Exhibit 60
Date: 20020813

TO: 

FROM:

SUBJECT: EYES ONLY - HQS ASSESSMENT OF ABU ZUBAYDAH'S INVOLVEMENT IN POTENTIAL TERRORIST PLANNING AND OPERATIONS

TEXT:

1. ACTION REQUIRED: REQUEST TEAM REVIEW BELOW FOR THE COMPELLING CASE OF ABU ZUBAYDAH'S KNOWLEDGE OF POTENTIAL THREATS TO U.S. INTERESTS AND USE THE PARA 3-4 REQUIREMENTS IN UPCOMING INTERROGATIONS.

2. WE APPRECIATE TEAM'S EFFORTS TO DATE IN THE
DIFFICULT INTERROGATION OF (ABU ZUBAYDAH), (SUBJECT), THE MOST SENIOR AL-QA'IDA OPERATIVE CURRENTLY IN USG CUSTODY. AS NOTED IN REPS, THE INCREASED PRESSURE PHASE OF THE INTERROGATIONS HAS RESULTED IN A COMPLIANT SUBJECT, APPARENTLY WILLING TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS AND APPARENTLY PROVIDE INFORMATION. TO SUMMARIZE THE TEAM'S COMMENTS ON SUBJECT'S BEHAVIOR AFTER NINE DAYS OF THE INTENSIFIED INTERROGATION STAGE:

-- SUBJECT APPEARS WILLING TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON PAST ACTIVITIES AND LIKELY HAS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OF VALUE IN THIS AREA.

-- SUBJECT CONTINUES TO INSIST THAT HE KNOWS OF NO THREATS OR CURRENT OPERATIONAL PLANS FOR ATTACKS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES OTHER THAN THOSE HE HAS ALREADY MENTIONED.

-- IT IS THE COLLECTIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE TEAM THAT THE BEHAVIOR OF SUBJECT SUGGESTS THAT HE HAD NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON CURRENT THREATS.

3. THE BODY OF INTELLIGENCE CONTRIBUTING TO OUR ASSESSMENT THAT SUBJECT HAS KNOWLEDGE OF POTENTIAL THREAT PLANNING OR OPERATIONS IS NOTED BELOW. HQS BELIEVES THAT FOCUSING REQUIREMENTS ON THESE ISSUES -- ABOUT WHICH WE HAVE HIGH CONFIDENCE ABU ZUBAYDAH HAS PRIVILEGED INFORMATION -- WILL HAVE THE GREATEST IMPACT IN THE INTERROGATION PROCESS, PARTICULARLY IF ABU ZUBAYDAH INDEED HAS REACHED A WEAKENED MENTAL STATE. PLEASE DRAW FROM THE FOLLOWING FOR FOLLOW-UP REQUIREMENTS FOR USE IN THE ONGOING INTERROGATION OF SUBJECT:

-- SUBJECT'S POTENTIAL KNOWLEDGE OF AL-QA'IDA OPERATIVES IN THE UNITED STATES.

SUBJECT IS WITHHOLDING IMPORTANT DETAILS, IN OUR VIEW, ON OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY IN THE UNITED STATES.
-- SUBJECT'S POSITION IN THE AL-QA'IDA NETWORK AND HIS KNOWLEDGE OF OTHER CELLS (AND 11 SEPT) SUGGEST HE WOULD BE AWARE OF AL-QA'IDA MEMBERS IN THE U.S. - AT LEAST THEIR NAMES/PHONE NUMBERS. HE SERVED AS THE FACILITATOR FOR SUCH OPERATIVES.

-- SUBJECT ADMITS THAT HE PLANNED TO USE "DIRTY BOMB" SUSPECTS JOSE (PADILLA) AND BINYAM AHMAD (MOHAMMAD).

AS IN THE CASE OF PADILLA AND MOHAMMAD, LEARNING THE NAMES AND OBTAINING DESCRIPTIONS OF SUCH OPERATIVES COULD PERMIT US THE CHANCE TO PUT DANGEROUS OPERATIVES POISED TO KILL AMERICANS BEHIND BARS.

-- SUBJECT'S OWN NOTEBOOKS AND DIARIES CONTAIN DETAILS OF POTENTIAL AL-QA'IDA PLANS TO ATTACK A VARIETY OF TARGETS IN CONUS.
4. BASE HAS ALSO NOTED THAT SUBJECT HAS UNDERGONE A PROFOUND TRANSFORMATION AS A RESULT OF THE INTENSIFIED INTERROGATION PHASE. A FURTHER TEST OF THIS CHANGE WOULD BE TO QUERY SUBJECT AGAIN ON NON-U.S. SPECIFIC THREATS. SHOULD THE TEAM DETERMINE THAT SUCH A TEST WOULD AGAIN BE WORTHWHILE, WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTED TOPICS TO EXPLORE. SUBJECT HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN RELUCTANT TO PROVIDE DETAILS ON THESE ISSUES:
5. AS THE TEAM IS AWARE, THE INCREDIBLE EFFORT, FOCUS, AND ATTENTION PLACED ON THE INTERROGATIONS OF ABU ZUBAYDHAH IS DUE TO THE STRONG ANALYTICAL AND OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT THAT ABU ZUBAYDHAH HAD PRIVILEGED INFORMATION ON THREATS TO U.S. INTERESTS.

6. WE BELIEVE THE ABOVE WILL BE HELPFUL IN DEBRIEFING SUBJECT, AND AIDING IN THE EVALUATION OF HIS WILLINGNESS TO BE FORTHCOMING REGARDING THREATS TO THE UNITED STATES.