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Author: Saif Al-'Adl

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## Synopsis

Saif al-'Adl suggests, after a thorough investigation, that al-Qa'ida buy a launch in Somalia. He also evaluates the Al-Hadidiyah forest as a base for the organization, and gives a positive report on the local leadership, in the form of Sheikh Hasan and his Deputy 'Abd Al-'Aziz, and their recent tour to gather support from local tribes.

## Key Themes

### *About buying a launch*

Saif Al-'Adl begins by discussing in detail the possibility of buying a launch, and recommends buying it. The first issue is whether the venture will actually succeed. Major concerns include:

1. The height of the waves as the launch approaches shore, which should be overcome by buying a fiberglass boat.
2. Coast guard patrols, which should not be a problem once the launch passes Lamu island, and heads toward Kionja.
3. Finding expert sailors who are not also morally reprehensible. Al-'Adl suggests Yemeni Muhammed 'Aboh as trustworthy.
4. Finding an expert captain to bring the ship back [it is unclear whether this is the launch or the ship that meets the launch]. Again, Al-'Adl's contact is an expert, but not trustworthy.

The second issue is the ability of the launch to transport equipment from the ship to shore. Al-'Adl describes the technical specifications of the launch, and pronounces it large enough to be useful. He is in the process of attempting to bargain the owner down to 800,000 shillings, but leaves the decision to the recipient of the letter depending on the price.

The third issue is the possibility of using the launch as a profitable venture. Al-'Adl calculates in detail the potential costs and benefits of transporting and selling fish, and concludes they can make a profit on their investment. Strategically, a successful fishing company can also establish a controlling presence on the coast.

### *About Al-Hadidiyah forest*

Saif Al-'Adl reports on the advantages of using Al-Hadidiyah forest as a location for refuge and training. The extreme density of the trees, an insect that drives animals insane, and the impassibility of routes into the forest during the rainy season all mean that it is difficult for people to live there. A ravine with water and fish, protection from air attack, and varied terrain useful for most kinds of training are positive reasons to use the area. Al-'Adl describes the area's location relative to other important points, as well as a visit to a training camp on a beach of Wadi al-Jihad.

### *About the existing local leadership*

Saif Al-'Adl positively rates the leadership capability of the local jihad leaders, Sheikh Hasan, who excels in da'wa and political matters, and his deputy 'Abd Al-'Aziz, who excels in military matters. Al-'Adl compliments the leaders' loyalty and dedication, and notes that they desperately need help with military

organization and administration. The local leaders understand the al-Qa'ida is currently short of funds, and has not asked for any.

*About a leadership tour*

Sheikh Hasan met in Kelpeo with the sheikhs of Kelpeo and Patato, in order to announce the new movement and introduce the Brother. Most of the sheikhs agreed to cooperate in jihad.