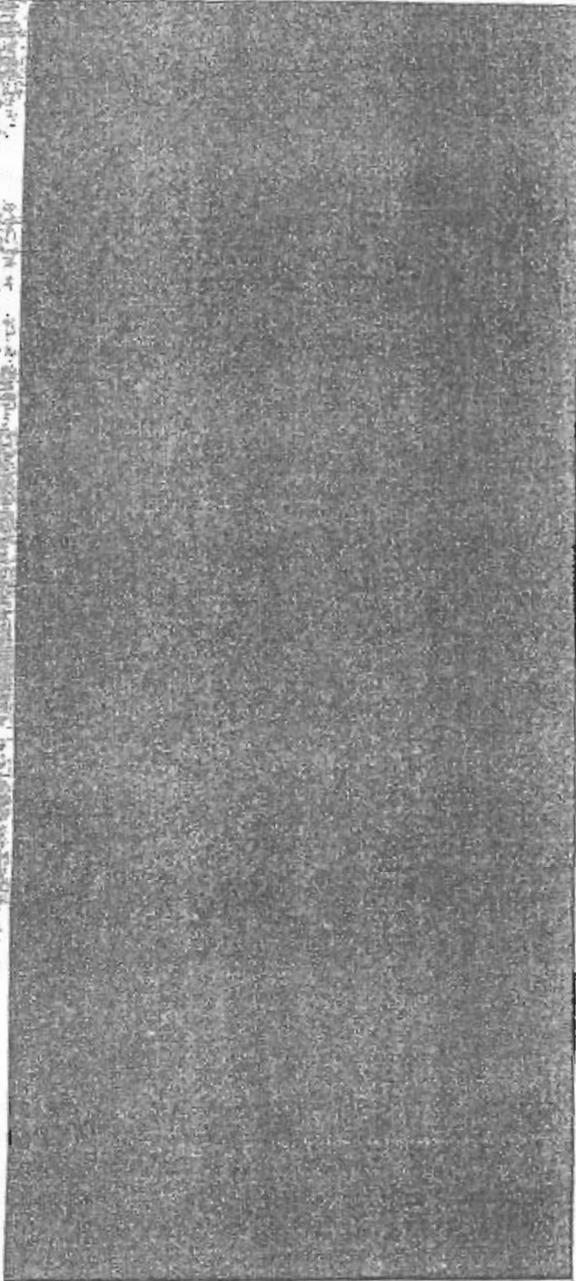
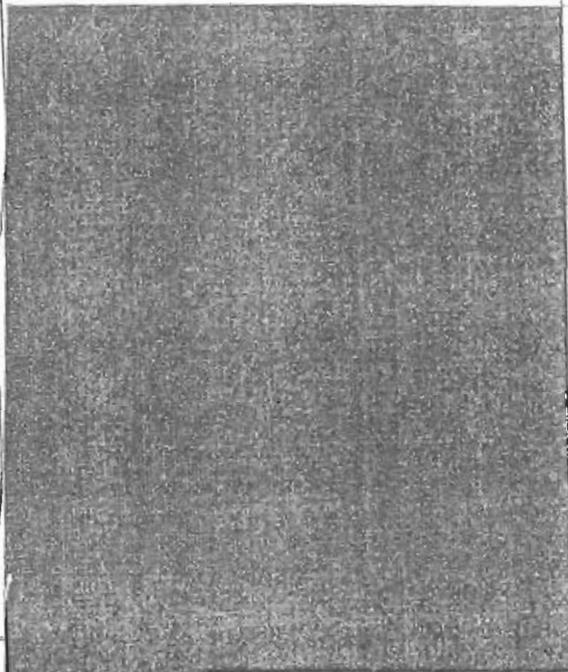


CTC Iraqi Support for Terrorism (CTC 2003-1000/HS)
January 29, 2003



- There have been fewer reports of al-Qa'ida receiving conventional terrorist training from Iraq after Bin Ladin relocated to Afghanistan in 1996, possibly because Bin Ladin's needs were less in this area.

Some of the most ominous suggestions of possible Iraqi-al-Qa'ida cooperation involve Bin Ladin's CBW ambitions. Although Iraq historically has guarded closely its strategic weapons information, experts, and resources, Baghdad could have offered training or other support to al-Qa'ida.

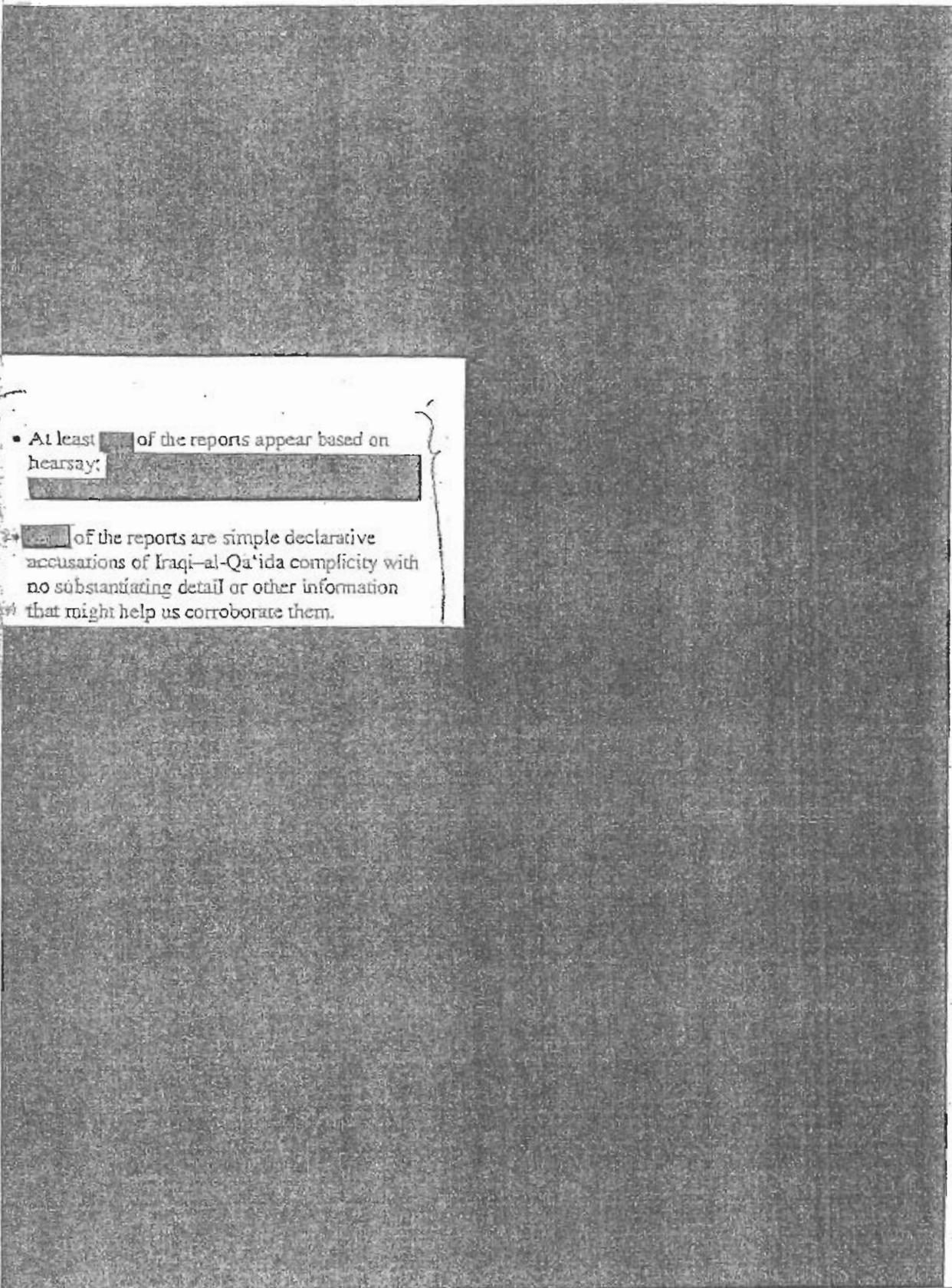


suggesting the involvement of Iraq or Iraqi nationals in al-Qa'ida's CBW efforts.

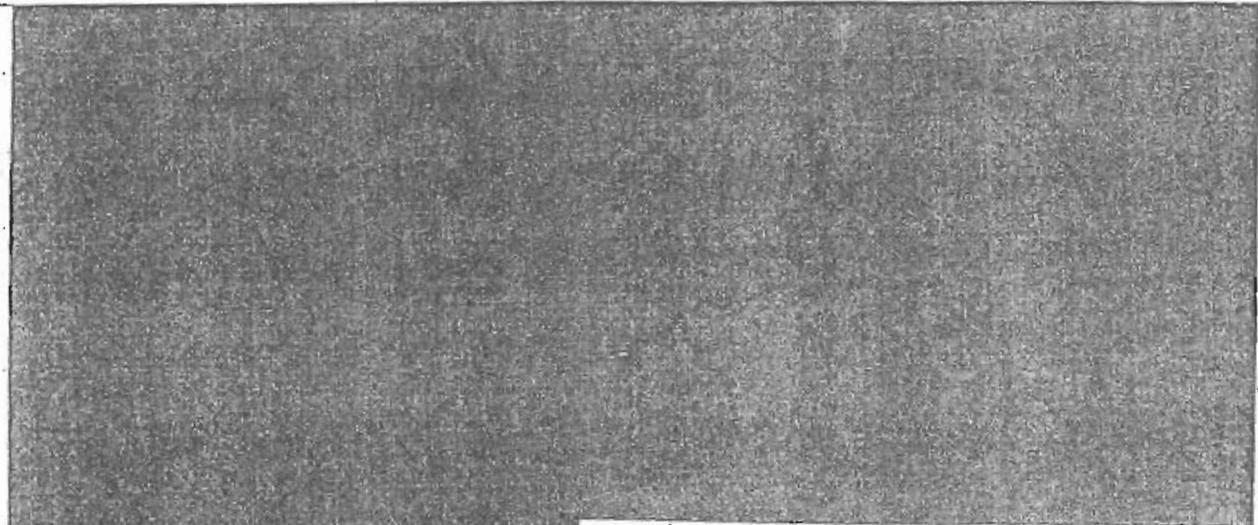
- Most of the reports do not make clear whether training initiatives offered by Iraqis or discussed by the two sides remained in the planning stages or were actually implemented.
- In about half of the reports, we cannot determine if the Iraqi nationals mentioned had any relationship with the Baghdad government or were expatriate or free-lance scientists or engineers.

Iraq-al-Qa'ida Training

After contacts, the reporting touches most frequently on the topic of Iraqi training of al-Qa'ida. Details on training range from good reports varying reliability, often the result of long and opaque reporting chains or discussions of future intentions rather than evidence of completed training. The general pattern that emerges is of al-Qa'ida's enduring interest in acquiring CBW expertise from Iraq.



- At least [REDACTED] of the reports appear based on hearsay: [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] of the reports are simple declarative accusations of Iraqi-al-Qa'ida complicity with no substantiating detail or other information that might help us corroborate them.



The Reported Muhammad Atta Connection
 The other lead stems from reporting about the
 travel of 11 September hijacker Muhammad Atta
 to Prague. Some information asserts that Atta
 met with Prague IIS chief Ahmad Khalil Ibrahim
 Samir al-Ami, but the most reliable reporting to
 date casts doubt on this possibility.

The other two alleged visits occurred on
 26 October 1999 and on 9 April 2001. The data
 surrounding these visits is complicated and
 sometimes contradictory. A CIA and FBI review
 of intelligence and open-source reporting leads us
 to question the information [redacted] claimed that Atta met
 al-Ami.