Exhibit Z
Date: 20020828

TO: ALEC

FROM:

SUBJECT: EYES ONLY - STATUS OF THE INTERROGATIONS

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TOR: 280820Z AUG 02

CITE 10700

TO: IMMEDIATE ALEC INFO IMMEDIATE DIRECTOR, 10700

FOR: CTC INFO CHIEF/CTC, CTC CTC/LGL, OMS OTS

SUBJECT: EYES ONLY - STATUS OF THE INTERROGATIONS

REF: A. ALEC 185413
    B. 10667

TEXT:

1. ACTION REQUIRED: PLEASE NOTE PARA 7 AND WELCOME COMMENTS.

2. APPRECIATE ALEC'S ASSESSMENT IN REF (A) THAT ABU ZUBAYDAH HAS NOT TOLD US ALL THAT HE KNOWS, EVEN ON THE REQUIREMENTS ALREADY COVERED. WE LOOK FORWARD TO RESULTS OF ALEC/HQS ANALYSIS OF THE TAKE SO FAR IN AN EFFORT TO IDENTIFY AREAS WHERE WE ARE CONFIDENT--BASED ON ACTUAL OTHER REPORTING--THAT HE IS LYING OR HOLDING BACK.

3. DURING THE AGGRESSIVE PHASE OF THE INTERROGATION, COB AND
DCOS ALEC QUESTIONED SUBJECT AFTER HE HAD BEEN CONDITIONED AND DREMED COMPLIANT AFTER 12 DAYS OF INTENSIVE WALLING AND WATERBOARDING, USE OF SMALL BOX, AND OTHER AGGRESSIVE TECHNIQUES. WE HAVE CONTINUED TO TEST THIS COMPLIANCE BY BROADENING THE SCOPE OF QUESTIONING AND PRESSING HIM ON PREVIOUS UNANSWERED ISSUES.

4. WHILE WE HAVE NO PRETENSE THAT THIS IS THE SUM TOTAL OF WHAT AZ KNOWS, BELIEVE WE ARE MAKING A DENT IN THAT KNOWLEDGE.

5. OF COURSE, BASED ON HIS DIRECT ACCESS TO THOSE PLANNERS, WE CORRECTLY ASSUMED HE WOULD HAVE SOME KNOWLEDGE OF OPERATIONAL PLANNING AND HE DOES, INDEED, HAVE THIS KNOWLEDGE. HE ADMITS THIS EVEN FOR 9/11, BUT HE STILL INSISTS THAT HE HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE BIG FOLLOW-ON ATTACK INTENDED FOR AFTER 9/11.

---IS HE LYING OR WITHHOLDING? POSSIBLE, BUT WE BELIEVE UNLIKELY GIVEN THE INTENSIVE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL PRESSURES USED.

---IS HIS ANSWER PLAUSIBLE AND CONSISTENT WITH THE AVAILABLE INTELLIGENCE? YES.

---MOST IMPORTANTLY, ARE WE SATISFIED AT [ ] THAT WE HAVE
APPLIED THE TECHNIQUES AGGRESSIVELY AND CONDITIONED SUBJECT TO THE
POINT THAT WE CAN ASSESS HE IS COMPLIANT? YES.
--OUR BOTTOM LINE IS THAT WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WE DON'T KNOW. WE
CAN ONLY OPERATE ON WHAT WE DO KNOW, AND THAT INTELLIGENCE SO FAR IS
CONSISTENT WITH AZ'S STORY.

6. AT THIS POINT, WE SHARE THE GOAL OF BOTH ALEC AND HQS TO
IDENTIFY SOMETHING CONCRETE THAT WE CAN USE TO CONFRONT HIM IN A LIE
OR A SIGNIFICANT OMISSION. IF WE SUCCEED, BASE WILL RETURN TO THE
AGGRESSIVE PHASE TOOLS AND USE EVERY AVAILABLE TECHNIQUE ALLOWED US.
ABSENT THAT SCENARIO, HOWEVER, WE PLAN TO CONTINUE THE STRATEGY AS
LAID OUT IN REF (B) TO SYSTEMATICALLY DRAIN HIM DRY OF ANY USEFUL
INTELLIGENCE. FOR THAT, WE WILL CAREFULLY CONTINUE TO OBSERVE HIM TO
ENSURE HE REMAINS "COMPLIANT" AND IC PSYCHOLOGISTS WILL STAND BY TO
"TUNE HIM UP" AS REQUIRED. IT IS OUR ASSESSMENT THAT IF WE PROCEED
AGAIN TO THE WATERBOARD, ON A GENERAL THREAT QUESTION WITH NOTHING
CONCRETE TO FOCUS ON, WE WILL RISK LOSING EVEN MINIMAL COOPERATION
AFTERWARDS. IF AZ BELIEVES HE CANNOT AVOID THE WATERBOARD NO MATTER
WHAT HE SAYS, PSYCHOLOGISTS BELIEVE IT LIKELY HE MAY SIMPLY MOVE INTO
A STATE WHERE WE COME CLOSE TO THE THRESHOLDS ESTABLISHED BY
CTC/LGL. OF COURSE, IF WE DO DEVELOP INFORMATION THAT HE IS LYING,
THEN WE BELIEVE IT'S WELL WORTH THE RISK TO PRESS HIM HARD TO GET
THAT ONE NUGGET.

7. SHOULD OUR REVIEW OF AZ'S REPORTING TURN UP INDICATIONS OF
SUBSTANTIVE LIES AND/OR WITHHOLDING,

IF BASE AND HQS
COLLECTIVELY ASSESS THAT WE HAVE NOT YET GOT THE BOTTOM LINE ON AZ'S
THREAT INFO, AND WE REMAIN CONVINCED THE WATERBOARD APPLIED ONLY TO
AZ IS UNLIKELY TO PRODUCE RESULTS THAT DIFFER FROM WHAT WE HAVE NOW,
AT PRESENT, OUR
ASSESSMENT REMAINS THAT IF AZ DOES HAVE THAT NUGGET, HE'LL TAKE IT
WITH HIM IF ONLY FACED WITH THE WATERBOARD.

8. FILE:

SECRET