Extent

39 folders, approximately 3,569 pages

Summary

This collection consists of records related to Usama bin Ladin and Executive Order 12333. It contains National Security Council cables and emails regarding the August 1998 airstrikes against al Qaeda targets in Afghanistan and Sudan, Usama bin Ladin, terrorism, and the prohibition on assassination contained in Executive Order 12333.

Scope and Content Note

The materials in FOIA 2006-1985-F are a selective body of documents responsive to the topic of the FOIA. Researchers should consult the archivist about related materials. After the August 7, 1998 terrorist attacks on the American Embassies in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, the focus of American anti-terrorism energy shifted to wealthy al Qaeda founder Usama bin Ladin, who had issued a fatwa declaring war on the United States. On August 20, President Clinton ordered Operation Infinite Reach, a series of airstrikes against al Qaeda targets in Afghanistan and Sudan, telling the American people, “Our target was terror; our mission was clear: to strike at the network of radical groups affiliated with and funded by Usama bin Ladin, perhaps the preeminent organizer and financer of terrorism in the world today.” That same day, the President prohibited any transactions with Usama bin Ladin’s companies in Executive Order 13099. The FBI placed bin Ladin on their Most Wanted List and offered a reward of $5 million for information regarding his whereabouts. In November 1998, the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York indicted bin Ladin for his terrorist activities. Throughout the remainder of the Clinton Administration, the United States continued to search for the terrorist, who enjoyed the protection of the Taliban in Afghanistan. Neither diplomacy nor sanctions could persuade the Taliban to allow bin Ladin’s capture. The search for bin Ladin continued through the administration of

President George W. Bush and the overthrow of the Taliban in Afghanistan. In May 2011, under the order of President Barack Obama, a team of U.S. Navy SEALS killed bin Ladin at a compound in Abbattobad, Pakistan. The 1998 embassy bombings were the event that made the name Usama bin Ladin familiar to the American public. In the aftermath of the attacks, encouraged perhaps by numerous speculative stories in the international press, many questioned whether the Clinton Administration should repeal or reconsider the prohibition on assassination contained in Executive Order 12333 (signed December 4, 1981). The administration responded that the prohibition would remain, but did defend the use of force against terrorist infrastructure. Textual records responsive to this FOIA request may be found in FOIA 2006-0228-F. Further records on the August 1998 air strikes are located in FOIA 2007-1596-F. Records processed in response to this request are located in the NSC Cables and Emails. The released documents consist primarily of press materials regarding Operation Infinite Reach, Usama bin Ladin, terrorism, and the assassination prohibition. The emails also include transcripts of the President's statements on August 20, 1998 and his weekly radio address on August 22, 1998. Many of the records related to this FOIA are closed for national security reasons.

Record Type

Textual

System of Arrangement

Records that are responsive to this FOIA request were found in this collection area – Clinton Presidential Records: NSC Cable, Email, and Records Management Systems.

Access

Collection is open to all researchers. Access to Clinton Presidential Records is governed by the Presidential Records Act (PRA) (44 U.S.C. Chapter 22, as amended) and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. 552, as amended) and therefore records may be restricted in whole or in part in accordance with legal exemptions.

Copyright

Documents in this collection that were prepared by officials of the United States government as part of their official duties are in the public domain. Researchers are advised to consult the copyright law of the United States (17 U.S.C. Chapter 1) which governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material.

Provenance

Official records of William Jefferson Clinton’s presidency are housed at the Clinton Presidential Library and administered by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) under the provisions of the Presidential Records Act (PRA).

Processed by

Staff Archivist, 2013. Previously restricted materials are added as they are released.

Last Modified Date

2015-06-08

Container List

The following is a list of documents and folders processed in response to FOIA 2006-1985-F:
Box 1
Clinton Presidential Records: NSC Cable, Email, and Records Management System
NSC Cables
Jan 1997 – Dec 1998
[Bin Lad* and 12333…]
[08/19/1998 – 11/29/1998] [OA/ID 520000]
[12/01/1998 – 12/28/1998] [OA/ID 520000]

Jan 1999 – Dec 2000
[Bin Lad* and 12333…]
[01/05/1999 – 01/28/1999] [OA/ID 530000]
[02/02/1999 – 02/27/1999] [OA/ID 530000]
[03/02/1999 – 03/31/1999] [OA/ID 530000]
[04/02/1999 – 04/29/1999] [OA/ID 530000]
[07/15/1999 – 07/29/1999] [OA/ID 530000]
[08/02/1999 – 09/13/1999] [OA/ID 530000]
Box 2
[10/05/1999 – 10/18/1999] [OA/ID 530000]
[11/01/1999 – 12/22/1999] [OA/ID 530000]
[01/03/2000 – 03/27/2000] [OA/ID 530000]
[04/06/2000 – 06/26/2000] [OA/ID 530000]
[07/05/2000 – 11/29/2000] [OA/ID 530000]
Clinton Presidential Records: NSC Cable, Email, and Records Management System (continued)
NSC Cables
Jan 1999 – Dec 2000
[Bin Lad* and 12333…]
[12/07/2000 – 12/20/2000] [OA/ID 530000]
Jan 2001
[Bin Lad* and 12333…]
[01/08/2001] [OA/ID 540000]
NSC Emails
Exchange – Record (Sept 97 – Jan 01)
[Bin Lad* and 12333…]
[08/12/1998 – 08/20/1998] [OA/ID 620000]
[08/21/1998 – 08/31/1998] [OA/ID 620000]
Box 3
[09/01/1998 – 09/17/1998] [OA/ID 620000]
[10/07/1998 – 10/29/1998] [OA/ID 620000]
[11/10/1998 – 12/26/1998] [OA/ID 620000]
[01/16/1999 – 01/19/1999] [OA/ID 620000]
[01/19/1999] [OA/ID 620000]
[01/19/1999 – 01/21/1999] [OA/ID 620000]
[02/08/1999 – 05/24/1999] [OA/ID 620000]
Box 4

[09/02/1999 – 09/16/1999] [OA/ID 620000]
[11/03/1999 – 11/11/1999] [OA/ID 620000]
[01/03/2000 – 03/21/2000] [OA/ID 620000]
[04/17/2000 – 06/16/2000] [OA/ID 620000]
[08/15/2000 – 09/18/2000] [OA/ID 620000]
[12/14/2000 – 12/27/2000] [OA/ID 620000]
[12/28/2000 – 01/02/2001] [OA/ID 620000]
Exchange – Non-Record (Mar 97 – Jan 01)
[Bin Lad* and 12333…]
[08/20/1998 – 08/24/1998] [OA/ID 630000]
Box 5
[09/01/1998 – 12/26/1998] [OA/ID 630000]
[01/14/1999 – 01/19/1999] [OA/ID 630000]
[01/19/1999] [OA/ID 630000]
[01/20/1999] [OA/ID 630000]
[01/25/1999] [OA/ID 630000]
[02/08/1999 – 05/24/1999] [OA/ID 630000]
[09/10/1999 – 12/29/2000] [OA/ID 630000]