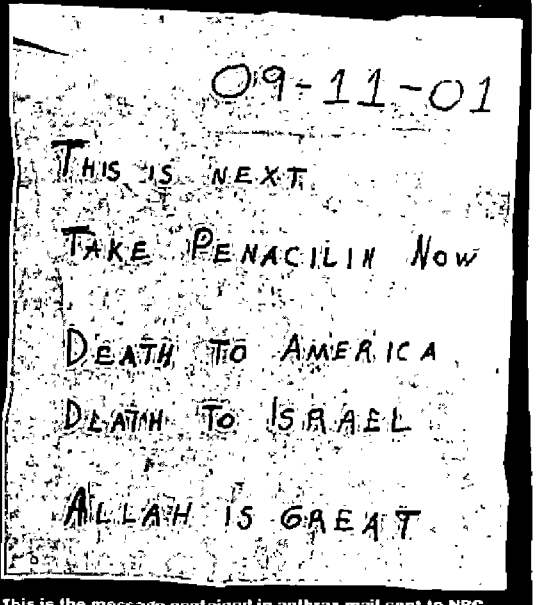
NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

NEW YORK POST, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2001

Mad messages inside the anthrax letters

HATE MAIL


09-11-01

THIS IS NEXT.

TAKE PENACILIN NOW

DEATH TO AMERICA

DEATH TO ISRAEL

ALLAH IS GREAT

This is the message contained in anthrax mail sent to NBC and The Post.

By BRIAN BLOMQUIST
in Washington
and TRACY CONNOR
in New York

The envelopes were laced with deadly grains of anthrax. The letters were filled with threats and taunts. The words delivered messages of hate.

"This is next," warned the tainted notes mailed to NBC anchor Tom Brokaw and The Post from southern New Jersey on Sept. 18 and released by the feds yesterday.

"Take penacilin now," the writer continued, misspelling — purposely? — the name of the antibiotic that is often used to treat anthrax.

In neat block letters, the

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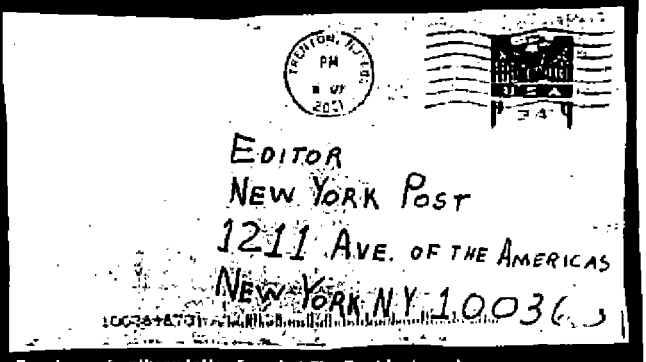
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Envelope of anthrax letter found at The Post last week.

Hate mail: inside the anthrax letters

LETTERS *from Page 1*

sender made an oblique reference to the Sept. 11 attacks on America — the date 09-11-01 at the top of the page — and ended with a three-line screed:

"Death to America.

"Death to Israel.

"Allah is Great."

Within days of being mailed, the missives found their targets.

On Sept. 25, Brokaw's assistant, Erin O'Connor, opened one of the notes. She soon came down with the skin form of the disease. Around the same time, Post editorial-page assistant Johanna Huden, who opens letters to the editor, also contracted cutaneous anthrax.

But before news of those infections became public, the person behind them struck again — mailing another letter to Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle's office.

This note, postmarked Oct. 8 in Trenton and also released yesterday, contained a slightly different, but equally ominous, message.

Again, there was the Sept. 11 date at the top. But the words that followed were jeering.

"You can not stop us," it read.

"We have this anthrax.

"You die now.

"Are you afraid!"

Then, in the same block lettering, were the last three lines from the earlier letters, promising death to America and Israel, and praising Allah.

The Daschle letter was opened in his office by an aide on Oct. 15, and more than two dozen people in the building were exposed to the spores.

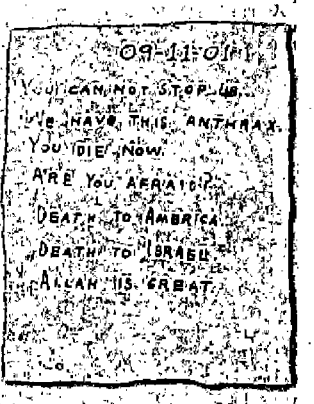
Its deadlier effects may have been felt at the Washington, D.C., post office that processes Capitol Hill mail. Two workers there have already died, and up to 16 more may be sick with the inhalation form of the disease.

Anthrax exposures and infections have also occurred at Florida's American Media Inc., ABC and CBS — but investigators have not found the letters that may have been used to deliver the spores.

They also don't know whether a new wave of letters may have been mailed without detection.

"I think we have to assume there is a possibility that other mail could be contaminated," Daschle said yesterday.

The feds released the letters to warn citizens to be on the lookout for similar notes.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YOU DIE NOW.

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DEATH TO AMERICA

DEATH TO ISRAEL

ALLAH IS GREAT.

POISON PEN: The letter that was sent to Sen. Tom Daschle. Reuters

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