



United States Department of State

RELEASE IN PART B3
INA, B5, B7(E)

Washington, D.C. 20520

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

December 25, 2009

INFORMATION MEMO FOR THE SECRETARY

FROM: CA – Michael D. Kirby, Acting

SUBJECT: Device Detonated on NW 253 landing in Detroit on Christmas Day

Nigerian national Umar Farooq Abdulmutallab tried to detonate a small explosive device attached to his leg on NW 253 arriving in Detroit at 11:53 A.M. EST on Christmas. Abdulmutallab received third degree burns and one other passenger was slightly injured. Abdulmutallab is in the hospital and providing information to the FBI. The Nigerian Embassy has contacted the State Department regarding consular access and was referred to local police. [redacted]

B5

[redacted] it was agreed that the incident would be described as an attempted act of terrorism.

B3 INA

[redacted] well before, according to his own accounts, he was radicalized in Yemen. [redacted]

[redacted] (via the mandatory monthly mission-wide terrorist reporting cable known as the VISA VIPER report). [redacted]

B7(E)

[redacted] and there was no recommendation to State to revoke the visa because the information, at the time, was very limited and inconclusive. [redacted]

DHS is planning a number of mitigation measures to protect against another attempt, which will result in longer passenger clearance procedures. We will provide additional information as it becomes available. As in any case where a visa holder is involved in a serious abuse of his or her visa, we will review our procedures. We will also coordinate with the interagency community.

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