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# Senior Executive Intelligence Brief

The SEIB must be returned to CIA within 5 working days



**Tuesday, 10 September 2002**

National Security Information

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*Regional Notes*

**TERRORISM**

**Terrorism:**

**Al-Qa'ida Determined To Strike Soon** [redacted]

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*Al-Qa'ida is in execution mode for new large-scale attacks on the US homeland and US interests overseas. The release yesterday of a tape aired on al-Jazirah, purportedly of Bin Ladin praising the 11 September hijackers, may be an operational signal.* [redacted]

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[redacted]

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[redacted] *a variety of reports since January suggest a plan of this magnitude is indeed under way.* The US Embassy in Malaysia was cased as recently as this past weekend, [redacted]

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[redacted]

— Key Islamic extremist operational leaders—Riduan bin Isomuddin, a.k.a. Hambali, and Abu Bakar Bashir, both members of the al-Qa'ida-affiliated Jemaah Islamiya (JI)—remain at large, probably in Indonesia. [redacted]

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[redacted]

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***The imminent al-Qa'ida threat extends beyond Southeast Asia.***

Numerous reports in recent weeks suggest al-Qa'ida and other extremist groups are close to launching several plots around the world. Moreover, surveillance has been detected [redacted] since January. The wide range of countries where surveillance has been detected and the variety of potential targets identified suggest al-Qa'ida cells or other sympathetic extremist groups are seeking new, softer targets.

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[redacted]

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***Although forced to adopt a lower profile, al-Qa'ida still has the same reach it did before 11 September.*** [redacted]

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[redacted] a core of senior al-Qa'ida leaders is guiding preparations for global operations despite having pared down the group's logistic and communications network and has dispersed experienced operatives to facilitate future attacks. Al-Qa'ida officials are operating with relative impunity in several countries [redacted] where they rely on protection from powerful political interests or face only sporadic harassment.

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[Redacted]

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— Yemen remains a platform for operational planning throughout the Peninsula region and possibly globally.

[Redacted]

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— Iraq has emerged as an operational base for al-Qa'ida associates

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