



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530


April 2, 2002

MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert S. Mueller, III
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

James W. Ziglar
Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization Service

Michael Chertoff
Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division

FROM: Larry D. Thompson 
Deputy Attorney General

SUBJECT: Prevention and Disruption of Further Terrorist Attacks

As you know, the most urgent mission of the Department of Justice today is to disrupt and prevent further terrorist attacks on America before they occur. Our pursuit of this mission must be intense, focused, and unrelenting.

While the Department has made progress in this area since September 11, we must identify ways to better institutionalize the disruption and prevention effort. In addition, we must develop an integrated operational plan that maximizes the deployment of Department resources in a coordinated way.

The National Security Coordination Council (NSCC) will serve as a forum for facilitating the achievement of these objectives. As a preliminary step, I am establishing a working group comprised of representatives from your components and the Office of the Deputy Attorney General (ODAG) to concentrate on improvements to our prevention and disruption effort. The initial task of the working group will be to identify the lessons learned thus far from our prevention and disruption effort, and to develop recommendations on how to build upon those lessons. The group will prepare a paper for consideration by the NSCC that will identify options for actions the Department may take to pursue the objectives of prevention and disruption more aggressively, and to address the pros and cons of those options.

Please contact ODAG Chief of Staff David H. Laufman by Friday, April 5, with the name of your component's representative to the working group.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter and for your continued leadership.