



Three key takeaways about the newly released 28 pages

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Pages of the 9/11 report which had been kept away from public eyes for two presidential administrations were released online Friday afternoon, giving Americans the first chance to read the once-classified pages regarding the 2001 terror attack.

The report's release comes 13 years after it was initially created and subsequently classified by President Bush. As Full Measure reported, bipartisan calls to make the 28 pages public contributed to mounting pressure for the Obama administration to release the classified documents.

Obama ultimately ordered a declassification review and after it was conducted by Director of National Intelligence James Clapper the chapter went to Congress, who released it Friday afternoon.

Here's a look at five key takeaways from the declassified pages:

The information presented is not final

Chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, Devin Nunes has stressed that the section released to the public Friday "does not put forward vetted conclusions," according to the Associated Press.

Speaking with Sinclair before the pages were officially released, Emma Ashford, a research fellow at the CATO Institute, described the concerns that were raised over this fact.

"One of the arguments against releasing these pages" Ashford explained, is that people involved with the report were worried that because the pages are not a "finished intelligence report where every lead was chased up" it can be difficult to tell what parts of it are accurate.

Ashford described hearing the report compared to a preliminary police report.

"It includes accusations and rumors, some of those might be unfounded," Ashford explained.

"So I think one of the big concerns with releasing the report is people might look at it and not realize these things aren't necessarily accurate," Ashford said.

"I think the most important thing is... the idea that this is not necessarily all final, vetted, proved, intelligence," Ashford said.

"The idea that we don't know if some of these things are true, they're more accusations than they are actual findings," Ashford said, is "really important for everybody whether its a member of Congress or a member of the media or a member of the public to remember when they're looking at reports about what's in this."

The Associated Press noted that later investigations into the 9/11 attacks found no evidence that the Saudi government or senior Saudi officials knowingly supported those who orchestrated them.

Though some believe it is a jumping off point

While the report may not hold concrete evidence, some lawmakers are optimistic that its public release will help them pursue justice down the road. Rep. Stephen F. Lynch (D-Massachusetts), who the Associated Press noted was "a longtime advocate of the declassification" said it will help resolve some lingering mysteries.

"Releasing the contents of the 28 pages will answer some of the many questions that remain," The Associated Press quoted Lynch saying.

"It may help us at last hold those who are responsible accountable," Lynch said.

Former Florida Sen. Bob Graham, the co-chairman of the congressional inquiry said the pages "point a very strong finger at Saudi Arabia as being the principle financier," The Associated Press reported.

Graham told Yahoo News the he was "extremely pleased" with the release of the information.

"The American people need to have this information and a substantial amount of further information on 9/11," Graham said.

"I think this gives a solid case for the position that there was significant Saudi involvement going up at least to the Saudi ambassador to the United States" in the time leading up to 9/11, Graham argued.

"We need to track these individual instances that are laid out in the report to see what has been learned by the intelligence agencies in the 13 years that they sat classified," Graham said.

Yahoo News Guest Host Stephanie Sy noted that the report names specific individuals who "aided the hijackers" citing intelligence from the FBI and CIA.

Here is a look at some of those CIA and FBI findings:

- Some of the September 11 hijackers apparently had contact with individuals who may be connected to the Saudi Government while in the United States, according to various FBI documents and at least one CIA memo not independently verified by the committee.

- The CIA and FBI identified a Culver City mosque as "a site of extremist-related activity." "Several subjects of FBI investigations prior to September 11 had close connections to the mosque and are believed to have laundered money through this mosque to non-profit organizations overseas affiliated with Usama Bin Laden," the report stated.

- Two individuals known by the FBI may have provided assistance to two of the hijackers while living in San Diego. One of the individuals provided the hijackers with "considerable assistance" including allowing them to stay with his apartment, co-signing their lease and potentially paying their first month's rent and security deposit. This individual also connected the hijackers with a member of the Islamic Center of San Diego to "help them get acclimated to the United States." This person ultimately served as their translator "helped them get drivers' license and assisted them in locating flight schools."

Sy noted that the inquiry did not verify the suspicions reported by the FBI and CIA, questioning "what is actually proven in the 28 pages."

"I think there is a lot of proof in there that this material was gathered by the agents assigned by the CIA and the FBI," Graham said.

The Saudi Government actually wanted this information released

While speculation over what the pages could indicate about Saudi Arabia's alleged involvement with 9/11 was fueled by the mystery regarding the content of the chapter, the country advocated for the release of the information.

As The Associated Press noted, Saudi Arabia had been calling for the release of the chapter since 2002 "so the kingdom could respond to any allegations and punish any Saudis who may have been involved in the attacks."

Asked about Saudi Arabia's advocating for the declassification of the pages prior to their release, Ashford described how Saudi diplomats have been discussing the documents.

"From what I understand, the way Saudi diplomats talk about this, they think that it is more damaging to have this secret document that might contain horrible revelations out there and it's actually better, even if there are some things that are slightly negative in the report, to release it so that it's no longer a question," Ashford explained.

In the statement obtained by the Associated Press, Al-Saud explained that Saudi Arabia hoped that the release of the pages would help to resolve some remaining inquiries.

"We hope the release of these pages will clear up, once and for all, any lingering questions or suspicions about Saudi Arabia's actions, intentions, or long-term friendship with the United States," he said. "Saudi Arabia is working closely with the United States and other allies to eradicate terrorism and destroy terrorist organizations."