

5.j. [In the period from September 8 to September 10, 2001 NSA intercepted, but did not translate or disseminate until after September 11, some communications that indicated possible impending terrorist activity].

Discussion: [In early September 2001, NSA intercepted [_____]
communications involving [_____].
The communications discussed events that were to occur in the near term and appeared to be
related to terrorism. In the first communication, [_____] [_____] asked whether [_____]. [—] responded that [_____] [_____].

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[Another communication, between [] and an unknown person [], was a discussion of whether [].

[]

[]

[]. NSA did not disseminate reports regarding the communications until September 12 and 13, 2001].

Two additional communications that indicated imminent terrorist activity were intercepted by NSA on September 10, 2001. The communications contained conversations between unknown individuals located abroad. NSA Director Hayden described the content of those communications in his testimony before the Joint Inquiry:

In the hours just prior to the attacks, NSA did obtain two pieces of information suggesting that individuals with terrorist connections believed something significant would happen on September 11.

These communications were, however, not translated into English and disseminated by NSA until September 12, 2001.

It remains uncertain whether any of the September [] conversations referred directly to the attacks of September 11. Like the intelligence reporting described earlier, these intercepts did not provide any indication of where or what terrorist activities might occur.