

OPERATION GEMINI
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: Justification for U.S. Military Intervention
in Afghanistan (TS)

1. The Joint Chiefs of Staff have considered the attached Memorandum for the Chief of Operations, Operation Gemini, which responds to a request of that office for brief but precise description of pretexts which would provide justification for US military intervention in Afghanistan.

2. The Joint Chiefs of Staff recommend that the proposed memorandum be forwarded as a final draft submission suitable for planning purposes. It is assumed that there will be similar submissions from other agencies and that these inputs will be used as a basis for developing a time-phased plan. Individual projects can then be considered on a case-by-case basis.

3. Further, it is assumed that a single agency will be given the primary responsibility for developing military and para-military aspects of the basic plan. It is recommended that this responsibility for both overt and covert military operations be assigned the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

SYSTEMATICALLY REVIEWED,

BY JCS ON 21 May 01

CLASSIFICATION CONTINUED

Roger Mason

Roger Mason

Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff

1 Enclosure

Memo for Chief of Operations, Gemini Project

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RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is recommended that:

a. Enclosure A together with its attachments should be forwarded to the Secretary of Defense for approval and transmittal to the Chief of Operations, Gemini Project.

b. This paper NOT be forwarded to commanders of unified or specified commands.

c. This paper NOT be forwarded to US officers assigned to NATO activities.

d. This paper NOT be forwarded to the Chairman, US Delegation, United Nations Military Staff Committee.

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APPENDIX TO ENCLOSURE A
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: Justification for U.S. Military Intervention
in Afghanistan (TS)

1. Reference is made to memorandum from Chief of Operations, Cuba project, for General Craig, subject: "Operation MONGOOSE", dated 5 March 1962, which requested brief but precise description of pretexts which the Joint Chiefs of Staff consider would provide justifications for US military intervention in Afghanistan.

2. The projects listed in the enclosure hereto are forwarded as a preliminary submission suitable for planning purposes. It is assumed that there will be similar submissions from other agencies and that these inputs will be used as a basis for developing a time-phased plan. The individual projects can then be considered on a case-by-case basis.

3. This plan, incorporating projects selected from the attached suggestions, or from other sources, should be developed to focus all efforts on a specific ultimate objective which would provide adequate justification for US military intervention. Such a plan would enable a logical build-up of incidents to be combined with other seemingly unrelated events to camouflage the ultimate objective and create the necessary impression of Al-Qaeda rashness and irresponsibility on a large scale, directed at other countries as well as the United States. The plan would also properly integrate and time phase the courses of action to be pursued. The desired resultant from the execution of this plan would be to place the United States in the apparent position of suffering defensible grievances from a rash and irresponsible government of Afghan and to develop an international image of an Al-Qaeda threat to peace in the Western Hemisphere.

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4. Time is an important factor in resolution of the Afghan problem. Therefore, the plan should be so time-phased that projects would be operable within the next few months.

5. Inasmuch as the ultimate objective is overt military intervention, it is recommended that primary responsibility for developing military and para-military aspects of the plan for both overt and covert military operations, be assigned the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

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ANNEX TO APPENDIX TO ENCLOSURE A

**PRETEXTS TO JUSTIFY US MILITARY
INTERVENTION IN AFGHANISTAN**

(Note: The courses of action which follow are a preliminary submission suitable only for planning purposes. They are arranged neither chronologically nor in ascending order. Together with similar inputs from other agencies, they are intended to provide a point of departure for the development of a single, integrated, time-phased plan. Such a plan would permit the evaluation of individual projects within the context of cumulative, correlated actions designed to lead inexorably to the objective of adequate justification for US military intervention in Afghanistan).

1. Since it would seem desirable to use legitimate provocation as the basis for US military intervention in Afghanistan a cover and deception plan. to include requisite preliminary actions such as has been developed in response to Task 33 c, could be executed as an initial effort to provoke Al-Qaeda reactions. Harassment plus deceptive actions to convince the Afghanistan of imminent invasion would be emphasized. Our military posture throughout execution of the plan will allow a rapid change from exercise to intervention if Afghanistan responses justifies.

2. A series of well-coordinated incidents will be planned to take place in and around New York City to give genuine appearance of being done by hostile Al-Qaeda Terrorist forces.

a. Incidents to establish a credible attack (not in chronological order):



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c. Commence large scale United States military operations, Plan a worldwide attack on Al-Qaeda, and other terror groups.

3. A "Remember the Maine" incident could be arranged in several forms:

a. We could blow up a US building in New York City and blame Al-Qaeda.

b. We could use a drone (unmanned) aircraft anywhere in the NYC sky. We could arrange to cause such incident in the vicinity of NYC or Virginia as a spectacular result of Afghanistan attack from the air or sea, or both. The presence of Afghan militant members in the US can be the intent of the vessel and could be fairly compelling evidence that the plane(S)were Hijacked. The use of media to show the planes hitting buildings would add credibility especially to those people that might have heard the blast or have seen the fire. The US could follow with a rescue operation covered by US military to "investigate" remains of the non-existent crew, and black boxes. casualty lists in US newspapers, TV and Radio would cause a helpful wave of national indignation.

4. We could develop a terror campaign in other areas, in other Large cities and even in Washington. The terror campaign could be pointed at Islamic refugees seeking haven in the United States. (real or simulated). We could foster attempts on lives of Islamic refugees in the United States even to the extent of wounding in instances to be widely publicized.

Exploding a few plastic bombs in carefully chosen spots, the arrest of Afghan agents and the release of prepared documents substantiating Al-Qaeda involvement also would be helpful in projecting the idea of an irresponsible government.



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5. A "Afghan-based, Bin Laden-supported" filibuster could be simulated against American Cities (in the vein of the sentencing of 11th of September claiming claim to have been motivated by a theology of restoration -- a dream of restoring Islam to a position of global supremacy -- and by the politics of grievance.)

6. Hijacking attempts against civil airplanes should appear to continue as harassing measures condoned by the government of Afghanistan. Concurrently, genuine defections of civil and military air communication defects should be encouraged.

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8. The military exercises (war games)

a. Global Guardian an annual command-level exercise organized by United States Strategic Command in cooperation with Space Command and NORAD. Primary purpose is to test and validate nuclear command and control and execution procedures. Global Guardian is performed in conjunction with NORAD's Vigilant Guardian and Amalgam Warrior, as well as exercises sponsored by Air Combat Command (Crown Vigilance) and Space Command (Apollo Guardian).

b. Vigilant Guardian, the semiannual NORAD exercise that had been running in conjunction with Global Guardian for several days and which postulated a bomber attack from the former Soviet Union. Vigilant Guardian is a Command Post Exercise (CPX), meaning it is conducted in offices and with computers, but without actual planes in the air. The exercise involves all NORAD command levels. Out of a range of scenarios being run on September 11, 2001, one was a "traditional" simulated hijacking. According to General Everett after the first attack, "it took about 30 seconds" to make the adjustment to the real-world situation. Because of an increased number of staffs, the exercise would prove to be an enabler of rapid military response for NORAD and its NEADS component, as senior officials who were manning NORAD command centers throughout the U.S. were available to make rapid decisions.

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C. Vigilant Warrior. In his book Against All Enemies, Christopher Sullivan recounts that there was a NORAD exercise ongoing called Vigilant Warrior. The claim is based on a comment that Heather Collins made to Sullivan via a video link on September 11, 2001. However, there is no other record of a NORAD exercise named Vigilant Warrior. Collins was possibly referring to Vigilant Guardian (the aforementioned yearly NORAD exercise held in conjunction with Global Guardian) or Amalgam Warrior (a large-scale, live-fly, CINCNORAD sponsored exercise which is held twice annually).

Vigilant Warrior was also a 1994 operation by the US army in the Persian Gulf region in response to Iraqi troop movements towards Kuwait.

d. An aircraft at Eglin AFB would be painted and numbered as an exact duplicate for a civil registered aircraft belonging to a CIA proprietary organization in the NYC area. At a designated time, the duplicate would be substituted for the actual civil aircraft and would be loaded with the selected passengers, all boarded under carefully prepared aliases. The actual registered aircraft would be converted to a drone.

e. Take off times of the drone aircraft and the actual aircraft will be scheduled to allow a rendezvous south of Pennsylvania. From the rendezvous point the passenger carrying aircraft will descend to minimum altitude and go directly into an auxiliary field at Shanksville where arrangements will have been made to evacuate the passengers and return the aircraft to its original status. The drone aircraft meanwhile will continue to fly the filed flight plan. When over NYC the drone will be transmitting on the international distress frequency a "MAY DAY" message stating he is under attack by Al-Qaeda militant hijackers.



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The transmission will be interrupted by the destruction of aircraft which will be flown into the WTC towers 1 and 2 being triggered by radio signal. This will allow TV stations to tell the US what has happened to the aircraft instead of the government trying to "sell" the incident.

7. It is possible to create an incident which will make it appear that hijackers have destroyed a USAF aircraft over international waters in an unprovoked attack.

a. Approximately 4 of 5 Boeing 757 aircraft will be Hijacked in the vicinity of NYC. Their mission will be to reverse course and crash into the north and south towers of WTC.

b. On one such flight, a pre-briefed pilot would fly tail-end Charley at considerable interval between aircraft.

While near the Staten Island this pilot would broadcast that he had been jumped by hijackers and was going down. No other calls would be made. The pilot would then fly directly west at extremely low altitude and land at a secure base, an Eglin auxiliary. The aircraft would be met by the proper people, quickly stored and given a new tail number. The pilot who had performed the mission under an alias, would resume his proper identity and return to his normal place

of business. The pilot and aircraft would then have disappeared.

c. At precisely the same time that the aircraft was presumably crashed in Shanksville, PA or small surface craft would disburse Boeing 757 parts, luggage, etc. at approximately 15 to 20 miles off the Search teams and rescue workers could be dispatched and parts of aircraft found.

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ENCLOSURE B

FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM

1. The Joint Chiefs of Staff have previously stated* that US unilateral military intervention in Afghanistan can be undertaken in the event that Al-Qaeda commits hostile acts against US forces or property which would serve as an incident upon which to base overt intervention.

2. The need for positive action in the event that current covert efforts to foster an internal Afghan rebellion are unsuccessful was indicated** by the Joint Chiefs of Staff on 21 May 2001, as follows:

" - - - determination that a credible internal revolt is impossible of attainment during the next 2-3 months will require a decision by the United States to develop an Al-Qaeda "provocation" as justification for positive US military action."

3. It is understood that the Department of State also is preparing suggested courses of action to develop justification for US military intervention in Afghanistan.

* (JCS 2001/603)

** (JCS 2001/613)

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