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Monday - May 19

You can check out our survey online. If you fill out the entire survey, you will be entered in the contest to win cold hard cash!

Your opinion matters!

(The link to the online survey will appear in Monday's paper.)



Thursday May 8, 2003 Since 1896 University of Oregon Eugene, Oregon

Link

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become a confrontation."

Asked what the administration's options would be in that case, another senior official conceded that trying to seize al Adel and others would be extremely difficult, but added: "The military option is never off the table."

The Iranian government has expelled more than 500 lower-ranking al-Qaida members and denies harboring any of the group's senior leaders. But the U.S. officials, who all spoke on the condition of anonymity, said there was evidence that members of Iran's Revolutionary Guard were sheltering al Adel, the younger bin Laden, other al-Qaida leaders and some other members of bin Laden's family.

The officials emphasized that

no hard evidence has been found that al-Qaida fugitives in Iran had a hand in the Saudi bombings.

But the suspicions have given a new urgency to United Nations-sponsored talks between White House aide Zalmay Khalilzad and Iranian officials in Geneva.

The suspicions of a link between Iran and the bombings are focused largely on al Adel, who some U.S. officials think is now the head of al-Qaida operations in the Persian Gulf.

Some officials think that Khaled Jehani, the leader of the al-Qaida cell in Saudi Arabia that is suspected of carrying out the attacks, began reporting to al Adel after former gulf operations chief Abdul Rahim al Nashiri was captured last November. Nashiri is now in U.S. custody. Other officials, however, think Jehani may have taken over from Nashiri and also is run-

ning the Saudi Arabian cell, which Saudi intelligence officials think may have had more than 100 members, on his own.

Saudi intelligence officials said suspected al-Qaida members who were arrested before the bombings have told interrogators that Jehani's group was planning to initiate a major operation in Saudi Arabia during the U.S. invasion of Iraq, but that the invasion came sooner than they expected.

Several times recently, one U.S. official said, Osama bin Laden expressed frustration to his lieutenants in Iran that al-Qaida had struck no significant blows as the United States invaded Muslim Iraq. "The fact that his frustration was directed toward those in Iran is interesting," one official said.

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