II. Overall History and Operation of the CIA's Detention and Interrogation Program

A. September 17, 2001, Memorandum of Notification (MON) Authorizes the CIA to Capture and Detain a Specific Category of Individuals

1. After Considering Various Clandestine Detention Locations, the CIA Determines That a U.S. Military Base Is the “Best Option”; the CIA Delegates “Blanket” Detention Approvals to CIA Officers in

(TS/NOFORN) On September 17, 2001, six days after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, President George W. Bush signed a covert action Memorandum of Notification (MON) to authorize the director of central intelligence (DCI) to “undertake operations designed to capture and detain persons who pose a continuing, serious threat of violence or death to U.S. persons and interests or who are planning terrorist activities.”

Although the CIA had previously been provided limited authorities to detain specific, named individuals pending the issuance of formal criminal charges, the MON provided unprecedented authorities, granting the CIA significant discretion in determining whom to detain, the factual basis for the detention, and the length of the detention. The MON made no reference to interrogations or interrogation techniques.

(TS/NOFORN) On September 14, 2001, three days before the issuance of the MON, the chief of operations of the CIA’s based on an urgent requirement from the chief of the Counterterrorism Center (CTC), sent an email to CIA Stations in seeking input on appropriate locations for potential CIA detention facilities. Over the course of the next month, CIA officers considered at least four countries in and one in as possible hosts for detention facilities and at least three proposed site locations.

(TS/NOFORN) On September 26, 2001, senior CTC personnel met to discuss the capture and detain authorities in the MON. On September 28, 2001, CTC Legal, sent an email describing the meeting and a number of policy decisions.