

Date/Time Recorded: 2/23/1994 at 22:26:00
(Calls starts at 00:24:40 and ends at 01:24:02)

Line ID #: (703) 536-8474

Participants:

Mu = Muin Shabib, a.k.a. Abou Mohamed
Is = Ismail Elbrasse, a.k.a. Aboul Hasan
Om = Omar Yehya, a.k.a. Abou Mohamed
Os = Osama Ahmad
Sh = Shukri Abou Baker, a.k.a Abou Mohamed
Ja = Jamil Hamami, a.k.a. Abou Hamzah
Ab = Abou Bilal (NFI)

Abbreviations:

<i>Italics</i>	Spoken in Foreign Languages
IA	Inaudible
UI	Unintelligible
PH	Phonetic
[]	Background Conversation / Noise/Translator's comments
SC	Simultaneous conversation
...	Unfinished sentences

**GOVERNMENT
EXHIBIT
Shabib Wiretap-2
3:04-CR-240-G
U.S. v. HLF, et al.**

Om: Er..., I have called for this meeting today...

[Call waiting beeps]

...so that we may discuss the issue of..., the issue of Sheik Jamil. Today, brother Shukri called me. I will start with a background. I mean, the issue of...

[Call waiting beeps].

..Sheik Jamil. I mean, when I first heard about it, we didn't..., we didn't take any measures because we thought, that's it, the crisis would go away and we don't want to occupy our time with problems like these. However, our brothers, I mean Haitham and Hasan and those who are working on the Sheik's case, they keep saying that there are a few problems in some areas, that they had previous agreements with towns where Sheik is going and they are going...

[Call waiting clicks].

....the following week or two after him. In some of the cases, a day before him or a week before him.

Om: Fine. At least, the reason behind that is that there are some problems with the towns which are presently on the list. This is the problem. First of all...er, if I remember..., I mean, I remember well that during the November meeting..., I believe brother Muin was not present. He had gone home then, there was an agreement that brother Aboul Hasan won't bring guests over from that time until the summer. I don't know, but I remember that..., that brother Ismail was present, brother Aboul Hasan, Ismail was present.

Is: I mean, it was agreed..., it was agreed, I mean, the agreement was that he would bring twice a year, I believe.

Om: Yes, yes.

Os: With all honesty, I'm the one who wrote down minutes of ..., what do you call it?...

Om: [SC] Yes.

Os: ...the minutes of the meeting itself that day. We put in writing that brother Aboul Hasan will not bring guests unless during the summer after coordinating with...er, with the *Holy Land Foundation* so that no conflict takes place. We mentioned by the letter of the word that, during Ramadan, [Loud noise] they should not bring guests because the *Holy Land Foundation* has a full program. This is what we put down in writing and that is what we agreed upon. Moreover, Aboul Hasan also agreed to it.

Mu: That he won't bring anyone during Ramadan.

Os: Oh yes.

Mu: Fine.

Os: And this was..., I mean, when a lot of tension..., I mean, when a lot of tension developed that he..., that he..., I mean, we limited the problem during the meeting then that we will close down Al Aqsa Fund. No, had we made a decision to close it down, Aboul Hasan would be upset [Heavy breathing] and Aboul Hasan would have ignored it and that kind of stuff. A great deal of tension developed at the meeting, I mean. So I told them all: "Look here my friends, let us just narrow down the points of disagreement and work them out". So, we found out that the main point of disagreement within the entire group was the issue of..., of guests. Shukri and Abou Ibrahim said that the issue of guests is the main problem. Omar, likewise. We asked them: "How do we resolve it?" Shukri said: "During Ramadan, we do not want anybody to come and compete with us in the field because we have our own full program". Aboul Hasan said: "I agree. I don't want Ramadan. I can run my own *mail campaign* and that's enough". We told him: "Ok, fine". We put it down in writing. We even wrote it down by word, I mean, I still have the minutes with me, that, "Should Aboul Hasan need to bring over guests, even during the summer, he must coordinate with the *Holy Land Foundation*, giving them an advance notice of minimum one month, a month in advance. He should tell them: I will bring guests and my program is such and such". We agreed on that and we went home. We said, "The problem has been solved and we were done with it, I mean".

Mu: Yes. [Clears his throat].

Om: Fine.

Os: I wanted Aboul Hasan to be with us because I mean...

Mu: [SC] Brother, brother Osama.

Os: Yes.

Mu: By the way, this is for information, I'm hearing about this for the first time.

Os: My brother, these words....[SC]

Mu: [SC] I wish..., I wish that when problems emerged the second time around...

Os: Uh-huh.

Mu: ...when the problem emerged the second time around, that you should have mentioned this discussion.

Os: My brother, this discussion...

Mu: ...because I have not...er, I didn't hear it even the second time around, Osama.

Os: My honorable brother, I'm not making up these things on my own. Here is Omar who was even present.

Mu: My brother, it is not that I'm doubting the words. May God forgive you.

Os: And Ismail..., Ismail Elbrasse was present and we put it in writing. I remember that I was the only one [Heavy breathing], I mean, there was tension that day and I, along with Ismail, Aboul Hasan, were the ones acting..., I mean, a neutral party, so to speak [Heavy breathing]. Our brother Abou Ibrahim and Shukri were pulling to one side, Omar to another side, and our brother Aboul Hasan on one side. [Heavy breathing] They were saying, "This no way of doing business and stuff". So, we told them, I remember very well, - I mean, I remember it like I know I'm awake right now - that we told them: "What is the main point of disagreement? Let's isolate it and solve it. Let's not say that we will reach this or that decision right now". I even remember that Aboul Hasan stood up...

Mu: Hm

Os:and said, "Even if you decide to dissolve the Fund I would still ignore it".

Mu: This is the second time in..., in New Jersey?

Os: Yes, this was at the meeting that you did not attend.

Mu: How come?

Is: When you had left early.

Mu: Oh yes, when I left early.

Os: Yes. So he said: "Even if you take a decision, I mean, I will ignore it". We told him: "Well, at this time, we are not on the subject of whether or not you ignore us or not. Right now, the main point of disagreement is the issue of the guests". So he said: "Ok, fine. I'll abide by it. Let's put it in writing." We told him: "Look, our honorable brother..." - and here is Aboul Hasan, he can remind us, Ismail..., our brother Ismail can...[SC]

Is: [SC] I remember that we agreed about twice. The issue of coordination, this one..., I will make sure. But, I mean, I'm not..., I mean, the issue of Ramadan, I am certain about it. However, I mean, what remains firmly in my mind is that...[SC]

Os: [SC] We said twice...

Is: ...that he would bring twice a year.

Os: Exactly. We told him..., we told him, "Bring guests over twice a year in coordination with the *HLF*".

Is: Yes, yes.

Os: "...but not during Ramadan".

Is: Yes.

Os: We asked him:"Aboul Hasan, Is that Ok?" He said:"Excellent" We said : "That's it then".

Mu: You're now talking about the November issue which was over a year ago.

Is: [SC] No, Man.

Os: [SC] Man, this took place two months ago.

Is: Four or five months ago.

Mu: Yes, yes...., but, my brother, so that I can comprehend this; this was in July, in New Jersey.

Os: November of ninety-three

Mu: Yes, ninety-three.

Os: Three months ago.

Mu: Was the issue of "Ramadan" put in writing then?

Om: [SC] Yes, yes.

Os: [SC] Yes. I mean we didn't even leave...er. I mean, the main point of disagreement...er, I wrote it down in my own handwriting, I mean, and the minutes of the meeting are still with me. We agreed on it and I don't know if you forgot about it, here is our brother Ismail Elbrasse present. He was conducting the meeting. I was...er, I mean, he and I were, as I said before, we were the middle party. That day, we wrote that - except during Ramadan - Aboul Hasan may bring over guests twice a year in coordination with *HLF* and he would give them a notice a month or a month-and-a-half before so that they do not bring over guests.

Mu: And our brother agreed to this and was...

- Os: He agreed and said, "I don't have a problem with this". We even included..., included some general policies: that the Al Aqsa Fund's business would be limited to matters such as collecting books, you see what I am saying?, and contacting universities, contacting doctors, you see, all of these things were clear. He said that he would be working on the *mailing list*. I mean, that he would launch a *mail campaign* and that kind of stuff. So we told him: "That's Ok". [Heavy breathing] So, this is what we all agreed upon.
- Mu: Fine, but why then did Aboul Hasan got mad and upset and left. What is..., I mean, what is the point that...er, that troubled him? [SC]
- Os: [SC] Who said he left? He did not leave. Do you mean at that meeting in November?
- Mu: Yes. I mean, the issue ended with this agreement?
- Is: He got angry; He got angry, so what?
- Os: [SC] He got angry...
- Mu: [SC] No, no, I want...er, just to be sure, I mean. The term "Ramadan" was put in writing at the November as well? Ok, fine.
- Os: Aboul Hasan did not leave..., Abdel Halim, until after we all left that meeting. Everybody got angry that day.
- Mu: [SC] [Laughs] Ok, fine.
- Os: They were saying that..., one party was saying.... [heavy breathing], they put on the table the issue of closing Al Aqsa Fund, you see?, that, "We want to conduct a *voting*", I remember it very clearly now. They said..., Omar Yehya said:"I want to put on the table a suggestion to close down Al Aqsa Fund. Would anyone be willing to *second*?". I believe Shukri, at that time, said "I'll *second*". At this point, Aboul Hasan jumped up and said, "Even if you voted to do it, we will not close it down because you do not have the authority to close it down", you see? So, things got heated up very much.
- Mu: It will be good, God willing.
- Os: I was present. I told them, "Our brothers, this is not how to solve it. Let's see what are the points of disagreements and resolve them". A lengthy discussion followed. He said, "The main point of disagreement is the guests".
- Mu: It will be good, God willing.

Os: He kept saying, "I...". We told them, "If the main point of disagreements is guests, we will resolve it right now. We suggest that Aboul Hasan should not bring guests over during the month of Ramadan and leave that opportunity to the Fund because its capacity for collection is broader. He can bring guests over twice a year in coordination with the *Holy Land Foundation*. He is to give them a one-month advance notice. One month in advance he should tell them: I need to bring over the guests in June or even". They even told him..., I even remember that it was Shukri who said that time, he said: "We don't mind that you bring guests, in the first place. Let him bring over as many guests as he wants, as long as he gives us an advance notice so that there is no conflict. Agreed, Aboul Hasan?" He said: "I agree". We put it down in writing. They kissed each other, the group made up and left, thanks be to God [Laughter]. It was an Arab-style reconciliation like they say.

[Silence].

Os: [SC] This was the main point of disagreement and I even remember we had a discussion with him. We asked him: "What kind of work do you want to do, Aboul Hasan?". He said: "I have an ambitious program and we want to work with university doctors, fellowship between universities and collect books, and so on". We told him, "That's excellent and this is what we want. We are ready to support you on that aspect. However, the main point of disagreement between us and you is the issue of guests because you would be bringing them to the same public, the same places and the same centers where the Fund would be bringing its guests. Therefore, people would start wondering and get confused. We are asking is to have coordination so that when you bring over a guest, the Fund doesn't, the *Holy Land Foundation*. And, if they bring, you don't".

Mu: Yes.

Os: Shukri and Abou Ibrahim said, "But, we want Ramadan" [SC].

Mu: [SC] [Talking off the phone] [UI].

Os: "Ramadan is our big opportunity. We have big obligation and that's the problem". So, Aboul Hasan said, "Ramadan is not a problem for us. I want to bring people twice a year". We told him: "It is not a problem to bring guests over in summer, or in November and things will be in order. You just inform us".

Mu: [Continues to talk off the phone] [UI].

Os: We agreed and we wrote down the decision to coordinate with the *Holy Land Foundation*. He said: "I am even willing to contact you two months in advance even before I bring anybody". And we left. *Everybody was happy*.

Os: [SC] Here is Shukri on the other line but I don't know how to put him on, Omar.

Is As long as..., as long you're the one who called him, he will..., what you call it, right away.

Os: Hello, Shukri.

Sh: Hello.

Is: There he is, fine. There he is.[SC]

Sh: Peace be upon you.

Is: [SC] We've been waiting for you. Peace be upon you.

Sh: Where are you guys? I've been trying to reach you for twenty minutes. You phone is not....

Om: What twenty minutes, man? I called you at 7:16.

Os: Stop, stop, this.

Is: Happy Ramadan.

Om: Ok, Ok, Ok.

Mu: [Heavy breathing]

Is: It will be good.

Mu: Greetings, Abou Mohamed.

Sh: May God greet you.

Os: I have Ismail, Omar and Muin on the line.

Sh: Welcome all?

Is: How are you doing, Abou Mohamed?

Om: It means that..., it means that we have all the brothers whom we can reach except brother Abdel Halim.

Sh: Hm.

Om: He is not with us. Anyway, I spoke with Sheik Jamil today.

Mu: [Heavy breathing].

Sh: Yes.[SC]

Is: [SC] Yes.

Om: And I told Sheik Jamil the following: [Heavy breathing] "You are not a party to this problem. We don't want to upset you in any way, nor do we want to cause a problem with you"....

Sh: Yes.

Om: ...and that, "You are above the level of our internal disagreements here"...

Sh: Yes.

Om: ... and that, "No matter what happens, we don't want you to be subjected to any kind of offense or harm by anybody"...

Sh: Hm.

Om: ..."Whether by us, by the branches or in the towns. We pray to God that you raise the goodness that you came for and that you then go back home, [Heavy breathing], whether through the Foundation or through any means you deem suitable".

Sh: Yes.

Om: I told him that. told him:"If you could, from your end...", I mean, that..., that... I told him, "At least..., from your end, if you try to reconcile and try to speak with Aboul Hasan hoping that he, at least, agrees to meet with us, I mean, talk to us, it would be great". So, he mentioned that he was not aware that there is such a big problem, otherwise, he could have thought of a different project, I mean. I told him: "It is Ok. It is over. You are already here with us now".

Sh: Hm.

Om: So he..., he wanted to speak with Aboul Hasan. So, he called me fifteen minutes ago or half an hour ago and told me that he didn't find Aboul Hasan. He wanted to speak to you, Shukri, and he couldn't find you.

Sh: Hm.

Om: So, my opinion is that..., I mean, in order to fix the issue, is that..., I mean, first of all, we are one committee. Therefore, I believe that we should find a solution now which takes into consideration the general interest. I mean, one that does not take into consideration the narrow interest. What is the more important thing so that we can do it. I mean, what is the best thing for us to do and we take action accordingly. Er..., of course, we need to take into account that we do not want to...er, I mean, we don't want to be unfair to any party, I mean.

Sh: Yes.

Om: So, before you joined us, brother Abou Mohamed, brother Osama reminded us that..., that we all met in November. He had written down as part of the meeting minutes that Aboul Hasan should not bring over any guests during the month of Ramadan. And brother Aboul Hasan, Ismail, [Background noise] - in order to be precise - said that he also remembers this point....

Sh: Yes.

Om: ...and that he was present at this meeting. I believe I also remember and I believe that you, brother Shukri, remember it as well.

Sh: Yes.

Om: Therefore, four of the attendees who are present now remember that. Aboul Hasan, however, says that he does not admit that. I mean, he might remember something different.

Sh: Hm.

Om: So, I don't know if we ought to put it to discussion or does anyone has suggestion what to do. What should we say, how do we proceed from here. [Heavy breathing]. The floor is open. Aboul Hassan, you were talking.

Is: Me, me?

Om: Go ahead, please.

Is: Yes, my brother. I mean, what are the situations we have or the possibilities that are in front of us? They are: by God, that we not in agreement over the program Abdel Halim made.

Om: Yes.

Is: This is number one, for instance. Are we all, or aren't we in agreement with this? The second point is that, by God, are we going to tell Sheik Jamil: " May God make it easy for you. Good-bye, man", or not? We should discuss this point. This is two.

Om: Yes.

Is: The third point is that, by God, we proceed with program he came for. The fourth one is that, by God, his program could be modified. If there are any other choices, these are the ones I have in mind.

Os: There's one more solution that I suggested.

Sh: [SC] But I want to ask a question before you say the solution.

Is: Yes.

Os: Is Sheik Jamil coming here on the premise of raising funds for the Al Aqsa Fund or, as I have heard according to information I was made aware of, to collect for himself, the Society of Sciences? Muin, do you know?

Mu: Of course not. He is coming in the name of the Fund, the Al Aqsa Fund.

Sh: Yes.

Mu: Of course, it is very possible that he takes the lion's share with him. However, he is coming in the name of the Fund.

Om: By God, what we understood, at least from...er, from brother Abou Amer and brother..., Sheik Jamil was at his end, Abou Hamzah, that all the collection is for him, not for the Fund.

Mu: No. I really doubt that this is the case. However, it is possible that they have this arrangement between them, my brother.

Om: Hm.

Mu: This is my opinion through what I see. I doubt that he would take the entire amount or that he is coming here to take everything.

Os: The issue is that he is coming to collect for himself, meaning for the Society of Sciences and Culture [heavy breathing]...[UI]. So, I believe there is a solution. I mean, if he is coming to collect for himself and this problem occurs, I suggest that, in order to solve this problem and in order to establish a principle of future cooperation, so that Sheik Jamil can go home, that all the money that are collected are to be collected and handed over to the committee, our committee, you see what I mean? And we would then, God willing, dispose of it...er, I mean, according to the common interest. Give it to Al Aqsa Fund, to the *Holy Land Foundation*, or send it to Palestine, you see and his solicitation will be in the name of Palestine and that's it.

Om: However, this presents a difficulty. I mean, if the mosque asked him, "To whom should we make the check to?", for instance.

Os: Then..., now, we're agreeing on this specific detail; to whom the check will be written, the money that is going to be collected, to whom is it going to go...

[Call waiting beeps].

Om: By God, I had another suggestion. I will tell you my suggestion: I honestly suggest that we proceed with Sheik's Jamil's program as is.... [Call waiting beeps], keeping all towns the brothers have arranged, meaning, the ones brother Aboul Hasan and Muin have arranged....

Sh: Yes.

[Line clicks].

Om: ...while just changing the name to the Foundation's name. And we would give the amount of money he raised to Sheik Jamil.

Sh: Which Foundation?

Om: The Holy Land Foundation.

Os: *The Holy Land Foundation?*

Om: Yes. And transfer..., I mean, we say that the name under which collection is taking place and to which the checks are written to them and this amount of money is to be handed over to Sheik Jamil.

Os: The total amount?

Om: The total amount would go to his organization.

Os: To the Society of Sciences and Islamic Culture.

Om: [SC] To the Society Science, meaning that the Foundation pledges and transfers the amount to him.

Os: I really don't about that.

[Heavy breathing].

Sh: By God, my brother, [Clears his throat] I really don't understand why should this matter be so...er, I mean, I don't see it complex. At the same time, I mean, I think that any decision we reach would upset some people. In reality, before the Sheik's arrival, brother Abou Mohamed, Muin, had called me and I told him that the situation is such and such. Brother Abou Mohamed told me that he was not aware that Sheik Jamil was coming for the Fund. Er..., and we told him: "My brother, do you remember that we agreed on this and that?". He said: "Yes, I do". So...er, I checked with all the brothers and found out that there was an agreement and my opinion is that..., I mean, the issue has no room for bargaining. Right now, the problem is as follows; we are all damaging our reputation with our bases because people are complaining. This is because the Al Aqsa Fund has interfered in our line of work and I consider it an illegal interference, it is not agreed upon, it was done without coordination. He is communicating with our own *network*, the same one exactly, the same people, the same men, without trying to innovate in any other field except our exactly. He is even....., he is using the same identical points of contact, exactly the same as ours, something which disturbed many. We find out that the same brothers are..., I mean, are complying without..., without being convinced and this thing is....er, I mean, is scary. Er..., Sheik Jamil:, we brought him to the American scene, we introduced him to the public, the Fund has investment large sums of money in to make this Sheik become well known. There is a mutual cooperation agreement signed in Sheik Jamil's and between us and them, that the Foundation, the Holy Land Foundation, represents the Society and oversees its interests in America. This document is available and Sheik Abou Hamzah signed it. Therefore, my opinion is that Sheik Jamil, in his visit to America, should proceed along with the Foundation

Mu: Before I forget, By the way it was the Sheik calling on the other line.

Om: Yes.

Mu: He is looking for Shukri. It's very important. I told him: "He'll call you in half hour".

Sh: But I cannot, my brother, until after we reach our decision. We would then talk about the committee's decision. I will not negotiate with Sheik Jamil on my own.

Os: [SC] Fine.

Om: [SC] No, no. This should be the last time. I am saying this[SC]

Mu: [SC] Go ahead, my brother.

Om: ... *should be the last time*. And we must adopt a policy as to the guests coming from abroad; which method they will collect, to whom the money will go and what is..., what is the role of his organization before he comes. That Sheik would be told that, I mean. I mean, it doesn't work that someone who is building a mosque comes and collects 200,000 and goes back home while we have other obligations. Where are you going to pay them then? Because whoever pays \$100, it is a \$100. Where is he going to get you more money from?

Is: Yes.

Om: That's true. I'm with you. But I meant for this one time only to be an *exception*, as they say. That's my opinion.

Om: [SC] I believe that what you're saying is correct. However, we have to..., I mean..., we must also differentiate between two issues; I mean we, as a committee, must establish the principles that you just talked about or else leave matters without any control and everyone would do what he wants to.

Om: I..., I am willing to modify my suggestion and suggest the following: that the prog..., that we inform Sheik Jamil that the committee met and decided that Sheik Jamil will comply..., that we shall ask him to, no need to give him orders, we have no authority to give him orders, we ask him to please go along with the committee's decision that says the following: the Sheik's..., Sheik Jamil's program is to proceed as is, but under the name of the *Holy Land Foundation Fund*. And that the one which will oversee the program is the *Holy Land Foundation* and that the funds that will be collected, we should leave..., I mean, we leave the agreement concerning the funds to be between him and the *Holy Land Foundation*. This is my suggestion.

Is: And brother Abdel Halim is to be informed of the suggestion.

Om: And yes. Of course, I am ready to have Osama put this decision in writing and send it over to...[SC].

Is: [SC] I mean, we inform him of what has been agreed on. Whatever is agreed on must be conveyed to him.

Om: [SC] Yes, we will convey it to him tonight, I mean.

Is: As a rule, I mean.

[Line clicking].

Om: So, this is I suggest. Who votes, "Yeah".

Os: Repeat it, by God, repeat it again.

Om: It says the following... Are you writing?

Os: No, I am not writing. I want to listen to it first and then I will write it down.

Om: Ok, fine. That..., that..., the decision is..., the decision is that we ask Sheik Jamil to comply with the program with the *Holy Land*...

[Call waiting beeps].

Om: ...with the same program with *The Holy Land Foundation*. And the funds which will be raised is to be disbursed according to an agreement between him and the *Holy Land Foundation*. [Heavy breathing].

[Call waiting beeps].

Sh: ...[UI]

Om: ...[UI]. And we will inform brother Aboul Hasan of this decision. Such is my suggestion. We need to put it to vote now.

Os: I am in agreement.

Om: Shukri?

[Silence].

Om: Brother Shukri.

Sh: Yes, yes.

Om: Aboul Hasan.

Is: Repeat it again, by God, my brother.

Om: [Sighs].

Is: It's all right, I mean...

Is: Yes. I am in agreement.

Om: Consenting? Muin?

Mu: I am not in agreement with this opinion because I am convinced that it will result in more damages than benefits...

Om: [SC] Are you..., are you going to comply with our decision?

Mu: Of..., of course I will because it is a committee and I respect my brothers' opinions, one hundred percent. Of course, I will comply with my brothers' decision. Nevertheless, I am against it.

Om: [SC] Ok, good, excellent. I mean, we are..., I mean, we are for that an individual dissents. However, he should at least abide by the group's decision, I mean, I mean, you have the right, I mean. I'm not...er. Don't you think that we will be upset or something like that, I mean...

Om: [SC] This is..., listen, I have something else; the youths..., the youths of the committee..., as a committee I believe that Sheik Jamil is *out of it*. I mean, he has no issue and that brother Aboul Hasan is the one responsible.

Os: Ok. The committee shall contact Sheik Jamil and he will be informed that the committee's decision is that he is to proceed with the same program which was previously arranged for him, but through the *HLF* [Heavy breathing]. The disbursement of Funds is to be agreed on with the *HLF*.

[Heavy breathing].

Om: Yes, excellent. Ok, could you send this to us via *fax*?

Os: Send it to you via *fax*?

Om: Yes, in writing, and I will send it in writing to Aboul Hasan and I will call him.