light to shell the Palestinian cities, one by one, without any restraint nor any inhibition; as if for instance were not using the right to veto to the benefit of the Jews, and as if the Americans did not in the first instance interfere in our struggle against the Jews prior to the 11th September. The only difference that occurred is that these events have brought the Americans out from behind the screen where they had been hiding, to the fore of the struggle, and they have now set about implementing their policies, which support the Hebrew state in a conspicuous, open and flagrant manner and this what the Mujahideen have succeeded to expose so that people may learn that there is no difference between America and the Hebrew state, for they are two faces of the same coin, namely the terrorism in this world. Those from among the Muslims who claims this, have not experienced the life of Jihad and the Mujahideen; they only live a theoretical life between the books and the libraries. They have not fought a war nor a battle. What is known to the whole world that the Mujahideen, in their first struggle against the Russians, were a direct cause for the annihilation of this superpower at the time, with the grace of Allah the Almighty. The history of the Muslims is full of such conquests and victories, but people in general are suffering from a psychological defeat and they have the complex of the CIA and the Mossad, and Allah the Almighty, with his grace has revived the duty of Jihad in the heart and the reality of this Ummah (nation), through these rare heroism and courageous operations, and also thanks to the presence of the Islamic leadership, the striving and the sincere to his religion, such as the Sheikh Usama, -we do not justify him to Allah- and his other brothers, and this why America is working assiduously and all its power towards wiping every single trace of Jihad, from the mind, the heart and the conscience of this Ummah. She is also endeavouring to obliterate it from the books, from history and educational curricula of the religious schools, universities and colleges, and even obliterate it from the Qur'an. She spend millions for the sake of this endeavour. Hence, the point at issue today is not that of a personality, namely that of Sheikh Usama, may Allah protect him, nor that of the Al-Qaeda organisation. The war today is not a war against terrorism as they claim, but a crusade against Islam and the Muslims as proclaimed by the head of the worldwide infidelity, president Bush.

The discussion used to cover several topics; it is not the time to talk about these now. As for the weapons, indeed the brothers were armed. Their first weapon after the belief in Allah was the Takbir (chant of Allah is Greatest). The Takbir was the first weapon used

by the Messenger of Allah (pbuh) in his conquests. When he conquered Kheibar he said: "Allah is greatest. If we descend on the backyard of some folks, then the morning of the forewarned is doomed." This was in addition to the presence of the material weapon, which is necessary so that total control of the aircraft can be achieved. As for the clothes, there were not any special clothes, and there are information which you can acquire from any other source.

The outlines pertaining to the manner of storming and taking over the cockpit were drafted, and the distribution of the brothers throughout the aircraft, each one according to his task. The number of the brothers in each aircraft was between 4 and 5. I mean in the aircraft of our brother Ziad there were 4 brothers and 5 in the rest. The distribution is done two and two and one and so on. This division is subject to change and modification, according to the shape of the aircraft from inside and the spread of the seats within the aircraft, and according to the manner in which the security guards are spread onboard, in the various shapes, i.e. L shape or H shape or according to the outcomes of the experiments that the brother have carried out over there, over the recent months before the execution of the operation. Yes without a doubt they had weapons and it is not in our interest to reveal these details at this stage, suffice to say that, Azmi, one of the youths, had slaughtered one of the security guards, and this was onboard the aircraft he was in, together with our brother Mohammed Atta, which crashed in the first tower in New York. There are matters whose time has not come to talk about them, for not everything you know can be said. Of course this is not just one single operation, not one single hijacking operation, but four operations in one. Hence, it was imperative for these to be simultaneous so as all the brothers would be in their aircrafts at the same time and it is crucial to determine the first quarter of an hour from take off as the golden opportunity to seize the aircraft and take control and steer it towards the targets. This, thanks to Allah has been accomplished in the best possible manner, and it was the most important phases of that plan. And before that, what was equally important is for all the brother executing the plan to board the planes, and for none of them to remain on the ground and miss his flight. And the plan was accomplished accordingly, and Allah the Almighty has helped the executing brother tremendously. The work was divided inside the aircraft. A group was assigned the task of storming the cockpit and the other group's task was to support the first group and provide it with protection from the back and prevent any attempt at foiling the process of storming the cockpit. Obviously the group storming the cockpit is formed of two persons. It would be the nearest group to the cockpit, in order to seize the opportunity when the door is opened and enter into it swiftly, take it over and slaughter all of those inside and then the brother pilot comes very quickly to assume the rest of the mission and guide the aircraft. Naturally in such operations, every brother knows exactly his role and in detail, lest the roles clashed; each one knows exactly what is required of him. Hence, the storming group's mission is to seize the cockpit in a record time and get rid of all those inside it at the same time. Meanwhile the mission of the protection team is to protect the back of the executing brothers, impede the security men and deal with them swiftly by slitting their throats and getting rid of them, while the pilot goes quickly to the cockpit to take control of the aircraft. All these actions must take place at a record time, 6 minutes at the most, because the time factor is very important, because there are other aircrafts still in the air as well. It is imperative to move all the passengers to the back of

the aircraft and to get rid of all the security personnel onboard the aircraft. The brothers, may Allah bless them performed this in the best possible manner and this is thanks to Allah's facilitation, and there was contact between the aircraft so that the brothers were reassured about one another. Indeed our brother Atta, may Allah have mercy on his soul, changed his passport through the Egyptian Consulate in the city of Hamburg and he added in his new passport the name of Atta instead of Al-Amir, the name by which he had been known before; and then he became known as Mohamed Atta, and everyone used to know him as Mohammed Al-Amir, and he surpassed this problem with the help of Allah the Almighty. There was the problem of changing the photograph; in the old passport he sported a beard and in the new passport he did not have one. As for our brother Ziad, he completed this matter with the help of Allah the Almighty.

Afterwards, came the phase of looking for aviation schools to learn how to fly and the best schools offering flight instructions. After the search, it was concluded that the best of places for study was America, for the prices in America were convenient and the weather was ideal, allowing for more flying hours, especially in the coastal states such as Florida, and besides, the term of study is not long. Effectively, we started...the brothers started acquiring addresses of these schools, and contact with these schools was made; then the brothers travelled to the United States one after the other, at short intervals. For instance, our brother Marwan was the first from among the group to travel, 25th June 2000, he left Germany. He stayed one day and one night in a third country then he left it directly and travelled to the city of New York. In essence Marwan was sent by his country, the Emirates, on military academy course and it was incumbent on him to give up his university studies. Consequently his contact with his embassy and his family was going to be severed, and they would be looking for him after a while. This is what effectively happened. Hence, his travel to a third country was necessary to cut the link, even though for a limited time, and praise be to Allah, the Lord of the universe, they could not follow the link of his journey. They searched for him and they asked all those who knew him from among his friends, but no one knew where Marwan was exactly and what he was doing. Allah the Almighty protected him. As for our brother Mohamed, he also travelled through a third country, again in order to sever the links of his exit from Germany. Afterwards our brother Ziad travelled. We ask Allah the Almighty to receive them and to raise their status in Heaven. Allah has helped them tremendously in concluding all these arrangements. This matter has been concluded while not even the closest people to Mohammed, Marwan or Ziad, from among their friends and their relatives, knew their whereabouts, nor what they were intending to do. As for our brother Urwah Al-Taifi, who is Hani Al-Hunjour, the pilot of the aircraft that with the grace of Allah the Almighty wrecked the Pentagon building, he was already in America and he was in essence a pilot. He had already trained as a pilot. There was no contact whatsoever between this group and the group of Mohammed Atta. The contact was established at a later date.

As I explained to you, that was the plan, what is essential is that the mission was successful thank Allah.

As for the Americans, they should expect anything to happen to them; especially that Sheikh Usama, may Allah protect him, has pledged more than once and in more than one occasion and in an open manner, that the Americans should expect from the Mujahideen, a war that would make them forget the horrors of Vietnam. But the problem with these Americans is that they forget the power of Allah over them, as is the case with the unbelieving and strong nations; He is capable, Allah the Almighty, of inflicting upon them a punishment from above them and from under their feet; what happened to them was very natural reaction to their policies which back Israel, the entity that usurps the land of the Muslims in Palestine, and which is allowed to pursue all the types of killing, extermination and destruction against our unarmed brothers in there, while this people is deprived of his right to defend itself. And if it defended itself, it would be labelled as a terrorist. Besides, this force, America, occupies a land that is the dearest and the noblest land for the Muslims, namely the land of the Two Sacred Mosques, for more than ten years, and no one has lifted even a finger. Therefore, America has practised and still does practise terrorism in all its types. Now if you asked any scholar, any Muslim scholar in the four corners of this earth, or even a journalist: "Is America considered an enemy of Islam and the Muslims?" He would say to you: "Yes." And if you were to ask him: "Is America fighting Islam and the Muslims?" He would say to you: "Yes." And if you were to say to him: "Therefore, it is incumbent upon us to kill them and fight them.", then he would start to stutter and mince his words. He would say: "it is important to have a dialogue and to preach in a nice way; it is imperative to establish a strong Islamic lobby inside America in order to influence her political policies" This is how they mock the Ummah and they shroud the truth with falsehood. Allah is the helper.

This is a very important question and it is important to highlight certain matters to the Muslims, especially those from amongst them who work in the Islamic movements, in their various trends, is that when Allah prescribed fighting upon the Muslims, he said to them the Almighty: "Fighting is prescribed upon you, and ye dislike it. But it is possible that ye dislike a thing which is good for you; and that ye love a thing which is bad for you. But Allah knows, and ye know not." [02-216]. This address was to the Companions. Hence, Jihad and fighting is something despised by human nature, because this disposition is naturally inclined towards peace and tranquillity, while Jihad is tiresome and entails hardship. It entails death and destruction and squandering of wealth; and also a loss of the gains made in the field of preaching, as some of them claim. This is in the simple, limited human materialistic calculations, of the one who think about the consequences of going out from his home and performing Jihad to fight the people of falsehood, and calculates this in a human materialistic way, without taking into consideration the aspect of the unseen which Allah has promised to his servants the Mujahideen and the martyrs. This is in the Hereafter, whereas in this life, the promise is victory and authority; and before all of this, this obligation, the obligation of Jihad, is just like the other religious obligations. In terms of prayer and Zakat (charity) and the like; this obligation has been forsaken, thus it must be established and the punishment awaiting those who neglect is painful and harsh, as stipulated by Allah the Almighty who says: "Unless ye go forth, He will punish you with a grievous penalty, and put others in your place; but Him ye would not harm in the least. For Allah hath power over all things." [09-39]. The texts from the Book and the Tradition on this topic are numerous. And how, we

are now in a state of self-defence. We are now in a state of self-defence. How could it be that we are not allowed to defend ourselves and take up arms? He who does not grasp this understanding, he does not perceive the nature of this religion. Then, is it conceivable for a Muslim to say that what happened to the makers of the pit (of fire)³, in their story which Allah the Almighty mentioned in the Qur'an, and it was also mentioned in the Tradition, was an irresponsible action? They caused the death of a whole nation of believers, at that time; or, what happened to the Messenger of Allah (pbuh) and his Companions on the Day Of The Trench, the Day Of The Confederates, when the polytheists besieged Madinah for a whole month during the battle of the Confederates, that the Muslims were not thinking strategically on a long term basis as they say? And that they dragged themselves to such a matter? And to such suffering and hardship? And we today, if we are inflicted by what has befallen us, even if the Islamic Emirate has fallen, we ask Allah the Almighty to restore it, we must pay the tax. Even if our brethren were arrested and imprisoned, we must pay the tax; even if any of us were to be killed, we must pay the tax. This is the tax for gaining authority on earth. It is imperative to pay a price for Heaven, for the commodity of Allah is dear, very dear. It is not acquired through rest, but blood and torn off limbs must be the price. So can one imagine this situation being in defence of the Muslims' lives, in defence of their sanctities and in defence of their honours? This West, has not reached what he has reached in terms of progress and this might through legislative elections and political debates or through parliaments, but it has sacrificed for this hundreds of thousands of its savants and millions of lives for the sake of its conventional thoughts. So how about us? We are a nation that possesses a divine message and a divide method. No I do not regret any of this whatsoever, for this is our path and the end is best for the righteous Allah willing. We will persevere with this until Allah the Almighty grants us victory, or takes us to him as martyrs, not as humiliated nor as vanquished.

First of all, there is a matter of extreme gravity, which the Muslims must be aware of, especially under the shadow of this media onslaught that deceives the minds and the consciences of the Muslims, namely that the war today, which is referred to as the war on terrorism, and which is waged throughout the whole world, is in essence a crusade war against Islam and the Muslims. It is a war that does not target, as they claim, the eradication of Al-Qaeeda organisation or the killing of Sheikh Usama, may Allah protect him, and the killing of the Amir of the believers, Mullah Omar, may Allah Protect him, but it targets the destruction of Islam and the Muslims, led by this fanatical crusader Bush. It targets the destruction of the Muslims' might. They are targeted in their lands and they are targeted in their perception of this Islam, as it has been taught to them by the Messenger of Allah (pbuh) and as it has been brought down by the Revelation. These crusaders have declared that it was incumbent on them to change these Muslims' perception of Islam, just like that, in all frankness, but people do not read. And this head of infidelity, Bush, has appointed himself as Iman for the Muslims, teaching them Islam as being a religion of peace and that Jihad is terrorism, and that the Mujahideen are terrorists, just like that, with utmost arrogance and boldness. They spend for the sake of this huge amounts of money in order to modify the educational curricula in the Islamic world, in order to turn them into Islamic educational curricula according to the American

³ Makers of the pit of fire is a title of a chapter in the Qura'n (No 85).

way. They are nowadays closing down the Shari'ah schools, especially in Pakistan,, under the pretext that they graduate terrorists. They provide security, military and intelligence assistance to all the states in the Islamic world in order to eradicate all the Jihad groups and the Islamic movements as a whole in these countries.

Secondly, we with the grace of Allah are fine, and we are continuing in our fight against America. And I bring you glad tidings, that this awareness about Jihad and this doctrine in the fight against the American has become one of the concerns of the Muslims, especially among the youths and this is with the grace of Allah the Almighty. They plot and Allah the Almighty plots and they plan and Allah plans, and Allah is the best of planners. This great excellence that occurred in the day of the 11th September has been carried out by believing and pure hands, which Allah had chosen for this great conquest and this major victory and he turned them into the whip of his punishment upon the unbelieving folk Allah the Almighty says: "Fight them, and Allah will punish them by your hands, cover them with shame, help you (to victory) over them, heal the breasts of Believers." [09-14]

Therefore, we have to fight and Allah will take care of the punishment. Not only this, but even the idea, the idea of this work was the idea of a Muslim group upholding Jihad, and it was not an idea adopted from any other place. The Americans do know this very well as for those who cast doubt over this from among the Muslims, unfortunately, this is because the Ummah (nation) has not experienced the life of Jihad and has not savoured its sweetness for centuries. And....has not savoured the sweetness of Iman....Repeat.⁴ -I have burdened you with me - ⁵. This great excellence that occurred in the day of 11th September has been carried out by believing and pure hands, which Allah had chosen for this great conquest and this major victory and he turned them into the whip of his punishment upon the unbelieving folk Allah the Almighty says: "Fight them, and Allah will punish them by your hands, cover them with shame, help you (to victory) over them, heal the breasts of Believers." [09-14]

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⁴ Here the speaker has repeated the sentence twice because he was reading from a script (translator).

⁵ Here he was addressing someone with him in the room.

intelligence apparatuses. And because the Muslims are psychologically defeated due to the media war waged against them. But they have to place their trust in Allah first and to be self-confident secondly, for we are the grandsons of Abu Bakr, Omar, Saad and Khaled, who conquered the East and the West, and who humiliated Kisra⁶ and Caesar. The history of the Muslims is full of conquests and heroisms that dazzled the whole world, from east to west throughout history. We ask Allah the Almighty to accept from them this deed, and to grant them the status of the martyrs, and make their dwelling the highest class of Heaven, under His throne. In the Tradition of our Messenger (pbuh), he is reported to have said: "The souls of the martyrs are in the claws of green birds, suspended by the throne of the Most Merciful, wandering in heaven wherever they wished.", or words to that effect. And Allah says about the martyrs: "And say not of those who are slain in the way of Allah: "They are dead." Nay, they are living, though ye perceive (it) not." [02-154]. We ask Allah the Almighty to grant us these sublime statuses, under the throne of the Most Merciful the Almighty, once we have subdued and shed the blood of these enemies. As for their memory, it is by Allah sweet and it is still passing through our minds every day, each time we looked at those buildings collapsing like a house of cards. Our consolation on them is that they died but as martyrs, Allah willing, fighting for his sake. They did not go out except for the sake of Allah; they did not die like others, on their death beds, or through illness or in road accidents or by drug overdose, Allah forbid. They were rather killed in the most honourable of fashion: fighting the Jews and the Christians. The reward of each one of them is that of two martyrs. So let the fathers and the mothers of these chaste youths rejoice, for they will be Allah willing and with Allah's leave, their intercessors before Allah the Almighty on the day of judgement; the day whereon neither wealth nor sons will avail, and may Allah reward in the best manner all those who raised them and taught them the verses of Jihad and exhorted them to take this path and equipped them, and we ask Allah the Almighty to unite us with them in His heaven, the Most Glorious, The Most Supreme.

May Allah reward you for your services to Islam in the best manner, for by Allah you have fulfilled your task and you have been true to your word to Allah, and you have established your evidence to the whole Ummah, its scholars, its men, its movements and its youths. So congratulations to you on gaining martyrdom, congratulation to you on attaining paradise and congratulation to you on achieving this great victory. We ask Allah the Most Noble to unite us with you, in the highest level of paradise and to unite us with you under the shade of his throne, on the day when there is no other shade but his shade.

The operations have not and will not stop, with Allah's leave, and the quality of the forthcoming operations Allah willing, and this is part of the omens indicating our persistence to fight the Americans, and here, I send a special message to the Muslim youths, to follow on the footsteps of their brothers the martyrs of the two raids on Washington and New York, and do what those have done, and be reassured about an imminent victory in this life and the great reward in the hereafter. Instead of going on summer holidays here and there, let them go out to execute the operations everywhere they find this haughty American enemy and this lowly Jew. And may Allah reward you.

* Former Persian Emperor

As for the other brothers, who are the executors, and who number 15, they went at a later stage, and after the pilot brothers had completed their studies, except our brother Rabia'a Al-Makki, alias Nawaf Al-Hazimi, who had been originally living in America for a long time. He spent the longest period of time in the United States, and the contact between him and our brother Mohammed was made at a later stage; our brother Nawaf was the deputy of our brother Mohamed Al-Amir alias Mohammed Atta who was responsible for all the other brother. And that brother Nawaf was of a very high morality and obedient and perseverant; all the people who had known him bear testimony to that fact. Despite the fact that he spent a long period of time in America, and although he was young, on his own, he was not influenced by the corruption and the debauchery in which the American society lives. Thank Allah.

The beginning of this phase was when all the brothers pilots completed their training; all that was left for them to do was to increase the flight hours and master the art of flying in the simulators of big jumbo jets, such as Boeing 747 and Boeing 767. Also, to study the security arrangements that are adopted at all the airports, and establish a comprehensive picture about the procedures in these airports, such as the JFK Airport for instance, and also unravel the security loopholes that exist at these airports, find out the trips that depart and arrive at these airports, and the level of security at these airports. Also, this phase was the phase of studying the targets from a close range, for the last time, from both the ground and from the air, be it from normal travel by plane or by hiring aircrafts and flying over these targets from a close range.

First of all, all those brothers were aware of the fact that they were going to carry out martyrdom operations, and they were in total readiness for them, and they were not too bothered about the details, such when and where and so on. And they were ready for these operations psychologically, religiously and physically and spiritually. For instance, if you were to hear the last will and testament of our brother Ahmed Al-Haznawi, which was published, and how he was menacing the Americans with operations inside their lands, and amidst their armies and their intelligence services, despite the fact that for certain, he did not have one iota of information about the place nor the time of the operation; but his certitude in Allah was tremendous, in addition to this, the good omens that used to come to the brothers in their dreams, which were the omens that the Messenger of Allah (pbuh) has foretold the believers that they will happen by the end of time, that their dreams will be like good omens to them; the youths used to see many of these dreams which indicated in one way or another the type of the operations and their places. But as you know, all the brothers, including the pilots, were in the process of preparing for these operations and all of them were under the threat of being investigated over security or arrested Allah forbid, especially that the number was huge, 19 brothers. It was an unusual number, hence, it was unwise for a brother to know all the details of the operation while he was still in Afghanistan, while he has security obstacles and international airport and the eyes are on him everywhere, and the funds get to him. Hence, the matter necessitated that the brother should know the relevant information at the right time, and too many information, without the need for them, is deemed a security disaster.

The summary of this idea, is that the brothers are divided into groups and the distribution is as such, that each group must have, or we are keen to have over them a Shari'ah supervisor, who possesses Shari'ah knowledge and who speaks the English language to a certain extent so that he may help them get out of sticky situation, and these groups are divided into two groups, in each group there are two to three brothers so that they do not attract the attention of the security staff at airports and when they board the aircrafts in a huge number form one single airport. This was as far as their distribution on the ground was concerned, and before they boarded the aircrafts. Each group was also distributed inside the aircraft by specific seats, in the First Class and the Business Class. The brother, the pilot would be in the First Class so that he may head first towards the cockpit, and with him two other brothers who would assist him in storming the cockpit when its door is opened. The way the security men are spread inside the aircraft is taken into consideration as well. This depends on the airline companies. "Shall I repeat?"...It depends on the airline companies and the services they provide. It also depends on the class of the ticket booked generally. The booking system, especially through the internet, allows you to choose the seat that suits you onboard the aircraft, and this service is generally available in the United States. Since all the brothers used to memorise totally the shapes of the aircrafts, the seats and the numbers and according to the fact that they had explored them beforehand, therefore it was necessary for these reserved seats to allow the brother the freedom of movement and the rapid manoeuvre. The reservations were made at an early date, in plenty of time before the operation.

End Of Tape.