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TRANSFERRED TO OTHER AGENCY
TRANSFER FOR DIRECT REPLY - FBI

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In Re: Hizballah, aka Islamic
Jihad Organization

[Redacted]

declares and states that:

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1. I am employed as a Supervisory Special Agent of the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation (hereafter, "FBI"), and have been employed as an FBI Special Agent since January, 1989.
(U)

2. I am currently assigned to the National Security Division, International Terrorism Operations Section at FBI Headquarters in Washington, D.C. (U)

3. Since November, 1994, my duties and responsibilities have included supervising and coordinating the FBI's investigations into certain foreign terrorist organizations. My duties and responsibilities have also included coordinating the FBI's investigations with various components of the United States Intelligence Community as well as with foreign law enforcement and intelligence agencies. ~~(S)~~ (U)

4. The FBI's investigations of foreign terrorist organizations have included criminal investigations as well as foreign counterintelligence investigations. In that regard, I have reviewed memoranda, reports and other documents generated by the FBI from various field offices around the United States and various foreign intelligence services around the world, which relate to the specific foreign terrorist organizations over which I have supervisory responsibility. I have also spoken with a number of FBI Special Agents who are directly assigned to the FBI's

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investigations of the specific foreign terrorist organizations over which I have supervisory responsibility. ~~(S)~~-(U)

5. I currently have supervisory responsibility over, and have developed an expertise with respect to, Hizballah, a foreign terrorist organization. The purpose of this declaration is to supplement information contained in the Department of State's draft Administrative Record with regard to Hizballah. ~~(S)~~-(U)

Aliases

6. Based upon reliable information developed by the FBI during its investigations of Hizballah overseas and in the United States, the FBI has learned that Hizballah has conducted a number of acts of terrorism under a number of aliases. These acts of terrorism have been committed under names to include the Islamic Jihad Organization and "The Oppressed of the Earth." ~~(S)~~-(U)

7. The basis for the FBI's conclusion that Hizballah has committed acts of terrorism under the aliases described above in paragraph 6 is information obtained from a number reliable sources who have provided information to the FBI in the past which has been corroborated by independent information. (See, e.g., paragraph 15 below.) This information has also been obtained by the FBI as a result of information obtained pursuant to electronic surveillance which was ordered and approved by a federal court pursuant to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act ("FISA"), codified at Title 50, United States Code, §§ 1801-1811. ~~(S)~~-(U)

Foreign Organization

8. Based upon my review of various memoranda, reports and

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investigatory files generated by the FBI, which includes a review of highly reliable information obtained by the FBI as a result of electronic surveillance which was ordered and approved by a federal court pursuant to the FISA, as well as information obtained from a number reliable sources who have provided information to the FBI in the past which has been corroborated by independent information, the evidence shows that Hizballah is an international terrorist group that was formed in Lebanon, and is responsible for a number of terrorist attacks throughout the world. Although Hizballah's operational headquarters are currently located in Lebanon, it has established a number of terrorist "cells" in other locations in the Middle East and throughout Europe, Africa, Asia and South America, and a significant number of the leaders of Hizballah reside outside the United States. ~~(S)~~ (U)

9. Although a number of Hizballah agents are currently residing in the United States, they receive directions for their terrorist activities in the United States from leaders of Hizballah who reside outside the United States. By the term "terrorist activities in the United States," I mean activities in preparation for international terrorism, as defined in Title 50, United States Codes, § 1801(c), such as providing material support through fundraising, as detailed below in paragraphs 11-14. ~~(S)~~ (U)

10. In my capacity as the Supervisory Special Agent supervising the FBI's investigations of Hizballah and its agents who are present in the United States, I have personal knowledge of six different Court orders which are presently in effect in 1996

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pursuant to the FISA. The federal court that has approved the electronic surveillance has specifically found that there is probable cause to believe that Hizballah is a foreign power as defined in Title 50, United States Codes, § 1801(a)(4)(i.e., "a group engaged in international terrorism or activities in preparation therefor"), and that the targets of the electronic surveillance are agents of the foreign power, as defined in Title 50, United States Code, § 1801(b)(1)(A). ~~(S)~~-(U)

Terrorist Activities

11. One of the reasons the federal court authorized and approved the electronic surveillance referenced above in paragraphs 9 and 10 in relation to one of agents of Hizballah who is residing in the United States, is because that person is the second highest ranking leader in the United States for Hizballah, he maintains contact with other senior Hizballah leaders throughout the North America, is in direct communications link between Hizballah leadership in Lebanon and Hizballah members in the United States and he collects funds for Hizballah headquarters in Lebanon, which funds appear to support international terrorist activities outside the United States. ~~(S)~~-(U)

12. My review of the information obtained by the FBI pursuant to the electronic surveillance referenced above reveals that, among other things, in April, 1996, the second highest ranking Hizballah member residing in the United States was concerned about the new anti-terrorism legislation which was signed by President Clinton in April, 1996, and he discussed with another Hizballah member, that

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he should obtain a copy of the bill and bring it to the next meeting so that they could discuss the parts that concerned them.

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13. My review of the information obtained by the FBI pursuant to the electronic surveillance referenced above reveals that, among other things, in January, 1995, the second highest ranking Hizballah member residing in the United States discussed the ramifications on his terrorist cell of President Clinton's 1995 order freezing the assets of certain terrorist-related groups in the United States. This high ranking Hizballah member was concerned that \$80,000 in their account collected for "The Martyr's Foundation" would be frozen and commented that if the funds were going to be affected by this order, then he would have to figure out a way to get rid of the money. ~~(S)~~ (U)

14. My review of the information obtained by the FBI pursuant to the electronic surveillance referenced above reveals that, among other things, throughout 1994, Hizballah members residing in the United States raised and collected hundreds of thousands of dollars which were sent to support Hizballah activities in Lebanon. ~~(S)~~ (U)

15. Based upon the FBI's own investigation of certain terrorist incidents, including reliable information provided by foreign intelligence sources, the FBI has concluded that Hizballah was responsible for the February 17, 1988 kidnapping and murder of United States Marine Lieutenant Colonel William Higgins. In 1988, a group calling itself "The Oppressed of the Earth" claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of Lt. Col. Higgins. Reliable

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informants who have provided information in the past to the FBI which has been corroborated by independent information have told the FBI that "The Oppressed of the Earth" was a group operating on behalf of Hizballah. In addition, on or about July 30, 1989, the leaders of Hizballah announced and released a videotape of the hanging of Lt. Col. Higgins and stated that the kidnapping and hanging was in retaliation for the capture of Hizballah leader

[redacted] by Israeli forces. ~~(S)~~ (U)

16. The FBI has conducted a criminal investigation of the June 14, 1985 hijacking of Trans World Airways (TWA) flight 847, which was hijacked enroute from Athens, Greece, to Rome, Italy. During this flight, all of the passengers and crew were held as hostages, and one of the passengers, United States Navy diver Robert Stethem, was murdered. The FBI conducted witness interviews with the hostages after they released and one of the passengers stated that one of the hijackers said that he and the other hijackers were from Hizballah. ~~(S)~~ (U)

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on this 8 day of January, 1997.

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

POEMS Automated Telegram Handler - Y42 . ~~SECRET~~ 01/28/97 01:51 pm Page: 1

(U) Item Subject: ~~(S)~~ HIZBALLAH; INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM - LEBANON. (U) WARNING: INFORM

01/28/97

PAGE 01 DIRECTOR FBI 232228 232228Z JAN 97

SUBJECT: ~~(S)~~ HIZBALLAH; INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM - LEBANON.
(U) WARNING: INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY

> EVALUATED
INTELLIGENCE. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS SENSITIVE AND
SINGULAR IN NATURE, AND SHOULD BE KEPT TO A NEED-TO-KNOW
> BASIS.

BAHRAIN AND KUWAITI AUTHORITIES BY ROAL AND TO SAUDI
> AUTHORITIES
BY FBI RIYADH:
BEGIN TEAR LINE: IN JANUARY 1997, A SOURCE OF
> UNDETERMINED
RELIABILITY REPORTED THAT HIZBALLAH IS SUPPLYING FUNDING
> TO SAUDI
OPPOSITION ELEMENTS IN KUWAIT FOR POSSIBLE SUPPORT OF
> TERRORIST
OPERATIONS. FURTHER, HIZBALLAH SPIRITUAL LEADER

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PRODUCED A VIDEO TAPE FOR DISTRIBUTION TO OPPOSITION PARTY
MEMBERS IN SAUDI ARABIA, BAHRAIN, AND KUWAIT. THIS TAPE
> IS SAID
TO CALL FOR HIZBALLAH SUPPORTED SUICIDE OPERATIONS
> INDEFENSE OF
THE TENANTS OF ISLAM IN THE GULF REGION.
WE AVE NO FURTHER INFORMATION AS TO WHEN OR WHAT
> SPECIFIC
TYPE OF OPERATIONS. ADDITIONALLY, WE HAVE NO FURTHER
> INFOR*ATION
CONCERNING WHERE OR AGAINST WHOM THESE OPERATIONS ARE TO BE
DIRECTED.

END TEAR LINE.

(S) A POINT OF CONTACT CONCERNING THIS MATTER IS
SUPERVISORY SPECIAL AGENT [REDACTED] TELEPHONE NUMBER [REDACTED]

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C-BTT 3350,IT05, NSD, DECL ON: X1

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240325Z JAN 97 STePS (TOTAL

> COPIES:000)

ACTION DS-00

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> NEA-01

OIC-02 SCT-00 DSCC-00 /005W

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FM DIRECTOR FBI

TO CIA WASHINGTON DC//CTC/IRH//

NSA FT GEO MEADE MD//NSOC FOR WAGC, WSGC, BSGC/H9B/B49//

DIA WASHINGTON DC//TWC-2//

DEPT OF STATE WASHINGTON DC//SCT/DS/INR//

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM WASHINGTON DC

INFO LEGAT ATHENS

INFO LEGAT ROME

(S) THE FOLLOWING TEAR LINE IS CLEARED FOR PASSAGE

> TO

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POEMS Automated Telegram Handler - Y42

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01/28/97 01:51 pm

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(U) Item Subject: ~~(S)~~ HIZBALLAH; INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM - LEBANON. (U) WARNING: INFORM

INFO FBI NEW YORK
INFO FBI WASHINGTON FIELD

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CITE: //0531: DPF080-97/01444/023/0051//

PASS: NEW YORK FOR I-48; WMFO FOR CT-2.; NSA FOR ZKEK PF
> ZSL DE.;

LEGAT ROME PLEASE PASS TO RIYADH.

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