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Synopsis

The Djibouti station of the Iraqi Intelligence Service reports on threats by Al-Qaeda to blow up foreign companies in Djibouti, and on the activities of Islamist groups in Djibouti and Somaliland.

Key Themes

23 August 2001 – This is the report indicating that Al-Qaeda has made threats against foreign companies (some of which contain Jewish members) for cooperating with the US.

25 August 2001 -- Al-Qaeda has delivered messages in Arabic and French, signed by Osama bin Laden, that threaten to blow up certain foreign companies in Djibouti at the end of August unless they cease cooperating with the US. In response, the French military has increased its security around its military hospital, and air and naval bases, and the US embassy has built fortifications. The Djibouti government is concerned about the blow to investment that such threats could entail.

1 September 2001 – The previous report is reiterated in a slightly different form.

6 September 2001 -- The Iraqi Intelligence Service (IIS) orders the Djibouti station to follow up on certain reports.

25 October 2001 – The Djibouti station responds. The Al-Tabligh and Al-Da'wah groups are active in Djibouti – twelve members were arrested, but were released for lack of evidence. According to the Libyan Charge d'Affaires, most of the members of the groups' cell, which is headquartered at 'Uthman bin 'Affan mosque in Djibouti and led by Ahmad Tahir 'Umar, are Arabs. The Libyan government is monitoring the group due to the presence of Libyans. There is a camp in Ber'u in Somaliland where Arabs of various nationalities (but no Iraqis) receive 'professional' training in weapons and forgery. The camp is run by the Al-Qaeda-related Al-Jihad Organization, headed by Ibrahim Hasan Sultan.