

Meeting with Kenneth Sackett, Consul General and Kathy Redman, DHS Rep

Date: October 15, 2003

Location: US Embassy, Riyadh

Commission participants: Daniel Byman, and Kevin Scheid

Other participants: Dylan Cors (NSC Representative) John-Alex Romano (State Department Representative)

Write-up by: Kevin Scheid

Reviewed by: Dan Byman

Notes: This memorandum is a summary of the key points of the meeting

Kevin Scheid began the interview by providing the two interviewees some background information about the Commission and the reasons why the Commission was interested in meeting with them. We interviewed these individuals together due to the fact that they have to work closely together and that the DHS representative has been on the job for two weeks.

Kenneth Sackett has served in Riyadh since October 2001. He coordinates consular affairs in Riyadh and Jeddah. He has served in several posts in Latin America, but this is his first assignment in the Middle East. Kathy Redman was formerly with the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), but is now with the Department of Homeland Security. She has served for two weeks in the current assignment, but has served in New Delhi for three years.

Consular Training: These is a standard training course offered by State in Rosslyn Virginia that all the officers are required to take. In addition to this, there is training on

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Sackett indicated that the office was able to provide considerable additional information on the hijackers three months after the attack through their visa data.

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When asked about additional training, particularly training in counterterrorism, Sackett mentioned some FBI training to identify applicants that might be lying by looking at their mannerisms. Sackett said this was interesting, but most Consular officers can learn this skill better than the FBI after a few months on the visa line.

Visa Viper:

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We probed the type of information he is receiving in these meetings which included broad threat information such as that on general threats to embassies.

The number of visa's requested of the Embassy has dropped from 90 thousand prior to 9-11 to 20 thousand today. The refusal rate for Saudi applicants is 12 percent; the refusal rate for non-Saudi applicants, third country applicants, has been 25 percent. The length of time it takes to get a visa has also increased from 2 to 3 days to 2 or 3 weeks (without

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regarding this joint review. Kathy indicated that she had participated in the drafting of the MOU from her previous position in New Delhi and that the process was fairly open.

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