

Inquiry interviews in Germany showed that the Germans did not see Islamist groups as a significant threat to their interests before September 11. Deputy National Security Advisor Steve Hadley also noted that European support varied according to the perceived threat.

[The former Chief of CTC's Bin Ladin unit testified that some European services had minimal interest in the Bin Ladin target and offered little assistance. [_____

_____]".] Bin Ladin also was not a priority target for the [_____
_____] until after September 11, according to Joint Inquiry interviews abroad].

Several services are apparently excessively bureaucratic. Interviews in Germany revealed that the intelligence apparatus was deliberately fragmented to make abuses of power more difficult. This fragmentation also made coordination and information sharing more difficult. Furthermore, before September 11, it was not illegal to be a member of foreign terrorist organizations in Germany or to raise funds for them. The Assistant Director for the FBI's [page 290] Counterterrorism Division noted that "the Germans were so restrictive prior to 9/11 with their Constitution about what they can and cannot do, that they could do very little."

[Finally, [_____] liaison partners have their own equities to consider, and this must be taken into account when working with them and in evaluating information received from them. Some services will try to take advantage of joint operations to seek more information [_____

_____]].

D. Liaison Service Problems with the United States

An array of factors can often hinder the degree of liaison services cooperation. Many of these are outside the control of the Intelligence Community.