

operational base and significantly dilute the power of the DCI, at a time when it is not clear that the requisite budgetary authority will, in fact, be conferred upon the office of DCI.

OPEN-SOURCE INFORMATION

In another important area, the Intelligence Community needs to pay more attention to the collection and analysis of open-source information. This type of information needs to be examined and needs to be taken more seriously. We must remember that open-source information was used to warn investigators in 1999 that al-Qaeda terrorists might fly a hijacked airliner into American buildings. Library of Congress analyst, Rex Hudson, wrote a report for the National Security Council -- based entirely on unclassified material -- which noted the possibility of almost exactly the kind of attack that occurred on September 11th. Hudson concluded: "Suicide bombers belonging to al-Qaeda's Martyrdom Battalion could crash an aircraft packed with high explosives into the Pentagon, the headquarters of the CIA, or the White House."

The Intelligence Community is simply not accustomed to assessing the value of open sources nor is it used to integrating them into their work. In fact, the Intelligence Community is more inclined to use open-source material as a last resort, not as a primary source, no matter how compelling the information. This attitude needs to change, and the Community must re-evaluate how it prioritizes open-source material that ultimately can be of extraordinary value, either by itself or as a mechanism to refine or evaluate other intelligence.

REPORTS

I am also concerned that the Intelligence Community is not being informed about a number of important intelligence issues because of delays in the issuance of requested reports. Part of the problem is that the Senate and House Intelligence Committees are asking for too many unnecessary reports. Compounding that, the Intelligence Community has been slow in the production of the reports, themselves, though in the recent past, the Community has started producing many of these required reports in a more timely fashion. Still a lag remains. To help