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Bin-Laden's second in command is voice on tape, U.S. official says

LONDON (AP) — A voice recording of Ayman al-Zawahri, al-Qaida's fugitive second in command, appears to be genuine and to have been recorded in the last few weeks, a U.S. official said Wednesday. In the statement, he threatens new attacks on the United States and its economy.

References to current events in the recording — obtained Tuesday by Associated Press Television News — are a clear sign that al-Zawahri is alive, the official said in Washington on condition of anonymity. The voice recording would be the first proof that al-Zawahri survived U.S. bombing in Afghanistan launched a year ago. U.S. officials say they don't know if al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden is alive, but in recent months U.S. troops have been scouring the remote border region between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Al-Zawahri probably recorded the statement in the last few weeks, but it could have been made as early as August, the official said, adding that the recording was still being analyzed. Al-Zawahri refers to a July 1 U.S. bombing in Afghanistan and speaks about the United States' campaign against Iraq, accusing Washington of seeking to subjugate the Arab world on behalf of Israel.

The recording was obtained by APTN in the form of a video compact disc. On the disc, an interview with al-Zawahri is played against a video backdrop with English subtitles of the conversation, along with scenes from the Sept. 11 attacks and other news footage.

A title in the video identifies the speaker as al-Zawahri and says the video is a production of the As-Sahaab Foundation for Islamic Media. The production company is credited with earlier al-Qaida statements that appeared on Web sites and with the so-called farewell video of Ahmed Ibrahim A. Alhaznawi, a Sept. 11 hijacker.

Al-Zawahri, 51, is believed to be bin Laden's doctor and spiritual adviser, providing the ideology

Al-Qaida in 2002

Recent events linked to al-Qaida and its affiliates:

- June 14** A suicide bomber blows up a truck at the U.S. consulate in Karachi, Pakistan, killing 14.
- August** Arab intelligence reports to U.S. intelligence that some al-Qaida leaders are in eastern Iran. Other reports claim some al-Qaida training is taking place along the Iranian-Afghanistan border.
- Sept. 9-12** Arab-language television station al-Jazeera airs a voiceover statement from a man the CIA identifies as Osama bin Laden, but it's unclear when it was made. The station also broadcasts recent interviews with two Sept. 11 plotters.
- Sept. 11** Pakistani and U.S. intelligence officers raid apartments in Karachi, Pakistan, killing two and capturing at least 10 people, including Ramzi Binalshibh, a Sept. 11 plotter.
- Sept. 11** A plot to bomb one or more U.S. embassies in southeast Asia is foiled.
- Sept. 13** Five Yemeni-Americans with alleged al-Qaida ties are arrested after a series of raids outside Buffalo, N.Y. A sixth is detained in Bahrain and flown back.
- Sept. 20** A Sudanese pilot whom U.S. intelligence believes is connected to al-Qaida, is arrested for visa violations in Greensboro, N.C.
- Oct. 2** Suspected Abu Sayyaf guerrillas in the Philippines detonate a nail-bomb in an open-air market, killing three people, including an American Green Beret, and injuring 25 others.
- Oct. 3** Six people are indicted in Portland, Ore., for belonging to a terrorist cell and trying to join al-Qaida to fight U.S. troops. Four were arrested in the United States and a fifth in Malaysia. The sixth is being sought.
- Oct. 6** Al-Jazeera receives and broadcasts an audio tape of Osama bin Laden speaking. It's unclear when it was made.
- Oct. 8** An audiotape of bin Laden's top deputy is circulating. U.S. officials say it was made in August at the earliest, but more likely in the last few weeks. It makes references to several recent events and Osama bin Laden is alive.
- Oct. 8** Two Kuwaiti gunmen attack two separate Marine units in Kuwait, killing one Marine and injuring another. U.S. officials say they are suspected of ties to al-Qaida.

SOURCE: Associated Press

that drove al-Qaida. He was the head of Egyptian Islamic Jihad until he forged an alliance with bin Laden in 1998.

Al-Zawahri is on the U.S. most wanted list and the government is offering a reward of up to \$25 million for information leading to his capture. Egypt sentenced him to death in absentia in 1999 for his role in the 1995 bombing of the Egyptian Embassy in Pakistan and for attempting to kill officials in Egypt. He has been indicted in the United States for his alleged role in the 1998 bombings of the U.S. embassies in Tanzania and Kenya.

A May 8 attack on a bus in Pakistan killed 11 French engineers and an April 11 blast at a

NEWS IN BRIEF

Public wary as Russia conducts first census since Soviet collapse
MOSCOW (AP) — Russia launched its first post-Soviet census Wednesday, and President Vladimir Putin told a nervous census-taker that he works in the "service" sector and speaks Russian fluently. The weeklong door-to-door survey will quantify the dramatic shifts in Russia, which have included a drastic population decline. Officials have mounted a massive public relations campaign complete with television ads, billboards, a hot line and a Web site to overcome Russians' traditional distrust of the authorities. The intense public relations campaign reflects official fears Russians will dodge the census, or of letting strangers into their homes or revealing information about themselves. Many Russians have unofficial second jobs and do not pay taxes on the wages. Others break regulations that require official registration at their place of residence. Census organizers say the goal is to provide an accurate picture of the nation for planning public services such as education and pensions. They say the survey will be anonymous and the data will not be used by tax authorities or police.

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Between Jan... there three rape... to the Univ... There were 39 i... including 11 Ger... two cases of ag... attacks have been linked to... Qaida.

Asked what he saw as... motives for the United States... campaign against Iraq, he said... "Its first aim is to destroy... effective military force in the... proximity of Israel."

Its second aim, he said, is... consolidate the supremacy of... Israel over Arab countries. "America and its dep... should know that their crimes... not go unpunished," he said... advise them to make a... retreat from Palestine, Arabian Gulf, Afghanistan... the rest of the Muslim world... before they lose everything."

The Batta Corps neg

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Students their own

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