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REPORT TO THE JUSTICE AND TREASURY DEPARTMENTS regarding law enforcement interaction with the Branch Davidians in Waco, Texas



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The following report and recommendations are based largely on oral briefings conducted on July 1-2 at the Justice Department, as well as on August 3 at the Treasury Department and at the FBI Training Academy at Quantico. In addition, I have had access to a number of other sources. We were supplied with background information on many of the persons in the Investigative Support Unit, and I was supplied with a list of the experts consulted by the FBI during the affair. I have consulted with academic colleagues and have reviewed a good deal of the academic literature on New Religious Movements. Various political and lobbying groups have sent me information. I talked with Glenn Hilburn at Baylor, and I spent two hours with Pete Smerick and Gregg McCrary at the FBI Academy. I do not pretend that this represents a full accounting of what happened at Waco. That has not been my aim. Rather, what follows attempts to assess the nature and quality of the expert advice available to the agencies involved in this situation and to make some suggestions about how that advice might better be utilized in the future.

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Activities of Federal Law Enforcement Agencies Toward the Branch Davidians. Report House of Representatives 104th Congress, 2nd Session, Union Calendar No. 395 August 2, 1996. V. Military Involvement in the Government Operations at Waco. U.S. military involvement is one of the least explored and most misunderstood elements of the events that took place near Waco, TX in 1993. a. Overview of the law The Posse Comitatus Act was enacted in the United States in 1878 in response to the improper use of military troops in the South during the post-Civil War Reconstruction period. The Posse Comitatus Act provides When the FBI and other law enforcement agencies began their fateful 51-day standoff with a religious cult in Waco, Texas, known as the Branch Davidians on 28 February 1993, Bill Clinton had just taken office as President a month earlier. By that afternoon, the FBI, in cooperation with the ATF and Department of Treasury officials, had also sent in advance units of its elite Hostage Rescue Team. The Branch Davidians, an offshoot of the Seventh

Day Adventists, strongly believed that the Second Coming of Christ was imminent, and that the end of the world was approaching rapidly. A detailed Justice Department report described numerous FBI and Justice Department «Report to the Justice and Treasury Departments regarding law enforcement interaction with the Branch Davidians in Waco, Texas.» Submitted September 3, 1993. Recommendations of Experts for Improvements in Federal Law Enforcement After Waco. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Department of the Treasury. Online. · Stone, Alan A. (1993). «Report and Recommendations Concerning the Handling of Incidents Such As the Branch Davidian Standoff in Waco Texas.» Submitted November 10, 1993. Recommendations of Experts for Improvements in Federal Law Enforcement After Waco. Washington, DC: