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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE

Date: 07/10/2001

To: Counterterrorism

Attn: RFU

SSA [Redacted] b6 b7C

IRS

UBL Unit

SSA [Redacted]

IRS

IRS

IRS

I-46

SSA [Redacted]

SA [Redacted]

New York

From: Phoenix

[Redacted]

Contact: SA [Redacted]

Approved By: [Redacted]

Drafted By: [Redacted]

Case ID #: ~~(S)~~ [Redacted] (Pending)

Title: ~~(S)~~ [Redacted]
IT-OTHER (ISLAMIC ARMY OF THE CAUCASUS)

Synopsis: ~~(S)~~ UBL and AL-MUHAJIROUN supporters attending civil aviation universities/colleges in the State of Arizona.

~~(U)~~ ~~(S)~~ ~~Derived From: G-3~~
~~Declassify On: X1~~

(U) Full Field Investigation Instituted: 04/17/2000 (NONUSPER)

~~(U)~~ ~~(S)~~ Details: The purpose of this communication is to advise the Bureau and New York of the possibility of a coordinated effort by USAMA BIN LADEN (UBL) to send students to the United States to attend civil aviation universities and colleges. Phoenix has observed an inordinate number of individuals of investigative interest who are attending or who have attended civil aviation universities and colleges in the State of Arizona. The inordinate number of these individuals attending these type of schools and fatwas issued by AL-MUHJIROUN [Redacted]

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CLASSIFIED BY: NSICG [Redacted]
REASON: 1.4 (B,C)
DECLASSIFY ON: 12-31-2026
DATE: 01-31-2020

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

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To: Counterterrorism From: Phoenix

(U) Re: ~~(S)~~ [redacted] 07/10/2001

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[redacted] an ardent supporter of UBL, gives reason to believe that a coordinated effort is underway to establish a cadre of individuals who will one day be working in the civil aviation community around the world. These individuals will be in a position in the future to conduct terror activity against civil aviation targets.

(U) ~~(S)~~ Phoenix believes that the FBI should accumulate a listing of civil aviation universities/colleges around the country. FBI field offices with these types of schools in their area should establish appropriate liaison. FBIHQ should discuss this matter with other elements of the U.S. intelligence community and task the community for any information that supports Phoenix's suspicions. FBIHQ should consider seeking the necessary authority to obtain visa information from the USDOS on individuals obtaining visas to attend these types of schools and notify the appropriate FBI field office when these individuals are scheduled to arrive in their area of responsibility.

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(U) ~~(S)~~ Phoenix has drawn the above conclusion from several Phoenix investigations to include captioned investigation and the following investigations: [redacted]

(S) [redacted] a Saudi Arabian national [redacted]
[redacted]

(U) ~~(S)~~ Investigation of [redacted] was initiated as the result of information provided by [redacted] a source who has provided reliable information in the past. The source reported during April 2000 that [redacted] was a supporter of UBL and [redacted] the AL-MUHJIROUN. [redacted]

(S) [redacted] on an F-1 student visa to attend EMBRY RIDDLE UNIVERSITY (ERU), Prescott, Arizona. ERU only teaches courses related to the field of aviation. [redacted] is an Aeronautical Engineering student at ERU and has been taking courses in "international security" relating to aviation. [redacted]

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[redacted]

(U) ~~(S)~~ Phoenix has identified several associates of [redacted] at ERU who arrived at the university around the same time that he

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To: Counterterrorism From: Phoenix
Re: ~~(S)~~ [redacted] 07/10/2001

(U)

did. These individuals are Sunni Muslims who have the same radical fundamentalists views as [redacted]

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(U) ~~(S)~~ The above individuals are involved with [redacted] and regularly participate in meetings with him in Prescott, Arizona.

(S) [redacted]

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To: Counterterrorism From: Phoenix
Re: ~~(S)~~ [redacted] 07/10/2001

(U) ~~(S)~~ The AL-MUHAJIROUN, which in English means THE EMIGRANTS, is a Sunni Muslim fundamentalist organization based in the United Kingdom. [redacted]

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[redacted] The organization is dedicated to the overthrow of Western society. British officials have reported that [redacted] first came to their attention during the Gulf War

[redacted] has connections to UBL, JAMMAT AL-MUSLIMIAN (JM), HAMAS, HIZBALLAH and the ALGERIAN SALVATION FRONT.

(U) ~~(S)~~ [redacted] has made several controversial statements to the press. For example, he stated in public interviews that the bombings of the United States Embassies in Africa were "legitimate targets."

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(U) ~~(S)~~ [redacted] the AL-MUHAJIROUN, signed a fatwa (religious decree) during February 1998 which stated the following:

(U) ~~(S)~~ " The Fatwa is jihad against the U.S. and British government, armies, interests, **airports** (emphasis added by FBI Phoenix), and instructions and it has been given because of the U.S. and British aggression against Muslims and the Muslim land of Iraq...we...confirm that the only Islamic Fatwa against this explicit aggression is Jihad. Therefore the message for the British governments or any other government of non-Muslim countries is to stay away from Iraq, Palestine, Pakistan, Arabia, etc...or face full scale war of Jihad which it is the responsibility and the duty of every Muslim around the world to participate in...We...call upon...Muslims around the world including Muslims in the USA and in Britian to confront by all means whether verbally, financially, politically or militarily the U.S. and British aggression and do their Islamic duty in relieving the Iraqi people from the unjust sanctions."

(U) ~~(S)~~ [redacted] was interviewed by FBI Phoenix on 04/07/2000 and 05/11/2000 at his residence. On 04/07/2000, interviewing Agents observed photocopied photographs of UBL, IBN KHATTAB and wounded Chechnyan Mujahadin tacked to his livingroom wall. [redacted] admitted to being the AL-MUHAJIROUN [redacted] [redacted] stated that he considers the United States Government and U.S. Military forces in the Gulf as "legitimate military targets of Islam." He also stated that the targeting of the U.S. Embassies in Africa was "legitimate." [redacted] denied having received any military training. However; Phoenix believes that [redacted] was being less than truthful in this

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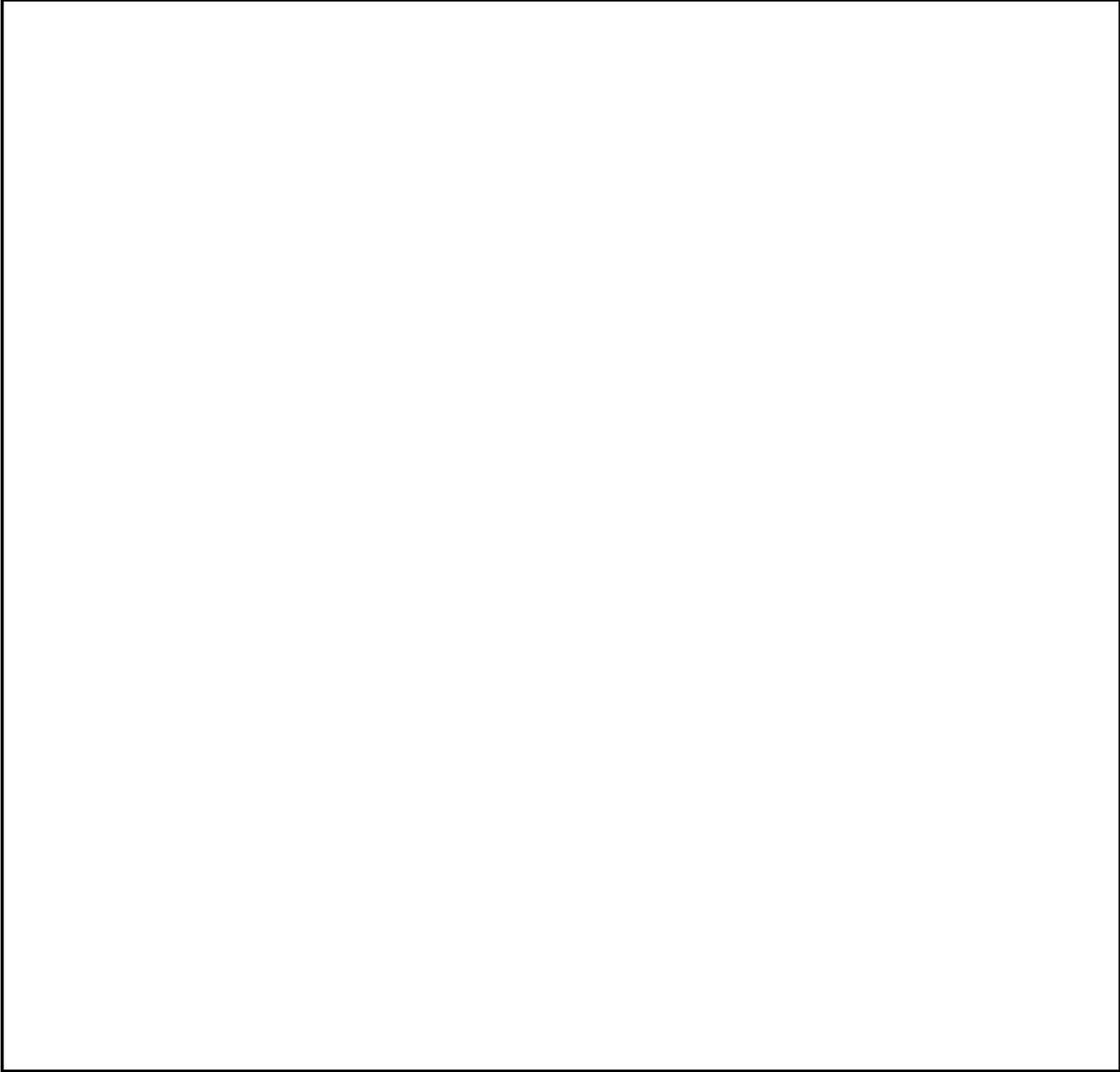
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Re: ~~(S)~~ [redacted] 07/10/2001

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regard. [redacted] was defiant towards interviewing Agents and it was clear that he was not intimidated by the FBI presence. It is obvious that he is a hardcore Islamic extremist who views the U.S. as an enemy of Islam. Investigation of [redacted] is continuing.



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To: Counterterrorism From: Phoenix

(U) Re: ~~(S)~~ [redacted] 07/10/2001

(S) [redacted]

[redacted]

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(U) ~~(S)~~ Phoenix has not been able to show a direct association between [redacted] had departed the U.S. prior to [redacted] arrival. However, both [redacted] [redacted] Arizona and it is highly probable that they know people in common.

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(S) [redacted]

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(U) ~~(S)~~ Phoenix believes that it is more than a coincidence that subjects who are supporters of UBL are attending civil aviation universities/colleges in the State of Arizona. As receiving offices are aware, Phoenix has had significant UBL associates/operatives living in the State of Arizona and conducting activity in support of UBL. [redacted]

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To: Counterterrorism From: Phoenix

(U) Re: ~~(S)~~ [redacted] 07/10/2001

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[redacted] Phoenix believes that it is highly probable that UBL has an established support network in place in Arizona. This network was most likely established during the time period that [redacted] lived in Arizona.

(U) ~~(S)~~ This information is being provided to receiving offices for information , analysis and comments.

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To: Counterterrorism From: Phoenix
Re: ~~(S)~~ [REDACTED] 07/10/2001

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LEAD(s):

Set Lead 1:

COUNTERTERRORISM

AT WASHINGTON, DC

~~(U)~~ ~~(S)~~ The [REDACTED] is requested to consider implementing the suggested actions put forth by Phoenix at the beginning of this communication.

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Set Lead 2:

NEW YORK

AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

~~(U)~~ ~~(S)~~ Read and Clear

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