

[UM] Unidentified Male.
[UI] Unintelligible.
[NFI] Not Further Identified.
(LNU) Last name unknown.
[Italics] Translator's comments.
[...] Incomplete sentence.

Sh = Shukri Abu Baker
Om = Omar Ahmad
Gh = Ghassan Elashi
Ss = Sheik Sharif
Ga = Gawad (LNU)
Ab = Abdel Salam (LNU)
Ak = Akram (LNU)
Au = Abou Usama (NFI)
As = Abdel Halim Al Ashqar (Aboul Hasan)
Aa = Abou Ahmad (NFI)
Aj = Abdel Jabbar
Ab2 = Abou Bassem (NFI)
Mu = Muin (LNU)

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Ak: ...political matters and his stand from the accord and the Fund is supposed to stay away from these things.

Sh: The way we are going to act is as follows: The first thing is that..., is that some of the brothers greatly exaggerate the relationship between the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine] and the Fund and that is because it is not understood. In reality, the strongest..., the strongest relationship we have is during the conferences and the income from the conferences does not constitute more than one sixth of the total income. In other words, if we during our conferences we raised 200,000 or 250,000, for instance, this was out of over 2 millions. This is while we brought three brothers from the inside to do a special tour for the Foundation and we raised also quarter million dollars. So, the relationship is limited and it is a professional relationship. Er..., as long as the financial relationships is in order, everything is Ok. I..., my relationship with the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine] is justified based on the fact that it gives me a market, a market segment. I have a relationship with the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine], a relationship with the [Muslim Arab Youth] Association, with ISNA. God's willing, I will have a relationship with the churches soon, with others. I will go to explain my cause and

collect money. So, it is a part of my audience. If anyone asks me I would tell him, "I have an interest because they have an audience I want. Bring me an audience and I will form a relationship with it". So, it is very professional from this aspect, believe me, I mean. This is just to calm your worries: the Foundation's financial situation is not based on our relationship with the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine] in the first part as we said, but rather there are other sources from which we collect donations.

Ak: We will open the floor for anyone who has comments or questions. Go ahead.

Om: The picture is just like brother Shukri mentioned and I want to just emphasize it. What is important is do an awareness project for the Foundation's donors. I mean, we have people who have donated in the past years, they have donated for the past four or five years, for instance, since the beginning of the Intifada. We have a large group..., 20,000 names or 25,000 names of people who donated \$50 to us or more. Why can't there be an awareness project for those people? It would include first of all Islamic awareness, for instance, the religious and the creedal aspect as most of them are Muslims or all of them are Muslims. Second, for instance, a media and a political project whereby we explain to them the media and the political aspect. I mean, we explain to them what is going on so that these donors understand that what happened is not a solution to the cause and that the situation is still as is, that the problem has not been solved. On the contrary, it got more complicated and that we now need support. I mean, other organizations can undertake this..., this awareness. If the Fund cannot send a media/political bulletin or leaflet, the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine] can take care of that and the names can come..., I mean we can buy the names from them and we send it to them. We can focus on them for three or four months where a bulletin is sent out every month including what is going on and the developments of the situation. This would be done in a good English language, the bulletin or the leaflet should be moderate and it would prepare these people to donate so that we don't lose these people. I believe that, if we are going to lose some people, let us lose 10% and not 50% of them and he who is going to reduce his donation by 50%, let him reduce it by 10% if we provide awareness to him. I believe that we have..., we have a very good base, I mean, we have a good Muslim base who if we explain to them the Islamic aspect..., if we explain the Muslims' situation on the inside, what is going to happen to Muslims' organizations, if we explain that this self-rule is nothing but a tool in the hands of the Jews or..., I mean, in a moderate way, of course. I believe donations won't be much impacted. And I believe we have time from now until the end of the year to get this project going. This is a suggestion. The second suggestion is that if we want to..., brother Shukri suggested the idea of having talks with the Americans about supporting the self-rule in Gaza and Jericho. I believe that our problem is that we stopped working underground. We will recognize the source of any message which comes out of us. I mean, if a message is publicized, we will know..., the media person among us will

recognize that you send two messages; one to the Americans and one to the Muslims. If they found out who said that - even four years later - it will cause a discredit to the Foundation as far as the Muslims are concerned as they will say "Look, he used to tell us about Islam and that it is a cause and stuff while he, at the same time, is shooting elsewhere". Then, if we want to do something like that it is better that it is an independent, separate and new organization and no one knows any connections it has with the Holy Land. The issue of Jerusalem..., let's study the issue of Jerusalem, Al Aqsa mosque, the Sanctuary, other issues and mosques of '48, that there are some mosques in Palestine which were turned into pubs and stuff. And I would like to inform you that the Indian Relief Fund which doesn't have a staff, or just one employee and which operates in our area, collects \$450,000 annually without...

UM1: How much?

Om: 450,000, or [*almost*] half a million dollars. It raises money for the Indian cause and for the Muslims in India. Of course, a lot of Indians are in America, a lot of sympathetic Pakistanis and Indians but, here is someone who raises half a million dollars. I believe that this is a group..., he has only one full-time person or even half a person and he raises half a million for the Indian cause which is...UI. As for Palestine, it is still in people's minds and Muslims' minds. So, I don't see a solution for us. We will die out. I don't believe we will be able to achieve all the expectations. We could also reach out to the refugees camps abroad. This is an excellent idea as we must enlarge the circle of the Foundation's beneficiaries, either Palestinians inside Palestine or outside Palestine such as in Lebanon and stuff. The issue is that I feel that there is something missing from the [*Islamic*] Association [*For Palestine*] and its relationship with the Fund. There is a lot missing which is the media aspect of the Fund. For instance, you meet with the community every year through the festivals. When you or Abou Ibrahim stand up with the multitudes and address them, if he raises \$5,000, that's fine, but there is a message for them during Ramadan at least or when the sheik who is affiliated with the Fund appears, they recognize that this is the same person they saw during the festival. You're then building direct relationship with the people. This is better than another organization which never saw Jericho and whose chairman is unknown [*to the community*]. I mean, now Abou Ibrahim is now known all over America. I don't think there is one Arab-Muslim who doesn't know him. Half the Pakistanis also know him. Brother Shukri is the same thing. When they receive a letter from him they realize that this is same person I saw in the region, he is the one who gave the Friday sermon, he came to the festival and stuff. So, the media aspect is very important even if a person doesn't raise [*money*]. Even if a future problem rises where he cannot raise money during the festivals, the point is that the Fund goes out to its public and remains a point of contact for the public when it holds activities or takes advantage of the activities of the [*Islamic*] Association [*For*

Palestine] to reach public even if they don't donate [*money*] on that day. This is what I have...UI.

UM1: I went outside for few minutes so I don't know if brother...UI.

UM2: Were you asleep?

UM1: No, I went outside [*Laughs*]. God's willing, I will focus on the media aspect, my brothers, regarding the Holy Land Foundation and the charitable organizations generally. In reality, I would like to direct my address to the Islamic communities more than the Americans and similar communities. Therefore,...UI with brother Shukri later, God's willing. We can speak about that later. The emphasis of the Islamic nature of the issue is a must, especially now. I liked an article which was published in Muslim World Monitor about...

Om: We're the ones who publish it, by the way.

UM1: What?

Om: We're the ones who publish it.

UM1: Thanks be to God...UI.

UM2: We shouldn't confuse charitable work for media work.

UM1: No, no. It relates to charitable work. I just wanted to bring this issue up regarding charity work. They cited an example that issue of...UI and the self-rule have removed the nationalistic masks making the issue now an Islamic one. We should take this positive aspect at least; to emphasize our reach to the Islamic communities. Out of that approach, we could focus on the impact of the self-rule on the Palestinian cause..., on the entire Muslim world. Therefore, we must hold our brothers inside steadfast from the economic point of view. Another matter is that there is no doubt that the support will pour into Gaza and Jericho. You might say that...UI regarding the self-rule or the Israeli-American inclination. In reality, we can...UI a little or address the West Bank in a better manner. The suffering in the West Bank will not cease. In Hebron, there are camps as well. Therefore, this is really our true opportunity. We have focused a lot on Gaza and now we have an opportunity for Islamic activism in other areas. Our brothers, there are other examples...UI no one knows the future shape of activism in America or how it will be. But, as far as the conferences of the [*Muslim Arab Youth*] Association and the ISNA are concerned, the closest upcoming one is the conference of the [*Muslim Arab Youth*] Association. In reality, we will have two conferences; one in Los Angeles and one in

Detroit and they will be very good opportunity to address the Arab community...UI our issue and the fundraising issue.

Gh: Is the Los Angeles conference held by...UI?

UM1: No, no. It is a conference for the Muslim Arab [Youth] Association.

Gh: Does it have two conferences at the same time?

UM1: There is a disagreement regarding the name but, we will talk about that later. At any case, there will be two conferences. My region is a region of density for the Arab community. If we manage to explain a big segment of the Palestinian cause..., because we have people who are from the Gulf and stuff, Egyptians and others to make them really feel that the Palestinian cause is now in a more dangerous position that it used to be in. Those will assist us when we go to their areas to present our point of view and to collect donations from the Islamic community. My brothers, I believe that the inclination of brothers Shukri, brother Ibrahim, brother...UI and brother Omar is to really try to move forward to managing conferences to make sure there are concentrated lectures on the issue of the self-rule and its impact on the Arab world in particular because it is the closest one. Therefore, these people can assist us, God's willing, in unifying the hearts in the future. This is my report. Thanks to you.

As: May God reward you well. By the way, an issue was mentioned and I would like to emphasize it, it is the issue of the visit of..., arranging for the visit of a delegation. I mentioned it in the morning and I will mention it now. This is live example where in Britain they arranged a visit for the eminent people in the Islamic community in Britain....UI. It is true that one could have some knowledge about Palestine or hear about Palestine but doesn't know the situation on the ground. They went over there and visited and they returned with a lot of enthusiasm and very moved because of the situation. They formed organizations all of what they collect in their respective regions..., an organization to support Al Aqsa and...UI. It was these kind of organizations which started to publicize the cause of Palestine. We, until now, still work with past forms which are not connected and...

Om: We had a delegation from...UI but, the problems in America started. So, we stopped the...UI.

UM1: But, the need remains dire to send such a delegation.

As: It is true that there is dire need to dispatch such a delegation. It is true that brother Muin

mentioned the active Islamic organizations. I hope we can get an idea about the...UI organizations in the inside. He mentioned the Samiha Khalil's organization but I hope we can get an idea about some of the organizations. It is true that the Islamic organizations had an impact despite their limited financial resources if compared with others. This is true and we might feel that in the American media...UI. Now, the second question, brother Abou Bassem, is for Canada: how much do you raise annually?

Ab2: ...UI. The first half of this year [*we raised*] 214,000.

As: [*How about*] last year?

Ab2: This is for '93. From now until June '93, we raised 214,000. In 1992 [*we raised*] 167 for the entire year.

As: Are there any other active Islamic organizations?

Ab2: One organization which is affiliated with you in America but it is a branch...UI. It is United...UI Holy Land, United Holy Land Fund.

As: What about this one?

Ab2: My knowledge of it is almost non-existent. They raised about 80,000 and...UI.

As: And do you they a presence and...UI?

Ab2: They raised between 60,000-70,000.

As: I heard from you or from the brothers who have a connection with Canada that, if you sponsored a project on the inside, the Canadian government might contribute up to half of it or something of the sort. Is that true?

Ab2: This is true but, it needs coordination. We have an obstacle as the government has returned the application over three times to us and we used the by-laws of organizations which got registered. But, they promised us that they would look into it in the coming weeks, God' willing. We got this promise from them. There is also IPRF which is Islamic and deals with the [*Palestinian Liberation*] Organization. It also raises between 80,000-90,000. In the past year, they raised 139,000 and they issued a statement that the expenses had reached 93,000. Their expenses, out of 139,000, was 93,000.

UM2: Is this an Islamic organization?

Ab2: It is an Islamic [organization] which operates in...UI, operates in Kashmir. It works in other regions. It started working in Sudan lately. I heard that they're lately trying to work in Sudan. In Palestine, of course,... UI, they raised less then 81,000. [A short period of UI group talk]. It raises 7,000 or 8,000 through us, I mean through us.

As: What is the possibility of holding a meeting for the eminent members of the Islamic community in America in order to discuss the situation and the latest agreement between...

UM2: ...UI.

As: What?

UM2: This has nothing to do with...UI

As: No, it doesn't.

UM2: ...UI We will later listen to brother Muin and, God's willing,...UI activism by other organizations and, God's willing, we might be able to...UI.

Ga: In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. I'll speak about the leaning towards separating charitable work from political work.

Gh: Is there a contradiction between them?

Ga: Totally. Charity work is meant to be a humanitarian charity work...UI in their brochures, their statements and their...UI, all of that is a political position. Some side with...UI, some side with Hamas, whether they are Hamas or..., I mean... This is not the issue. This is one issue. As for the second issue, I felt that there was a leaning towards reconciliation between us and...UI. There is a mental attempt with us to shift, I mean we are trying to shift ourselves. It is as if we are...UI, meaning that we have to move from one place to another. No. And I believe this was there very early on...UI. It is going to be normal to focus on activism abroad at the expense of support to the inside. Don't tell me...UI. Focusing means that you will spend you human, mental and planning energy on certain directions. It is true that the [refugees] camps of Lebanon, Syria and Jordan are not part of the agreement but, they will bring about practical consequences on the ground now. Here is Amman making official statements saying that I will not accept that the Palestinians of...UI. This is an example...UI. Therefore, the Occupied Territories is the natural arena for support the most important one. It is not like the brother said...UI because some people are saying that support is not important right now...UI. Based on that, I see that

focus ought to be greatly on the Occupied Territories and then we move to Lebanon, Syria and Jordan later on.

UM1: This is the information you mentioned...UI.

Ga: What?

UM1: ...UI.

Ga: Anyway. My view is to continue with the support as is and without changing anything. This is one. A remark. The third point is that we need to turn to the issues which are...UI. The philosophy of abundant human support is that it is a matter of consumption...UI. Why sell goods in the market? And it doesn't have an end even if you pour millions [of dollars] into it, it won't end. And all of that is for a month and not a year. So the right course for this [organization] is for it to establish projects for an infrastructure, even it is...UI, and you will have people running them [the projects] for you; construction [workers], engineers and laborers. All of that employs hands, really. The infrastructure is..., infrastructure projects with long-term benefit are the projects with the top priority. Next, come the projects with the humanitarian nature and I believe that 20% of the year...UI. These [projects] will be examined at the proper time. So, it is important not to forget about the projects with the humanitarian nature because people interact with them and they are easier [to carry out] psychologically and emotionally. Is there something wrong?

UM1: No, no. Go ahead.

Ga: The issue of Jerusalem is a problematic one, to be honest. I would like to talk about something which has been on my mind for a while now. It is regarding the...UI whether in America or outside America. There is no precise idea about how to hold the people of Jerusalem steadfast...UI. There are no projects until now. An apartment over there costs half a million. An apartment sells for half a million dollars. So, the issue is...UI. Repairs are forbidden...UI, building is forbidden, they've tightened things for us. The issue of Al Aqsa, it is not being repaired, really.

UM2: It is being repaired.

Ga: What? A little bit.

UM1: [Tapping to quiet several simultaneous speakers]. Our brothers, we will give you an opportunity later.

Ga: These are problems. I believe these are problems on the inside. The problem with the issue of Jerusalem is that there are projects which are...UI. And they are independents projects. If this is a project which costs that much money, go around in America, Europe, the Islamic world and the Arab world to collect money for it. I mean, think about these people in the Occupied Territories. Preserving Jerusalem is for the future and preserving the land in it particular. Our brothers, brother Abou Mohamed mentioned that the arriving Palestinian [*National*] Authority - if it succeeds in really coming - is Fatah and Fatah doesn't agree to let anyone else share life with it. Everything is under its hand, all the employecs, all is affiliated [*with it*]. Nothing will be done except through it. So, you at the Movement...UI, there is no problem with that. It is possible that the Movement lives alongside Fatah. Therefore, any organization which they [*i.e. Fatah*] consider as affiliated with the Movement will come to an end. My brothers...UI, the government of Kuwait tried to do the same thing with the Movement. The government of Kuwait and not Fatah. They adopted the same line of thinking, the biased thinking. So, for instance, the house of..., the house of...

As: The House of Zakat.

Ga: The House of Zakat and which was for the Islamists. And I remember one of our brothers who said that this will be the beginning of the weakness of our influence. There were tens of popular charitable committees which were distributing [*aid*] but they were...UI. A man who didn't have the money for education was sent to America to get education...UI. Now, go the House of Zakat now and see it, it is a governmental agency affiliated with the Ministry of Endowments. It has a director and stuff...UI, the Kuwaiti government. So, this is how Arafat's thinking will be. On the contrary, he might try to befriend the Palestinian families and make a unified [*aid*] party for the entire [*West*] Bank. This is the mentality which will govern them. And, of course, regarding this organization..., what is it called? The Social Welfare Organization or something...

UMI: Family Welfare [*Society*]?

Ga: Yeah. Its main goal was to attempt to bring down the Zakat committees. There you will have a problem with charity work. The medical clinics will become a part of the Ministry of Health. It is not going to be up to you to oversee them. All mosques will be under the Ministry of Endowments and you won't have the choice to work in them as well. Schools will be under private education, the Ministry of Education...UI, they will have a big problem. Therefore, the matter is not as easy as some people think, that they [*Fatah*] will just compete with us. No, no, no. I believe that they will bring you in and ask you "What are you doing?...UI". And I believe that they will...UI. These guys are not easy [*to deal with*]. They seek to run the organizations and we have to know from now how to protect

our organizations. I'm ready to hear ideas. I hope the brothers have good ideas on how to protect our organizations...UI. The organizations on the inside and the outside...UI. But, whether they are inside or outside, in Kuwait, in America, in Europe or anywhere else... There is an idea now to...UI the inside right now. I suggest an idea to...UI form a committee to coordinate between all the organizations. Now, right away. The Zakat committees, the clinics, the services and stuff. Committees should be formed right now to coordinate matters between them but each committee shouldn't be separate from the others...UI. So, form committees right now and they will sum up all matters together. Issues relating to '48 and...UI will be handled. There will be negative aspects relating to work and tying charitable work with the political parties inside the Movement or its supporters. That means that there shouldn't be a political stand by the Movement or its representatives which will...UI. This would create a problem for us...UI. Outside funding is important. I believe that the problems we are facing are two problems; how to deal with the enormous international campaign facing people inside and outside which says that there is no need for support over there [*inside Palestine*]. Consequently, this issue needs concentration. For instance, there is a lot of talk about the 400,000 millions in aid which they will spend annually. Half of it..., half of it are non-guaranteed....,right?

Sh: Yeah, non-guaranteed.

Ga: Half of it is this and 25% of it is...UI, while 800 millions of it is technical aid. Where is the money then? ...UI how do you prove to the masses that people are not being told the truth. People who are working on this [*aid package*] are economic experts who have experience. The conference of...UI ended yesterday...UI. The International Monetary Fund and the United Nations are making statements in that regards. America made statements, Japan and Europe as well. All of them issues good statements. On top of all of that...UI. So, I believe that your problem in charity work is how to collect money, we should define that and get ready for it. Two, the receiving party in the inside which will have its laws. It should be operating legally so that the [*Palestinian National*] Authority won't lay its hands on it. God knows better.

UM1: We thank the brothers who participated. ...UI, do you have a comment?

As: I really have two comments; the first comment is that when I spoke about '48, I meant the '48 on the inside and not the [*refugees*] camps abroad. Another thing is the issue of the Palestinian Liberation [*Organization*]'s understanding of the change..., and how could we deal with intelligence and know how to take advantage of the opportunity. After Arafat signed [*the peace accord*] at the White House and after the signing ceremony was over, he met the next day with Dr. Waheed El Shami who is a Palestinian from Ramallah - he is originally from Ramallah but resides in America - to establish an American University

in the Occupied Territories in the manner of the American University in Beirut, Cairo and elsewhere. If such a University was established in the [Gaza] Sector, it means that there is no reason to have the Islamic University. Therefore, they might not resort to...UI method, but deal with matters with some sort of intelligence so that they have the pretexts. Why is the Islamic University operating when we have the American University? Here are the...UI. They will build large buildings for it and the secure specializations in it and all the aspects which can simply steal the show from you. This is one thing that requires a kind of..., of a quick initiative. Another thing which is happening right now as a way to show people that there is some sort of a life under the new rule; the United Nations' institutions in the Occupied Territories which usually give a two-year diploma have been now converted into universities which provide almost 4 years [of education]. Thus, the people have started to move and, therefore, we should stop saying that they will now stop working. They have already started, they have already begun working and collect things. They're making reports and God knows what else. Therefore, we must have the initiative. Thank you.

UM1: There is a point regarding the camps outside the Occupied Territories. I don't agree with the issue and I'm not with focusing on the inside. We need to discuss this but, there should be a new approach to the issue; the issue of the Palestinian people which is much bigger than the issue of the self-rule. Therefore, attention ought to be paid to the issue of the refugees and here is the Holy Land Foundation having a new plan to reach these refugees so that we can address it in the future if the problem of the refugees in the Gaza Sector is solved. I wanted to say that because you brought up the issue of focusing [on the inside] and stuff. The issue is...

Sh: I believe the issue..., the issue of the Palestinian camps, first of all, is part of our modified strategy. It touches a large segment of the Palestinian people and I believe that it was a part of our...UI in the past. And I believe it is about time to address the issue whether it is... The camps residents are over 700,000 whether in Gaza or outside Palestine. And it is also a very big key to open the Palestinian channel even with non-Arabs and non-Muslims. It is big issue we need to handle together for charity. The second thing is that I believe that all of what we do is worthless if the situation in the Occupied Territories is not organized. If our brothers...UI in all aspects of daily life, they won't be able to. You see? I agree with [the need to] focus now, aligning forces and..., and..., I mean, ...UI. There are no studies..., based on my many visits to the Occupied Territories, there is no result...er, study indicating that our consumer's services really benefit people... [break in recording]. Even children's daycare centers... [break in recording]...which is the criterion, we discover that their Dawa'a value is close to zero. This is an example. What do we want then? [break in recording]...UI. What have we benefitted from that? The same thing applies to orphans sponsorships; we spend hundreds of thousands of dollars over this

program but, there is no Dawa'a use for it. Ok? We are not re-evaluating our strategy in charity work in the first place, we want to act as a...UI [break in recording]... all the money we transferred to the Occupied Territories, about 1.25 million until now, 900,000 of it, out of the 1.25 million, went to relief to..., to...er, what you call it? To relief. Relief in a form or another. All of it for relief. There has not been one project for us. Of course, what I can do is to be careful because you never hear about a person who dies out of hunger. He takes care of his needs. But, when you want to...UI, don't you need salaries for employees at the end of the month? Otherwise, you will have to close the school...

As: True.

Sh: So, you have to plan ahead. So, this is what we are talking about; to support the organizations on the inside which is more difficult. Yet, we need to... What is your strategy? What do you want to do exactly? And the issue shouldn't be [addressed] because this person, by God, knows Shukri in America and knows Abou Mohamed. Let's call him and say "I need a grant for \$600,000 over a telephone call" and the one who doesn't know how to elaborate misses the boat. This is not how organizational work. This is grocery work and it doesn't serve anyone; neither us or them. So, what I mean is that we now need to...UI to organize our papers and to ask our brothers to think in a serious and a practical manner, to see our potentials, what we need to do and what we can... Regarding the issue of '48, by God, I have noticed...UI. Is it possible to tell our brothers to bring personnel from outside Palestine in the '48 territories. I asked..., I asked our brothers. Legally, it is possible...UI. There was no plan in the past to bring personnel to...UI. There was no plan, my brothers.

UM1: ...UI.

Sh: There was a possibility that you could take the citizenship... I mean that we have to think, we have to act. We must think about all the..., all the...er, primitive work methods and be more creative. Until now, we are not creative in the field of charity work at all. All of the seasonal projects are the same projects, the same issues, the same things over and over. Here we are sitting down...UI while we are still thinking about children's daycare centers and what you call it. This is a problem we face to help our brothers on the inside...

UM1: There are issues which were presented and which have more than one view. We don't want the brothers to defend one and try to show who is more right. I mean..., the ideas presented could be... As long there is a mid-way, the ideas presented could be discussed.

Om: Hum. At the end, I would like to say that...UI they speak to us as if we are the Higher Relief Committee which cares for the entire world. We here in America want to establish

the Fund which...UI. How can we be sure...UI. This is our work while this is a model. But, we want to speak about Jerusalem, this and that for Jerusalem, what is our strategy for Gaza and our strategy I don't know where and these organizations and that what is important is the university. This talk is not for us. You are addressing the wrong people, I think. Those who spoke to us about these issues, they should go and talk to the big guys. We are... [Laughter followed by a short UI group talk].

Ga: In order to clarify this point. My honorable brother, we..., we... I explained that in the beginning. We paved the way..., we don't..., my brother Omar. It is a tragedy, it is a tragedy that the brothers don't know what is going on there, that you keep talking and talking. That you hear about the organizations and that we are a mere name. My brother, we didn't suggested solutions. We painted a reality. Ok? But, based on it..., so that the brothers have a clear picture they must know what we are talking about. At the beginning, I said that my topic doesn't have to do with...UI.

Om: I'm not speaking about the introduction, but about the first topic. [I meant] the last three comments which were... [A short period of unintelligible group talk].

UM1: I have a comment on what our brother Shukri said. We always tell the brothers over there to present projects or bring studies and stuff. How can we ask them to be creative or...UI children daycare centers? We must do something regarding their education and guidance and that ought to come from you because you are bigger. You say there are so and so fields to help but you have to realize how hard it is to get blueprints for one project, whether it is for a children daycare center or some other facility for children. The problem is that when you present a plan like that... Anyway.

UM2: There is a point regarding what Abou Mohamed said concerning the diversity of the address. The most important point is that it should be contradictory. I mean, the point which our brother Omar mentioned is that there shouldn't be contradiction in the addresses to the Americans, to the Muslims or to the Palestinians. This is the most important thing. The address should be diverse and I believe this cannot be taken against you unless there is contradiction in the address. Only then it could be taken against you. The second point is...UI conference. I mean, if there is one person to speak..., to speak to the Muslims or the Arabs who attend this thing [conference] it must be fact-filled talk and not a fervent talk or just talk where people forget what he said after he gets down from the podium. Therefore, attention should be given to the speaker whether he is Palestinian or non-Palestinian. But, what is important is that he must deliver a good..., a very good speech to the people whether in the conference which will be held over here, the Salafists' conference or the Liberators' conference or at any conference. I mean you should utilize it [the conference] by having a speaker who could deliver a fact-filled speech, an educated

speech to the people so that he make them feel the responsibility or the big problem that exists.

UM1: May God reward you well. I would like to tell you that there are new suggestions, my brothers. We don't want comments on old talk. God ahead.

UM3: There is a point which is market...UI.

UM1: Yes.

UM3: We need to do a market research in the Occupied Territories. I mean, you need to do a full survey to determine the segments you are dealing with realistically. The second point is that there are means to guarantee your legal rights and, at the same time, your influence over the [Gaza] Sector meaning over the people or the citizens without being recognized by the self-rule [authority] or without it throwing blocks in your way. There is an economic or a marketing aspect called "Joint Venture" which they pay a lot of attention to at the moment. Our role is to assist the people of the [Gaza] Sector and the West Bank to get the largest number of joint ventures with large U.S. companies over here. Then comes the franchise aspect as our role is to assist them as much as possible to get as many franchises of large U.S. companies or global companies as possible. The self-rule [authority] cannot oppose them. Even if it wants to oppose them, it will have to worry about the mother company. This will strengthen your economic might over there because you employ your brothers you want to employ and the more people you employ, the more they are politically loyal to you. This point could...

UM2: The talk was based on the fact that...UI. I see that the...UI or the organization must launch an internal campaign. It includes meetings with the brothers to make them face their responsibilities directly and not through the organizational channels like in the past. Those in charge of the Fund should have a meeting and make people face the responsibilities, whether at the regions' level or at the different levels. This aspect is out of line as far as the new organization [called] MAS or ICNA are concerned...UI. This is one aspect. The other aspect is that we truly ought to benefit from the American reality. We have, for instance, a simple experiment in the city relating to the issue of the refugees. We managed through a Catholic organization to achieve a lot for the emigres at our end. We benefitted from them on financial and educational levels.

UM1: Were they Kurds or what kind of emigres were they?

UM2: Different nationalities of emigres; Somalis, Kurds and...UI. But, we have people who work with the Somalis, for instance, and there has been success. So, it is possible to

establish contacts with these parties. The third aspect is the issue of pairing with universities, for instance, whether they are in Gulf nations..., I mean, we shouldn't despair. Hope should always be with us and we should contact all people as long as we will place the political tone aside while engaging in charity work. Just one more thing is a comment on the issue of...UI. I think brother Shukri didn't mean the letter of the word but,...UI in the [Gaza] Sector. There are not enough children daycare centers in the [Gaza] Sector and they said it would be great if they allowed us to open more children daycare centers. But, in the West Bank, for instance,...UI there are daycare centers which can educate children and some of them now are in colleges. So this aspect - the educational aspect - is truly an important one but I really believe that...UI should come from the inside to our brothers abroad. God the Almighty knows better and may God reward you.

UM1: Can you just comment on the issue of coordination with the other organizations.

Sh: I think that this is an issue which we didn't discuss. It is a new aspect and...UI. I mean, we must double our efforts, my brother. If we achieve something for our brothers by going 1,000 calories fast, we must consume 2,000 calories. This means that you ought to expand work fields outside the U.S. continent to begin with. And, thank God, we started to work and we now have good activities...

UM1: ...UI.

Sh: Ah, yes. It is good. This is part of work expansion, work expansion on the geographic and human levels. Out of the existing organizations, I believe we are the leaders, we are the leaders. You won't have someone who forgot his cause come to you and tell you "Teach me about your cause". You have to take your program to him and try to educate him. So, as far as the MAYA, the ICNA or what they call MAS or any other organizations, and as far as the existing U.S. organizations, all of them present their causes and I believe we have to embark on this stage. We shouldn't leave any door unchecked. This is what we learned that..., what you said is very very precise and is right. I'll give you an example; next week, God's willing, the Foundation will sign the first contract of its kind with an American lady who is donating a piece of land that is 4 acres with buildings on it. This will be her legal will to us. This act will provide support for the medical aspect and to the people of the Intifada. This is what we want. This is an aspect we never thought about before, my brother, and didn't care about it before. So, it is more worthy that we focus on the Muslim communities and their existing organizations. I'm 100% certain that if you don't present your program to them, persisted, requested and used lobbying, no one will care..., care about your cause. I challenge you. Unless you follow up with them, [Muslim American Youth] Association and other [organizations], no one will look at you. This is

an advice to all of us and moreover to the youths of Syria. I can say with a legal certainty that.... is the Sheik here? The [prophet's] Saying which says that he..., he who neglects the issues of the orphans and the poor - according to the [prophet's] Saying - ...UI will be sinful. We face a very large cause and some of your brothers are busy with a meaningless cause while your cause is eroding and they don't feel any measure of responsibility, the youths of...UI, the people of the country. They don't feel the importance of the responsibility. I say that it is our duty now to..., forget about the media...UI. Let's have a very concentrated campaign to provide awareness to these people, to recruit them and to mobilize them for our cause. If they don't mobilize, you want find any other people. This is my personal belief.

UM1: May God reward you well. But, we didn't answer the question yet.

Sh: We answered it.

UM1: Ok, can you tell us now about the level of coordination between you and the MAYA, MAS and the ICNA. I mean, do you have a certain [level of] coordination or...

UM2: I really have a comment about the presentation, if you excuse me, regarding the issue of the MAYA. The issue of Syria is...UI, then the issue of MAS and the issue of ISNA and then we separate...UI.

Sh: ...UI, God's willing.

UM1: Is there some sort of coordination now? I mean,...UI, but our people are there.

Sh: It is a seasonal relationship with the Association and it was truly a good relationship until the last minute and until the last years. Now, we started to talk with the brother, the new chairman, and there are indications that relations will return to normalcy. It is good to see the Palestinian cause a fundamental part of their program. There is no argument over that. The ISNA is a hopeless case, almost a hopeless case because, for them, the cause of Palestine is in the back memory, on the back alleys of the American...UI...

END OF RECORDING.