

ROBERT A. DANFORD



April 14, 2009

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C.

Subject: Finding alternatives toward direct military action in Somalia.

Dear Secretary Clinton:

I am a Professional Member of the American Society for Industrial Security, and the American College of Forensic Examiners; I have guest lectured and taught industrial security management, homeland security, port and harbor security and critical incident response management.

As elated as everyone is over the splendid outcome of the Maersk Alabama hijacking case, as I had predicted, in today's news, it is reported that four additional vessels were attacked and now Terrorists are holding some 60 hostages. Before anyone, does anything regarding Somalia, may I make the following comments and observations.

What is going on in the Gulf of Aden is as an organized criminal enterprise for profit. There are some 250 hostages being held and they are being kept as well as they can be under the circumstances because the terrorists are expecting a payday out of this. As soon as they see any form of direct Military action in the northeast at the mouth of the Gulf of Aden, I can assure you more Americans will be abducted, and we will see another series of video beheadings under a Democratic watch.

I would recommend that the Secretary encourage the United Nations to create an International Maritime Security Working Group. Since the Shipping Industry has already absorbed something like Fifty Billion Dollars regarding the various piracy incidents in 2008 alone; they have the resources to contract private security/military contractors who could work onboard merchant shipping in International Waters.

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They could rotate from the northern edge of the threat envelope to the southern end and take direct action on a case-by-case basis. Through this endeavor, as these targets of opportunity begin to dry up, so will the piracy activity that the World community has pacified by the payment of extortion money.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated interest, and cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

ROBERT A. DANFORD, ACFE. ASIS.