

governments around the world that Bin Ladin should be held accountable for the September 11 attacks.

III. NSA Communications Intercepts Related to Khalid al-Mihdhar, Nawaf and Salem al-Hazmi

[In the fall of 1998, NSA began to focus its analysis on a suspected terrorist facility in the Middle East. That facility had been associated with al-Qa'ida activities against U.S. interests. [—

—].

[In early 1999, NSA analyzed communications involving a suspected terrorist facility in the Middle East, some of which were associated with Nawaf al-Hazmi and Khaled [—], who NSA now believes to have been Khalid al-Mihdhar. [—

—]. These communications were the first indication NSA had of a link between al-Mihdhar and al-Hazmi. They were not disseminated in NSA SIGINT reporting because the persons were unknown and the subject matter did not meet NSA reporting thresholds. Those thresholds vary, depending on the judgment of the NSA analyst who is reviewing the intercept and the subject, location, and content of the intercept].

[In early 1999, another organization obtained the same or similar communications and published the information in a report it gave to NSA. NSA's practice was to review such reports and disseminate those responsive to U.S. intelligence requirements. For an undetermined reason, NSA did not disseminate the [—] report. It was not until early 2002 during the Joint Inquiry that NSA realized that it had the [—] report in its databases and subsequently disseminated it to CIA and other customers].

[No additional activity of counterterrorism interest was associated with the suspected terrorist facility in the Middle East until summer 1999 when NSA analyzed additional communications involving Khaled, that is, al-Mihdhar, [page 163] and [—
