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held IFOR's aggressive military inspections partly responsible for the standoff at Han Pijesak. The Bosnian Serbs may take greater care in their attempts to hide unreported weapons, but are unlikely to be deterred from such activity. (S)

b1

(For related information, see Analysis page 4.)

Sudan: Bin Ladin's Deal (S)

National Islamic Front (NIF) leader Turabi in early May agreed to the expulsion of terrorist financier Usama bin Ladin on the condition that in the future he be allowed to return, according to Turabi and President Bashir hoped that when bin Ladin visited he would use false documentation and provincial airports, such as Port Sudan or Kassala, to avoid publicity. (S/NF/OC)

Comment: Turabi probably acceded to bin Ladin's departure to alleviate international pressure and avert further UN sanctions for Khartoum's support for terrorism, but he did not want his hard-line Islamist allies to view him as "caving in" to the West. Turabi and Bashir also were loath to lose access to bin Ladin's wealth, which has been heavily invested in Sudan. (S/NF/OC)

Though bin Ladin reportedly has made numerous surreptitious return trips to Sudan from his probable Afghanistan sanctuary, Khartoum probably would not risk a lengthy visit while it engages in a "charm offensive" to normalize relations with the United States and is still under the gun at the UN. The Kassala region increasingly has become a confrontation zone between Eritrean-backed Sudanese opposition elements and NIF forces and thus is not an ideal location for bin Ladin. (S/NF/OC)

Belarus: Lukashenko Pressing (U)

President Lukashenko continues to raise the stakes in his campaign to subdue the increasingly independent parliament. (U)

Lukashenko on August 15 told an audience of local officials that he would not allow parliamentary elections to fill 61 vacant seats, saying the legislature "already has enough deputies to do its job." The central electoral commission earlier had scheduled these by-elections for November 24. Lukashenko, who still enjoys considerable popularity, called on the public to support his initiatives in the November 7 referendum, which he said should be a "vote of confidence in the presidency." (U)

DEPT OF STATE APPEALS REVIEW PANEL (ARP)	RELEASE IN FULL	
	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELEASED	
	ORIGINAL DECISION UPHELD	
	Exemptions	b1, 1.4(c), 1.4(d)
ARP Action Cert	CH	Date 5-28-08

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