

# **Exhibit 14**

## NewsRoom

8/29/98 Wash. Post (Wash., D.C.) A01  
1998 WLNR 8150206

Washington Post, The (Washington, D.C.)  
Copyright © 1998 The Washington Post

August 29, 1998

Section: A Section

### BIN LADEN WAS AT CAMP JUST BEFORE U.S. ATTACK

Bradley Graham

Osama bin Laden, the international terrorist accused of sponsoring attacks on U.S. embassies in Africa this month, was present at one of his mountain camps in Afghanistan on the day that it was struck by American cruise missiles, but he left before the weapons hit, according to administration officials.

The officials, who have access to intelligence reports, said bin Laden had met at the camp earlier on Aug. 20 with senior members of his network. Advance knowledge of plans for the meeting had been cited by U.S. authorities as one reason for the timing of the missile attack, although administration officials, who are prohibited by law from attempting assassinations, have stressed they were not trying to target the multimillionaire Saudi expatriate.

"We know in fact that a meeting took place on the day of the strike," said a senior defense official. He added that U.S. authorities had been unable to determine whether other participants may still have been in the camp when the missiles started falling.

While U.S. officials have portrayed the missile attack as having been drafted rapidly in the two weeks following the Aug. 7 terrorist strikes in Kenya and Tanzania, defense sources disclosed that military planners received orders in June to prepare for a possible assault on the same camp complex near the town of Khost.

The order came in the immediate wake of bin Laden's publicized threats in the spring against the United States, in addition to other indications detected by U.S. intelligence that bin Laden's network was actively planning some terrorist action. The U.S. attack plan was drawn up as a retaliatory measure, the officials said, adding that they had little clue at the time where the threatened terrorist strikes might occur.

The exact whereabouts of bin Laden during the U.S. raid and since have remained a mystery. Leaders of the Taliban militia, which controls most of Afghanistan and considers bin Laden an honored guest, have asserted that he survived the attack. But he has not appeared publicly.

Whatever disappointment they might feel at having missed the man they have depicted as running the world's most extensive, stateless terrorist organization, several senior administration officials interviewed a week after the attack continued to express satisfaction that the U.S. military operation had fulfilled its essential mission of disrupting bin Laden's terrorist network and possibly forestalling further attacks on U.S. targets.

Reconnaissance images since the attack have shown considerable damage at the Afghan sites, the officials said. Even so, one official familiar with the damage assessments said up to 20 percent of the missiles appeared to have had what he termed disappointing results.

Senior military officials also stood firmly by the decision to target a Sudanese pharmaceutical factory, despite statements this week from the Sudanese government, some international chemical weapons specialists and others with first-hand knowledge about the plant casting doubt on U.S. claims that the facility harbored a precursor agent used to produce deadly VX gas and was financed by bin Laden through Sudanese authorities.

"Of all the targets we looked at, I was convinced beyond a doubt that we selected the right ones, and I am to this day," Gen. H. Hugh Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in an interview.

Sources familiar with how the targets were selected said the Pentagon had prepared several strike plans, all of which included hitting at least the Afghan camps. Ultimately, officials said, the Sudanese plant also was targeted, both to reduce the possibility of VX gas falling into bin Laden's hands and to send a broader message of U.S. intolerance against the harboring of terrorists by foreign regimes.

Administration officials said they still lacked a firm count on the number of people killed by the volleys of more than 60 missiles launched against the six Afghan sites, which U.S. authorities say constituted a major terrorist training complex. The casualty count has been "all over the map," one defense official said, adding that most of the numbers are coming from non-U.S. sources such as Pakistani journalists who have toured the camps and reported 21 dead. In Sudan, local press accounts reported one dead and nine injured.

In an interview, Deputy Defense Secretary John Hamre acknowledged that the Pentagon had been working on "the bin Laden problem" for some time, particularly since the release in February of a fatwa, or religious edict, by bin Laden urging Muslims to kill Americans.

"Coming to grips with the meaning of a fatwa and the way in which that was going to mobilize this network of bad guys around the world was really in many ways kind of a starting point," Hamre said.

While U.S. officials have held open the prospect of more cruise missile strikes against terrorist targets in the future, some senior administration authorities said the attack this month is not necessarily a model for more to come. While it demonstrated a strengthened U.S. resolve to take military action against known or suspected terrorist assets, the conditions that facilitated it -- evidence linking bin Laden to the Africa bombings, intelligence information about the Khost meeting, a ready military strike plan, absence of U.S. diplomatic ties with Sudan and Afghanistan -- made the operation unusual.

"This wasn't necessarily a template because there is no cookie-cutter approach you can take in the area of terrorism," Shelton said. "You've got to look at the different individuals and organizations involved, and where they pose a threat, then tailor your approach to them." CAPTION: Osama bin Laden met with senior members of his network right before the attack, sources said. CAPTION: Defense's John Hamre has worked on the "bin Laden problem" for some time.

"Efforts have been made to intimidate public officials with threats of lawsuits and through scurrilous and unsubstantiated accusations of anti-Semitism," said Albert Bialek, chairman of the homeowners association opposing Rennert's house.

For much of the past decade, writer and Hamptons resident Steven S. Gaines has been gathering material on more than a century's worth of deliciously nasty fights among well-heeled locals over real estate. The fruit of his reporting was published this year in "Philistines at the Hedgerow: Passion and Property in the Hamptons," a bestseller.

Gaines believes that there are two elements at work in the Rennert brouhaha, which he ranks as perhaps the nastiest ever.

"He is desecrating some of the most beautiful undeveloped land in the Hamptons. It is like the final blow. I used to go out to the lane where he is building and park my car and just cry. The ocean shimmering out there over the potato fields has the same visceral impact for me as the Grand Canyon," said Gaines.

The second factor fueling the upset over Rennert's house, as Gaines sees it, is "palace envy."

"You've got to understand that real estate out here means more to people than anywhere else," Gaines said, citing the storms of envy that have been generated by mansions owned by the likes of Steven Spielberg, Alec Baldwin and Kim Basinger, Martha Stewart, Calvin Klein and billionaire Ronald O. Perelman.

"You've got a lot of competitive people out here. These people are real killers at what they do. The only way to buy status in this crowd is through the size of one's house. I'm positive that some of these guys are just jealous," said Gaines.

The only power that the Hamptonites may end up having over Rennert is that of the snub. As Edward Embry of East Hampton said during the hearing, if Rennert would voluntarily "tone down" the size of his house, "he would probably have more people to invite to dinner." CAPTION: The mansion "will destroy Sagaponack for me," author Kurt Vonnegut told zoning officials. CAPTION: Millionaire Ira Rennert is building 66,000-square-foot mansion on 63 acres of waterfront property on Long Island.e Russian stock market plunged almost 25 percent, and Alfa Capital eventually was forced to cancel the offer.

When Akrihin will get another crack at the kind of financing Western firms enjoy is hard to say. That depends on foreign investors. And for now, they have vanished. CAPTION: Alexander Tyulyaev, Akrihin's marketing director, says the factory has had to halt a lot of its work.

---- **Index References** ----

Company: PENTAGON LTD; PENTAGON CAPITAL MANAGEMENT PLC; PENTAGON WATER LTD; GRAND CANYON EDUCATION INC; PENTAGON PERSONNEL LTD; OTKRYTOE AKTSIONERNOE OBSHCHESTVO "KHIMIKO FARMATSEVTICHESKII KOMBINAT "AKRIKHIN"

News Subject: (International Terrorism (1IN37); Top World News (1WO62))

Industry: (Aerospace & Defense (1AE96); Defense (1DE43); Defense Intelligence (1DE90))

Region: (East Africa (1EA80); North America (1NO39); Western Asia (1WE54); USA (1US73); Americas (1AM92); Asia (1AS61); Sudan (1SU50); Afghanistan (1AF45); Africa (1AF90); Arab States (1AR46))

Language: EN

Other Indexing: (AFGHAN; AKRIHIN; CAPTION; CAPTION: DEFENSE; CAPTION: MILLIONAIRE; GRAND CANYON; HAMPTONITES; HAMPTONS; JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF; PENTAGON; SAUDI; VX) (Advance; Albert Bialek; Alec Baldwin; Alexander Tyulyaev; BIN LADEN; Gaines; H. Hugh Shelton; Hamre; John Hamre; Kim Basinger; Kurt Vonnegut; Laden; Martha Stewart; Muslims; Osama; Osama bin Laden; Reconnaissance; Rennert; Ronald O. Perelman; Semitism; Shelton; Steven S. Gaines; Steven Spielberg; Ultimately)

Product: DAILY

Edition: Final

Word Count: 1384

End of Document

© 2022 Thomson Reuters. No claim to original U.S. Government Works.

**NewsRoom**