

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
ALEXANDRIA DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)
 v.) Criminal No. 01-455-A
)
 ZACARIAS MOUSSAOUI)
 a/k/a "Shaqil,")
 a/k/a "Abu Khalid)
 al Sahrawi,")
)
 Defendant.)

ORDER

Pursuant to our Order of September 27, 2002, the United States has advised the Court of its proposed redactions to the defendant's pro se pleadings docketed as #s 1001, 1004, 1005, 1008, 1009, 1010 and 1013. Finding that most of the proposed redactions strike the proper balance between the public's right to access records in criminal cases and the United States' legitimate concerns about the defendant's ability to use his pleadings inappropriately to communicate with the outside world, as well as to accommodate the United States' national security interests, it is hereby

ORDERED that the defendant's pro se pleadings docketed as #s 1001, 1004, 1005, 1008, 1009, 1010 and 1013 be unsealed with the indicated redactions by 5:00 p.m. Friday, August 22, 2003.¹

The United States further requests that the defendant's pro se pleading docketed as #1014 be maintained entirely under seal

¹ The Court did not adopt any of the United States' proposed redactions to the defendant's pro se pleadings docketed as #s 1008 and 1013.

contending that the pleading "contains many pointless rants that exceed the defendant's rights as a pro se litigant, demean the proceedings... and contravene the Special Administrative Measures governing the conditions of pre-trial confinement." The Government further argues that the pleading "seeks no relief, other than the unsealing of [an] earlier pleading, and relates to no issue being considered by the Court..."

Despite the specific rhetoric used by the defendant, the Court finds the pleading to be an understandable response to the United States' sealed letter of August 4, 2003, which both Mr. Moussaoui and standby defense counsel interpreted as a suggestion by the United States that the Court revoke the defendant's pro se status. However, because Mr. Moussaoui confirms in his pleading docketed as #1014 that he is, in fact, using the court as a vehicle through which to communicate with the outside world, the United States' request is GRANTED; and it is hereby

ORDERED that the defendant's pro se pleading docketed as #1014 be maintained entirely under seal.

The Clerk is directed to forward copies of this Order to the defendant, pro se; counsel for the United States; and standby defense counsel.

Entered this 21st day of August, 2003.

/s/

Leonie M. Brinkema
United States District Judge

Alexandria, Virginia