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The House report is a public document, but was not printed in the Congressional Record or distributed to reporters, a committee staff member said. It said the committee review uncovered no evidence that government agencies "encouraged or participated in any terrorist activity in Lebanon."

It also said the committee discovered no evidence that U.S. intelligence had foreknowledge of the bombing.

The Post article was headlined: "Antiterrorist Plan Rescinded After Unauthorized Bombing." It did not say the CIA knew about or encouraged the bombing.

In the U.S. News interview, Casey also said he did not believe planning an operation that was likely to kill people amounted to assassination, which is illegal under U.S. law.

"If the Lebanese discharge their duty to protect the lives and property of their citizens as well as other nationals, and if in the course of doing that someone gets killed, are we assassinating that guy? No. We're helping the Lebanese perform a security function.

"If someone gets killed or hurt, well, it's a rough game. If you don't resist and take protective action against terrorists because you worry that there's going to be somebody who might say, 'Ah, that's assassination,' then terrorists can own the world, because nobody's going to do anything against them."