

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
017-0001
3:04-CR-240-G
U.S. v. HLF, et al.

Mu: Yes.

Is: Peace be upon you.

Mu: God's peace, mercy and blessings. How are you doing, sir?

Is: How are you doing, dear Sheik?

Mu: How are you doing?

Is: How are you feeling?

Mu: May God bless you.

Is: May God greet you. Just a moment, Omar is on the other line.

Mu: [SC] Listen! [Sighs] Is Omar with you?

Is: Yes.

Mu: [Sighs] We all are moving furniture here. I have ten people. I don't know but, is Omar listening or not yet?

Is: Not yet. I still didn't connect him. I mean, he's waiting for me to get back to him on the other line.

Mu: Ok, fine. Just let me...Ok, fine I'll talk to you guys now. However, I have people here and they will finish within an hour.

[Line noise].

Is: Hello.

Om: Yes, yes.

Mu: Peace be upon you.

Om: Peace be upon you and God's mercy.

Mu: How are you doing, Abou Mohamed?

Om: May God bless you, my Sir.

Mu: [SC] Abou Mohamed.

Om: Yes, my brother.

Mu: I have here seven or eight people who are carrying the furniture downstairs and it's quite a mess.

Om: [SC] Yes.

Mu: [SC] So, I don't know. What do you think?

Om: [SC] Yes. No, we won't be long honestly.

Mu: It's fine by me. It doesn't make a difference. However, but I don't want.... If it is a quick one.... It is not right for me to watch while the youths are bringing down stuff.

Om: No, Sheik...[UI].

Os: Yes.

[UI]

Mu: Who's with us? Peace be upon you.

Os: Peace be upon you.

Mu: How are you, sir?

Os: May God Greet you.

Mu: How are you all doing?

Os: Thanks be to God.

Mu: Best wishes for Ramadan and many happy returns to you.

Os: Same to you Sheik Muin, Osama here.

Mu: How are you, sir?

Os: May God Greet you.

Mu: May God Greet you all.

Os: Omar.

Om: Yes, I'm with you.

Os: Ismail.

Is: Yes, my brother.

Os: Welcome Aboul Hasan

Is: May God greet you and give you strength.

Os: Yes, by God, speak.

Is: Ok. Thank be to God and prayer and peace be upon God's prophet.. Apparently, brother Shukri advised he would be back at nine thirty, which means that he'll be back in about fifteen minutes or ten minutes. Therefore, let's begin, God willing, and he will join us later.

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.

Mu: Are there examples just for information, brother Abou Mohamed?

Om: Yes, there are, yes.

Mu: Such as?

Om: By God, they don't come to mind but they mentioned the towns to me. I mean, I don't exactly know which are the towns where there is a...er, that they are planning to visit. There are towns where they told them: "Fine. Since Sheik Jamil is already visiting, we will organize a program for you and you may come over". I mean..., I mean..., I believe Milwaukee, for example, is one of them. Er...[SC]

Mu: [SC] Milwaukee! I am personally involved with Milwaukee. In Milwaukee specifically, the program will not proceed, in the first place.

[Call Waiting beeps].

Om: Whose program?

Mu: The program in Milwaukee.

Om: Yes.

Mu: Aboul Hasan asked me to check with them.

Om: Yes.

Mu: Abdel Halim asked me to check with the people in Milwaukee.

Om: Yes.

[Call waiting beeps].

Mu: I preferred not to because I understand that Milwaukee, to start with, is squeezed enough as it is. Not only by *Holy Land* but also in general. So I spoke to Abou Saber. He told me: "We will see and stuff", even though if I had asked him to allow it to proceed, he would have agreed. But, this..., I mean, Milwaukee in general will not proceed. Fine, God willing. I mean, this to be just for your information, brother Omar, because I am usually very careful in avoiding any kind of *conflict*. However, this is only a side issue brought up for the sake of clarity.

Om: Fine. There is Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Mu: [Sighs] Tulsa?

Om: ...is an example, yes.

Mu: Tulsa, my honorable brother... Of course, Abdel Halim spoke with...

[Call waiting clicks].

....what's-his-name, our brother, Al Sadoun....

Om: Yes.

Mu: ...in order to go to them this Friday.

Om: Yes.

Mu: And....er, and due to a technical reason, he won't be able to go because he cannot go..., I mean, leave from this city and go to that other city. therefore, he doesn't want to go to..., go to Tulsa.

Os: In any case, my friend, I....er, I...[SC].

Mu: [SC] No, no. This is just a side issue. This is just for the purpose of clarity, brother Osama.

Om: So, I mean to say that there are problems. That means...[SC]

Os: [SC] Let us not get into these details because if we get started, we will never finish.

Om: Yes.

Os: I mean, it would be better to move to the main issue at hand.

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].

Mu: By God, this is a very good. By God, this is the first time I ever hear about it.

Is: This is what took place. I was present at the meeting and I remember it, I mean, I remember it very well, this was the meeting minutes. [SC]

Mu: [SC] It will be good, God willing. May God reward you good. Yes.

Os: And you may even ask our brother here...

Mu: No, my brother. You..., you know what Osama?

Os: Hm?

Mu: ...if we reach the level of starting to question, I mean, it means that I don't believe, it means....

Os: [SC] No Man, not like that.

Mu: Meaning, good-bye to all of us, Sheik.

Os: No, no, not like that. [SC]

Mu: [SC] May God honor you. I am only asking...[SC].

Os: [SC] it is not the issue of believe or not...

Mu:because I asked Aboul Hasan. I asked him, "Aboul Hasan, the term 'Ramadan'" He said: "None of that and it has no basis".

Os: [SC] No, my brother. This was...

Mu: By God, my brother, this is why I'm asking and....[SC].

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*.

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

[Clicks and other background noise].

Os: Just a second. I have another line. Let me see who is it.

[Clicks].

Is: Yes, my friend.

Om: Go ahead, Aboul Hasan. Do you have anything?

Is: No. I...er, I mean, I believe all these points were crystal clear to Aboul Hasan. I mean, things were straightened out. There was nothing like that, Sheik Muin. It is possible that he is upset, he does not agree to all that was said, it is possible, I mean. However, this conversation was said during that meeting.

Mu: It will be good, God willing.

Os: Hello

Om/Is: Yes.

Os: No. That wasn't him.

Om: Call him, Osama. See if he is available.

Os: Er..., I worried that I will be disconnected from you.

Om: No, no. Do it..., just dial as if you would be dialing. The same way

Os: Ok, fine. Hold on with me a little bit.

[Clicks].

Is: Ok, now...er, Aboul Hasan is not with us on the line, Omar, isn't Aboul Hasan with us?

Om: Aboul Hasan declined, my brother.

Is: Hm.

Om: I told him..., I spoke with him today. Of course, I..., I mean, he told me, "You....", I mean, he was like, "Why are you calling me?". I told him, "We need to try to resolve the problem". He said "There is absolutely no problem". I told him: "No, there was an agreement and this and that was agreed upon in November". He said: "Absolutely not". He said, "I was just supposed to coordinate with the Fund and I did coordinate and the Sheik is present". So, I told him: "Fine, but at least try and be present at the meeting and present your point of view, I mean". So he said that he didn't find it beneficial and..., I mean, he told me he wanted resolutions or... He said he wanted to get the...er, ...er, not the resolutions, for instance, what are the suggestions.

Os: Hello

Sh: Hello

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.

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

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

Is: Yes.

Sh: 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.
- Sh: 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. As for Aboul Hasan...er, we are ready to proceed with all the cities in which he made arrangements. Er..., in exchange...er, they took large cities, he guaranteed large cities. Er..., what I fear is that he collects in all the festival..., this conference, what do you call it, that we raise a sum of money during all of Ramadan and all of it goes to Sheik Jamil, to one specific society.

Mu: [Sighs] My brothers, please allow me a quick moment, just a moment, please. I

Sh: Yes.

Mu: I just have the youths at my end because we are carrying down the furniture. I will let have them bring to the room and I'll be back to you. Can you hold for a moment?

Om: Fine. What do you mean?

Sh: I mean, the fear is, my brother, Abou Mohamed...[SC].

Om: Ah, that Sheik Jamil collects a large sum of money, you mean?

Sh: I mean, that this would set a precedent. Everybody could come here from the homeland to solicit for himself and..., and....[SC]

Mu: Hello, hello.

Sh: ...the Foundation would be hit with lack of business and solicits for his organization. We will end up with lines. I mean, we tried it once before and we ended up with a problem. Everyone who has an organization was calling us and, "We want to come to your end. We want you to do a program for us. I want to raise money for our organization". Thus, the Foundation would turn into an agency and a mere station through which people come here, raise money and go back home [Background talk]. Er..., we do have some obligations, Sheik Jamil is aware of them; ethical, moral and Islamic obligations toward the families of the martyrs, the prisoners and others and I don't see any occasion other than Ramadan when we can raise money because of the atmosphere of faith and the because the general atmosphere allows that. So, the issue at hand is nothing other than wasting opportunities. I mean,, instead of going to Chicago and speak of education, and raise 10,000, people's empathy toward education being very limited, we could

raise \$30,000 if people had empathy for a tragic and a humanitarian that is broader than that. So, what I say is that we could come up with a *formula* with Sheik Jamil [Heavy breathing] that..., I mean, the Foundation would support him as it has done every year. Not a single year has passed without supporting him. And neither did they make a single...er, genuine and reasonable request that we haven't approve Last year's statistics say that the Sheik raised \$30,000, Sheik Jamil, while he went home with..., I mean, by the end of last year, over \$60,000 were sent to him. This is only for his visit. \$65,000 for merely one visit. This is in addition to other amounts that went to special causes such as the orphans etc. [Heavy breathing] Hence, my brothers, the issue at hand is not being against Aboul Hasan or Al Quds Fund. We said that Al Quds Fund, our brothers,...

Om: [SC] Al Aqsa, Al Aqsa.

Sh: ... Al Aqsa Fund will bring a guest over in June. I remember the meeting minutes said the month of June and that Ramadan should be kept for the Fund because it is a very good opportunity to fulfill our obligations..., our moral obligations with people. So, the situation therefore is as follows; either Sheik Jamil goes along with us, continues the same itinerary in the same cities and to promise not to open any other cities since all the other cities are booked for other guests and then we would tell him, "My man, here you go. Here is your money. I mean, just allow us to take 20 or 30% of it...[SC].

Mu: [Talks off the phone] Yes.

Sh: [SC]"...we also want to...er, spend them on other causes". [SC]

Mu: [Talks off the phone] Come here, come.

Sh: "...we have administrative and other expenses".

Mu: [Talks off the phone] [UI].

Sh: In my view, there can't be any bargaining on this issue. I mean, the other option which is that the program remains as is with Aboul Hasan, I honestly do not agree to it. I mean, I don't believe that we ought to bargain between the Holy Land Foundation and Al Quds...er, Al Aqsa Fund Organization. This is not permissible by any means to treat them as two competing organizations, equal in size and in the financial obligations. I don't think that this is..., I mean, fair. And we are *flexible*, I mean...[SC].

Om: [SC] It will be good.

Sh: I mean, if there is..., if our brothers have...[heavy breathing], I mean a...er,

anything that would bring us to what maintains the Foundation's dignity and its financial obligations, we would have no objection...

Os: Where is Sheik Jamil now?

Om: Sheik Jamil is in New York.

Os: Staying with whom?

Om: By God, I don't know. However, Abou..., brother Muin would know.

Mu: I would like to make a comment but first, allow me to wish brother Shukri many happy returns.

Sh: Likewise, my dear one. May God bless you.

Mu: How is your health my friend? I honestly have a short remark..., I mean, before we discuss the problem in general. [Sighs] I wish that when we speak of a problem, first of all, that we speak as one team which seeks to reach a goal. We are not entities, each one trying to defend its point of view on behalf of..., I mean, a different or a separate entity. What I would like to say is that, I personally up to this point and in the future, do not consider myself as a party to any of the two sides. Rather, I endeavor to be an element of reconciliation as much as I can to the common interest. However, I say, brother Shukri, that I always notice that when we speak about any organization out of the organizations, or any executed effort, or any result we have achieved, we shouldn't deal with as a result that was achieved by a certain group of individuals. This is the cumulative result of efforts, blood and, I mean, resources that took place....[SC].

Sh: [SC]....[UI].

Mu: ...all of which added up until this result was achieved. So, the issue of this Fund or this organization is a product of cumulative efforts, my brother. That is what...[Breathes heavily] My brother, can I have a moment, a short moment. [Talks off the phone] Stay....[UI]. My brother, you can get the...[UI] from the room. Keep it, keep it. No, keep it, keep it. [To the group] Just a moment. [Background talk].

Sh: Hello.

Om: Yes, I'm with you.

Sh: All of this is theoretical talk. So, let's come up with a solution.

Mu: Hello.

Om: Yes.

Mu: You see, by God, I really can't focus, not even on a single sentence, not on a single sentence.

Om: Abou Mohamed.

Mu: My brother.... [SC]

Om: [SC] What is your suggestion?

Mu: My practical solution....[SC]

Om: [SC] Yes.

Mu: ...because there is no need. But, I just want to... My suggestion is that the problem be eliminated from the roots because this issues worries me.

Om: [SC] So what is it?

Mu: [SC] What I suggest is as follows:

Om: Yes.

Mu: I suggest the following: the issue of establishing a *network* and stuff, by the way, if I or somebody wanted to establish a *network* in America, he can do it. But, this is wouldn't be in anybody's interest. It is really important for us to have one kind of work that includes all. What I now suggest is that, on the occasion of the Sheik's arrival, I mean, the Sheik holds a special status with all and I would have liked him not to be involved as a party to this problem. The Sheik has the ability to be at least listened to by all the parties. We should submit to him your point of view. I have relayed it to him - God knows - honestly. He is the one who called me now and told me, "You call me", Abou Hamzah said that and stuff. He said, "I'm ready to go tonight to Dallas tonight to meet with Shukri and be done with the issue". The Sheik, I relayed to him brother Shukri's point of view being the Fund's representative. I relayed to him Aboul Hasan's point of view being a representative of the other Fund. I suggested to him a solution of reconciliation. I don't want for any state of confrontation to occur. I would tell Aboul Hasan: "Go and may God make your matters easy". It is easy for us now to agree and say, "My friend, that's it, we don't care about all of your work and all that has taken place we will redirect to us as a Fund that is present". There is a

possibility that it develops in such a manner. However, this would turn into an alienation between us. I don't support this idea. Let's make a final attempt to introduce a third party in this matter for the purpose of conciliation, as much as possible. If it didn't work...

[Call waiting beeps].

...the last resort is using a sharp knife to solve the problem, we would tell him, "My man, you don't want to go along, that means: Fine, may God make it easy for you, you work on your own and do whatever you want and we remain a committee representing all.

[Call waiting beeps].

That's why my practical suggestion is that Sheik Jamil gets involved in the issue as a good mediator because he is in the picture. I made a practical suggestion to him to..., to write a documented something similar to what brother Osama was saying about the issue of Ramadan or whatever... God knows [Line clicking] that I was not aware that it existed in writing that he couldn't come during the month of Ramadan. By God, I was not made aware of that. Is it possible that when I spoke with brother Shukri... Brother Shukri, did you tell me his sentence or not?

Sh: I told you so. I told you that an agreement was reached.

Mu: [SC] By God, my brother, this sentence in particular...[SC].

Sh: [SC] You are surprised as to why Aboul Hasan did not consult you.

Mu: Consult me on what?

Sh: On Sheik Jamil's issue.

Mu: By God, my brother, he didn't consult with me.

Sh: Yes. So, I mean, my brother, I told you such and such, and that there was an agreement between us. There is something documented and a written and such...

Mu: [Talks off the phone] [UI].

Sh: ...about the issue of Ramadan in particular because we have been doing the same thing for three years. I mean, we are no novices in the trade; that Ramadan was to be kept for us and this is something we had agreed upon. It's not like...

Mu: [SC] Despite of that, I mean...[SC].

Sh: [SC] Go ahead, I mean, we will listen to the suggestion.

Mu: [SC] Yes, the suggestion that I am talking about...

Om: [SC] That you get Sheik Jamil as a mediator.

Mu: My opinion is that Sheik Jamil should get involved so that we put down in writing whatever we agree upon, something documented in front of witnesses. Of course, the suggestion I made...

Om: Yes

Mu: ...the suggestion I mad is that Al Aqsa Fund should not be eliminated, it should not be eliminated....

Om: We do not want to discuss this subject now.

Mu: I am talking what suggestion that should take place.

Om: I mean to say, you don't need to discuss the subject of the Al Aqsa Fund, I mean. We ought to focus on Sheik Jamil's program right now. That's all.

Os: I mean, will there be another meeting, Sheik, to discuss this...

Om: [SC] There will be. That one will be *later on*. We will talk about this subject.

Mu: Yes, you mean you don't want to... If you want to discuss the comprehensive issue, that's fine. If you want to talk about...[SC].

Os: [SC] There will be a meeting in March, after the Eid, God willing, to discuss these details. [Line clicking] We are now in the midst of this problem here.

Mu: My opinion....

Os; The problem, my honorable friend, is that the agreement took place....

Mu: Osama, my opinion is that the presence of the Sheik....[SC].

Os: [SC] In one word, what I worry about is that..., last year a Sheik from Jericho came over to us. What is his name?

Mu: Sheik Harb.

Os: Sheik Harb came here and raised, I don't know how much, like 100,000. Before

this...er. For your information only, we at the Association [IA] [Heavy breathing], I mean, we at the Association [IAP], our account balance today is zero. We have a letter out to be circulated for the purpose of raising contributions and we don't have money for stamps.[heavy breathing] We could have easily done the same business that Aboul Hasan does or that Shukri does; bring a couple guests, we take them around the various branches under the Association's [IAP] name and raise \$100,000 and may God take care of it. Do you see what I mean? It would all turn out into a big mess.

Mu: [Sighs].

Os: I mean, people are going to say, "You're collecting for the Association [IAP] and the Fund or not? At the same time, the same day and the same month". I'm....er, I mean, wrote down the entire thing and the agreement [Line clicking] was made. It's not a problem for Al Aqsa Fund to exist. What is important is that there should be coordination between us in order to avoid conflict. I mean, the same day I'm supposed to bring Al Quds Fund, bring the Association [IAP] and bring the...er, the *Holy Land Foundation*. That's impossible, I mean. People will complain. They will say "Your are all one party".

Mu: True, true, by God, my brother.

Os: People don't make a distinction until now. By God, we still receive checks [Heavy breathing] with the writing "Zakat - *Holy Land Foundation*". They do not make a distinction.

Mu: My bother Osama, my suggestion... [Line clicking] my opinion is if..., if..., if there is a chance to solve the problem as a whole, including his trip..., I mean...[SC].

Os: [SC] We want to solve....

Om: We want to solve the trip issue now.

Os: [SC] Yes, we're talking about.....

Mu: Osama, and Omar, listen to me until I finish my idea. Ok, my brothers

Os: [SC] ...and then we would solve the fundamental issue [Line clicking].

Mu: [SC] Why do you separate them? I'm suggesting to you something, if there a chance to solve the issue once and for all during this critical period, it would be even better.

Os: [SC] Ok.

Mu: If there is a chance that the matter is..., is..., is resolved. Do you mean solve it in our meeting or solve the problem as a whole?

Os: No, we solve the problem as a whole. I mean, we agree...[SC].

Mu: [SC] I suggest....

Os: We tell him, "Our honorable brother, we agreed with you in November about such and such. You violated the agreement. Did something new take place? Do you want something new to be added? We can make a new agreement. We will write it and sign it in front of witnesses. We are a committee and not little kids. You write it...", I will write it and have him sign it [background noise] and we will keep it in our files.

Mu: [SC] And... [heavy breathing].

Os: We can do that in March. We will write it all over again and re-word it [Heavy breathing] and whatever he wants it is *Ok*. However, we now reached an agreement and there a problem in the field. We need a solution now for Sheik Jamil's issue. We do not have a problem with Al Aqsa Fund. We told him from the very beginning...

Mu: [SC] M brother, you can't now separate Jamil and Al Aqsa because it is Al Aqsa, who brought Sheik Jamil over, Osama.

Os: I understand what you're saying. I am not telling you I want to separate. I am just saying we want to solve the problem. How are we going to solve it?

Mu: I suggest..., I suggest that Sheik Jamil... You're talking to me about solving the problem, let me finish my suggestion, Sheik...

Os: [SC] Go ahead.

Mu:even if you believe that it might be out of the subject.

Os: Go ahead.

Mu: I see that..., because if we now reach a decision now. Omar told me his point of view at sunset. He spoke with me before we talked. The point of view was that we proceed with the program under the name of the Holy Lands Fund instead of that. In the end, mean, we would give it to the Sheik and such.

Om: Yes.

Mu: My opinion is that this solution won't work in way..., I mean, let me say, in a way that would please even Sheik Jamil. Should Sheik Jamil agree with that and not take things with sensitivity, let Aboul Hasan be upset, that's fine. However, the problem would boil down to..., Aboul Hasan is *already* upset and will continue to be upset, Ok? And he will not agree to what we are saying and will proceed with what he has in mind. If..., if..., I mean, if he..., he considers the matter a sort of defiance. However, the other party in the matter now is Sheik Jamil. If Sheik Jamil..., I mean, let's not impose an opinion on him. Let's discuss the issue with Sheik Jamil. By God, if Sheik Jamil is convinced of our position, in my opinion, he will be able to convince Aboul Hasan and the issue will proceed. However, I don't want us to end up with nothing.

Om: [SC], Abou Mohamed, believe me....

Os: [SC] And what if Sheik Jamil says, "I have no relationship with that"?

Om: [SC] Yes, that's right.

Os: [CS]" ...I don't want to interfere between you guys", and this is what is going to happen because Sheik Jamil..., I...[SC].

Mu: [SC] No, Sheik Jamil did not say, "I have no relationship" because Sheik Jamil...[SC].

Os: [SC] If we wanted to ask Sheik Jamil to interfere, we would have asked him while he was in London because there was a person who is directly concerned with this issue. And, had this person asked him not to go to America, he wouldn't have come. Had he told him, "Go to Dallas, he would have gone".

Mu: [SC] We...

Os: Let's not do that.

Mu: [SC] I don't want to comment on this point...

Os: Let me just tell you.

Mu: Hm.

Os: The Sheik is likely to tell you:"My honorable brother, I...er, had I known that, I would not have come".

[Call waiting beeps].

..."So, the issue is, tell me what you want to do and I will do it. Don't bring me as a party. I don't want to upset anyone". This is how he will reply to you.

Om: Just a minute. Abou Mohamed.

Mu: Yes.

Om: Let me tell you quite frankly that we do not want to ask Sheik Jamil no matter what.

[Call waiting beeps].

Mu: Allow me please to find out who is calling on the other line. He's been trying to call for a while. Give me a moment please, my brother

Om: Go ahead.

Mu: I want to check. Just a moment.

[A beep].

Mu: Hello.

Ja: Peace be upon you.

Mu: Peace and God's mercy.

Ja: How are you doing, my friend?

Mu: How are you doing, my friend?

Ja: May God bless you.

Mu: My friend, I am currently on the other line with the entire group. I mean, there is a *conf...*, a conference. Omar and Shukri are speaking to me and so on. We are discussing the issue.

Ja: And I've been looking for Shukri and

Mu: Ok.. I...[Sighs] I will let Shukri speak with you.

Ja: By God, it will be good.

Mu: I will let him call you and I will call you back later and we will see to-do

regarding this issue.

Ja: [SC] I will wait now.

Mu: [SC] Ok, fine. In about a half hour.

Ja: Fine.

Mu: Are you at the man's house?

Ja: What?

Mu: At you at the man's house

Ja: Yes.

Mu: Ok, fine!

Ja: [SC] I spoke with Aboul Hasan.

Mu: Yes.

Ja: I mean...er, Aboul Hasan sees that there is no problem now. I mean, he feels that..., but this is just for you....

Mu: Yes.

Ja: ...he feels that the one who has the problem now is Omar only and not..., not even Shukri.

Mu: Ok, if you listen...er.

Ja: [SC] It would be better. Yes, it would be better.

Mu: ...if you listen to Shukri...

Ja: Hm.

Mu: ...and see how the matter will proceed and...er, and my opinion is that you should insist that there is a problem, and not that there is no problem.

Ja: Hm.

Mu: Ok. If I can..., they're waiting for me because there are four people on the line.

May I?

Ja: Fine, rely on God.

Mu: It will be good, God willing.

Ja: May God bless you.

Mu: Peace be upon you.

[Line clicking].

Mu: Hello.

Sh: ...Al Aqsa Fund.

Mu: Hello, hello. Peace be upon you.

Om: And on you be peace.

Sh: Yes.

Om: It will be good. We still have not heard from Aboul Hasan. What do you think?

Is; By God....[SC].

Mu: But Omar.

Om: Yes.

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.

Mu: It will be good, good, God willing.

Os: [SC] Fine.

Mu: [SC] My brother, I'm sorry that I conveyed these words. Go ahead.

Sh: I 'm just telling you.

Mu: [SC] I am only relaying..., relaying a message to you, my brother.
[Click].

Is: My brother....

Mu: Yes.

Is: What is important to me regarding this point is that decide fundamental and basic points.

Om: Yes.
[Heavy breathing].

Is: I'd like this issue to be clear, that there is a violation to start with.

Om: Yes.

Is: It is the Sheik's invitation, whether due to a lack of coordination or a lack of information.

Om: Yes.

Is: Good? The second point is that we are now stuck with his presence.

Om: Yes. That's right.

Is: We are stuck with his presence. You see? So whatever we agree with, we must inform him of it. Clearly, Sheik. Whatever we agree on.

Om: Yes.

Is: Also, your concerns about avoiding to upset the Sheik..er, is very good. Good?

Om: Yes.

Om: Then, if our brother, Aboul Hasan, declined to...er, was invited to the..., to the

meeting and he declined, I mean, this is not really a good impression. "You have an opinion, or you have a reason or have a position, you should come and say what you feel and discuss it or let the other people hear your opinion". This is the point I would like us to concentrate on. Also, the Sheik's issue, I mean...er, I said from the start three points or four. I now say: that's it. Whatever we agree on right now regarding the Sheik's visit and how it is managed, it should..., I mean, this ought to be relayed to the Sheik and, if he finds a way to reconcile or a means to....er, to unity, that's fine. Otherwise, we will inform him of our opinion and then...er.

Os: [SC] I..., I am in agreement with those comments. I..., I mean, I see that [Heavy breathing]...[UI]. So, I got really upset when I spoke with you today and you told me... . I told you: "Why wouldn't our brother Abdel Halim speak with us? I mean, our brother, Abdel Halim. He is supposed to come and provide his opinion, I mean, say, "My opinion in the matter is such and such". But, for him to... I mean, this is the second time within..., within three days that we try to speak to him while he keeps refusing to talk to us, I mean. I consider this, in all honesty, to be a major problem. Therefore, in my view, I second the motion presented by our brother, Aboul Hasan, namely that we reach a decision and we communicate it to Sheik Jamil. We tell him: "By God, our opinion is such and such. Er..., we don't want to upset you or something.. This is the committee's opinion and we hope you would comply with it as much as you can. You and Aboul Hasan reach an understanding your own way. Or, I mean, if you like, if you're going to feel embarrassed with Aboul Hasan, proceed with your program and we will talk with him. It is Ok, let Aboul Hasan now look for us and we will agree with him. He is supposed to running behind the committee, not that the committee running after him. I mean, he is now supposed to come and try to convince the committee with his opinion while we should not be meeting, wasting hours of our time to later try and convince him. He is the one who is supposed to try and convince us with his opinion.

Om: It will be good. Ok, I..., I still hold on to my suggestion; that we suggest the following to Sheik Jamil: that he transfers his program to the..., to the Fund, to the organization, the *Holy Land Foundation*...[SC]

Os: [SC] maintaining the same cities

Om: ...maintaining the same cities...

Os: Yes.

Om: ...which are known to brother Muin...

Os: Yes.

Om: ...and we, I mean, I will pressure the *Holy Land* and say that we ought to give him the money he raises. This is my suggestion, I mean. Since he is..., he told me that their situation..., I mean, is worse than deplorable...

Sh: [SC] But, brother Muin told you that was going to happen.

Om: [SC] Regardless. Just wait, Abou Mohamed.

Sh: [SC] He is saying that they will not give him all the money.

Om: It is not... Abou Mohamed, this is my suggestion [Laughs] Let's go ahead with it, may God keep you.

Sh: Ok, fine. But....

Om: [SC] May God be pleased with you.

Sh: [SC] I mean, you shouldn't give more than what the Sheik expected.

Om: [SC] It is not a problem. Let it be, Man. May God bless it for him. By God, he is a poor guy.

Os: [SC] You are now..., you are now taking the Sheik's side against us.

Om: Man, no.

Sh: [SC] You don't understand what I mean.

Om: [SC] May God bless it for him.

Sh: [SC] Fine, fine, Ok. By God, I'll do it for you.

Om: May God bless it for him. Do it for me once.

Sh: [SC] I will, I will. However, just give me a chance to....[SC].

Om: [SC] I understand.

Sh:express. You note this one down.

Om: [SC] I will tell you something: it is not going to be history.

Sh: [SC] Yes. I fear that this will be a *precedent*. I mean, every year after that....

Om: [SC] No, no.

Sh: Yes.

Om: We will meet and will take a decision among us to that effect. What is..., what is our position in regards to the visiting Sheiks and in what way they will collect.

Sh: Hm.

Om: I believe this to be the *last time* , God willing. Let's just let it slide this time because he is already over here, he is an honorable man, and such

Sh: [SC] We will do it for him, my brother. We will do it for Abou Hamzah, my brother.

Om: Yes, by God. So, what do you think of this suggestion?

Os: I agree. I have no objections.

Om: Shukri.

Sh: I agree.

Om: Aboul Hasan.

Is: [Heavy breathing and background talk] By God, I mean, I..., I understand Shukri's position and I wish if Shukri...er, I mean, yielded and...

Om: Aboul Hasan [Laughs].

Is: [SC] No. Please allow me.

Sh: [SC] Yes. He..., he..., he Aboul Hasan is on my side. I am telling you.

[UI group talk]

Is: Abou..., Abou..., Omar. My brother [SC]

Om: Yes. Go ahead. By God, I understand.

Is: Now..., rules are rules, I mean.

Mu: Would you excuse me a short while, Aboul Hasan. Just a moment please.

Is: Don't take long, Muin. [Talks off the phone] What? Go ahead.

Os: Ok. Why don't you give him the amount that he had asked for?

Sh: [SC] That's what I wanted to...

Is: [SC] No, Sheik. He is asking for tons of money.
[UI background talk].

Is: It's impossible to give someone what he is asking for.

Mu: [Talks off the phone. UI].

Sh: [SC] But, my brother, I want..., I mean, I want you to understand something; that this will be conditional on...

Mu: [Off the phone] Om Mohamed!

Sh: ...what he collects only. He should not ask me for additional money.

Om: [SC] Yes, yes.

Is: Obviously so.

Os: ...[UI] And only from those *pledges* if they are fulfilled, I mean.

Om: *Yeah, yeah.* Of course.

Sh: *Whatever.* Normally, these things....[UI].

Os: Fine.

Om: Yes.

Is: Why? Because these are, by God, O..., O..., O Omar Yehya, because this could cause a *headache* for your brother Shukri.

Sh: By God, it is a *headache*.

Is: Yes, by God. I., I mean, I now say....

Mu: [Talks off the phone] Come, Om Mohamed.

Is: I say be responsible for this situation or defend Shukri's position in his place, I mean.

Om: Aboul Hasan, we now want to resolve it and not complicate.

Is: [SC] No, my brother. By God, it is not....[SC].

Om: [SC] It doesn't matter. But, by God....[SC]

Om: By God, we must streamline these issues. Tsk.

Sh: Abou Mohamed, don't solve it and then...er, after a while you...er.

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.

Is: However, my friend, O..., O Omar, may God honor you, how many Ramadans come in a year?

Om: Sheik, what he..., what he..., I mean, what he collects is for himself and that's it.

Sh: *Yeah*. But, it is going to be a big amount. I mean, Chicago, my friend, Houston and Washington and other.... I mean, these are big cities, my brother. Virginia. You are talking about big cities. There are still the smaller cities. So, I am really concerned that he might rake in all there is because... Also, he is staying longer than any of the others. He'll be here from now till the end of Ramadan. We have some guests that haven't arrived yet. I mean, they won't arrive until a week from now.

[Heavy breathing].

Is: I..., I..., I repeat what I already said, my brother. It's for the future, you see?

Om: I say, regarding the future, we will modify it. I mean, this will be the last time.
[UI talk in the background].

Is: Ok. I mean, if the man is only expecting to get five, you would then tell him, "No. You will get all what you collect"? It is not...er.

Om: No, he knows about that. Believe you. He..., he... Abou Amer told me that stuff..., he told me that Sheik Jamil's agreed with Aboul Hasan on that.

Is: This is in order to..., this is in order to...

Sh: [SC] But, Abou Mohamed, Abou Amer...[UI].

Om: He doesn't know.

Is: [SC] Omar.

Om: Yes.

Is: This is a way to make it easy on you.

Om: It is possible. Yes, it is possible, by God. By God, it is possible.

Is: God knows best. I mean, this is what..., I mean, what comes to my mind is that he wants to make it easy for you or make it less significant, I mean.

Om: Ok, fine, let us approve this resolution.

Mu: I..., I..., listen, let me just give my opinion, Omar.

Om: We will vote, Sheik.

Mu: Aboul Hasan discuss it with you. Let me just comment on the issue.

Om: Let us make Aboul Hasan's opinion the final one.

Mu: Ok.

Om: Aboul Hasan,

Is: Yes, my brother.

Om: May God keep you, what is your opinion?

Is: Concerning what?

Om: On the suggestion we...

Is: [SC] I told you, my brother, I do not agree to the point that you give him all the..., all that he collects.

Om: Ok. I tell you something, we will resolve this one with the Sheik. What do you think?

Is: Ok, good. I'm telling you. You're asking me what is my opinion, why? Because I see where interest is. I mean, I don't want to..., to come and say, "We said, that". I see that the general interest, my brother, is that you let this in the future to become a habit. Moreover, the Sheik is coming because he has many obligations or coming for this and that, I believe that it is not reasonable that Al Aqsa Fund brought him and they tell him, "By God, here, take all..., all that you raised". Therefore, I tell you that the stuff Abou Amer told you is not..., I mean, is not it is not..., I mean, it does not give me the impression that it is 100 percent correct, 100 percent.

Om: Ok. I will change the suggestion. I suggest that we give..., I mean, that we give....[SC].

Mu: [SC] Ok. Let me..., let me just proceed with my suggestion, let me tell you my opinion, Omar.

Om: Fine. Go ahead

Mu: Of course, in my opinion, I do not agree with this idea.

Om: Yes.

Mu: because it would complicate the problem and will not solve a problem.

Om: Yes.

Mu: And its consequences will bring more negative results than the benefits we might achieve. Now, when the brothers were commenting, they were commenting about rules and principles like what Aboul Hasan is saying now.

Om: Hm.

Mu: ...the solution of the problem, principles and establishing rules and that there must be an agreement. The right thing to do, my brothers..., this is my opinion is that , as soon as possible, that we should establish the invariables concerning this matter. And the issue is..., is inclined to be resolved by reaching a conciliatory solution and invariables regarding the issue. Therefore, I'm not with the suggestion you mentioned. This is my opinion, I mean.

Om: Ok, fine.

Mu: Fine.

Om: What I am saying is that we listen to your suggestion and put it to the vote.

Mu: Yes. Ok, my brother.

Om: What suggestion do you have?

Mu: The suggestion?

Om: Hm.

Mu: [Sighs] That the program proceeds in full, Sheik Jamil's program...

Om: Yes.

Mu: ...in the cities that are already planned.

Om: Yes.

Mu: ...and that the brother's program also proceed. I was hoping, Shukri that...

Om: Ok....

Mu: What?

Om: That the Fund's program proceeds, yes.

Mu: The Fund's program proceeds as it is...[SC].

Om: [SC] Yes.

Mu: ...I mean, as it is planned and we are keen that no....

Om: Any....

Mu: ...conflict takes place as much as possible.

Om: Yes.

Mu: Ok? And this should be the last time, Ok, that we allow any kind of activity outside the framework of the committee's approval....

Om: Yes.

Mu: ...with regard to..., with regards to any matter concerning guests and others.

Om: Good.

Mu: Therefore, this is my position so that we may avoid problems.

Om: Let's put it to the vote. Aboul Hasan.

Is: By God, I still have something before we put it to the vote, my brother.

Om: [Laughs]. We need to finish.

Is: Yes, yes. Just allow me.

Om: Let us put it to the vote and then I will let you speak. I will let you speak.

Os: There is no use of the talk.

Sh: Let him, let him talk.

Om: Go ahead.

Is: I mean, my brother, Abou Mohamed, may God honor you, I mean, the issue of the ..., the invariables, the principles and the rules, God willing, everyone will try to adhere to them for a long while and not just for a short while, from yesterday. And, if you took a look at the points mentioned in that November meeting, I believe they represented a guarantee to guard against falling in a hole like the one we're currently in, I mean.

Om: Yes, right.

Is: Also, it is clear that there is a lack of compliance from one party, I mean. That's it.

Mu: Do you know, Aboul Hasan, one of the principles I wished for among us but that were not fulfilled....

Is: Yes.

Mu:that we try among us..., we try to wish each other a good evening, a good morning, we try to embody the meaning of brotherhood which can remove obstacles. This is one of the basics and the principles I hope for, the ones which I would like for us to have. We ought to stop dealing with each other as dealers, my brother. That we are brothers, there is..., there is invariables and principles which we learned when we were you and we are supposed to make them invariable. It is true that there are opposing views but... Omar, do you remember how many times I told you that there is bad feelings harbored by our brother resulting form the divergence of opinions between us? I wish we could just wish each other good evening or say hello to each other, wish each other happy Eid.... When you asked me, Omar, to invite our brother to Dallas, I told you: "Why should I invite him? You invite him, Omar".

Om: Yes.

Mu: Get closer to him. These are the principles, they are among the principles that I wished existed between us, Aboul Hasan.

Is: [SC] Fine. We can add those...

Om: [SC] Abou Mohamed...

Is: [SC] We will add those.

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.

Mu: Correct.

Om: I mean, this also is a must. For example, what stops m, for example... We, we in the Association [IAP], we modify the Association [IAP] and start working for, as example, not anymore for the Association [IAP], we modify it and start working for Somalia. I can give you an example, or for Bosnia. On which basis can you, Muin, or Aboul Hasan can come and tell me, "No". What authority do you guys have over me? This is the question.

Mu: Right. So...

Om: [SC] Then..., then, the most important principle to safeguard the work is that there is a certain group and their opinion should prevail as a majority. Otherwise, it is

impossible to conduct...

Mu: Correct, correct. This is right.

Om: You see what I'm saying?

Mu: Yes.

Om: Then, I tell you something, if the..., if the brother..., I mean, he is telling me, or that was long time ago, "This is your opinion". I told him that, my brother. I honestly told him today, "If the brothers decided that we will do 'A', we will do 'A'. If it is a 'B', it will be 'B'. If it is a 'C', then a 'C'", regardless of what 'B' is, 'B' and 'C', you see?

Mu: Right.

Om: I mean, you could convince the brothers; "What is your opinion?". He told me, "As for me, I mean, I have *already made up my mind*". I told him, "Ok. Forget about me. I am ready even not to vote". I told him, "There are other brothers, convince them". He refused. He told me, "No. Unless you send me what is it they are going to say. What would the *options* be so I can see". That means that, if you are in agreement with him, he agrees. If you aren't in agreement with him, he refuses. This method is not right, I mean.

Mu: [SC] Right, right.

Om: [SC] This is no way of doing business.

Mu: Correct. This is right.

Om: Would that leave any..., let's not say "brotherhood", would that leave any principles for work? *It is Ok*, I mean.

Mu: [SC] Unfortunately, it is true.

Om: Ok. What then do you expect us to do? Should we leave work without control and establish it as a principle of work here that everyone does as he pleases? Or should we make a decision that, at least the group that is on the phone right now, can adhere to. If one dissents, by God, may God facilitate things for him. We don't want..., we are not going to ruin work because of one individual, I mean.

Mu: Correct.

Om: Right? Therefore, we must..., I mean, we must make a stance. We cannot leave it

like that without control, my brother.

Mu: Why...

Om: We must have a position.

Mu: I..., I..., my remark is that taking a position came at the wrong time.

Om: My brother....[SC].

Mu: [SC] I mean, at times, the word of truth, my brother, is due to be heard. [SC]

Om: [SC] Fine.

Mu: [SC] But, sometimes it is not appropriate to speak the word of truth.

Om: [SC] Look here, let me tell you something; we were waiting for some things to occur to resolve the problem concerning the Fund as a whole, right? However, the brother doesn't even allow you to breathe. I mean, he comes up..., he brings up those immediate problems such as Sheik Jamil's. I mean, he knows that this decision is wrong, that he shouldn't bring the Sheik. He knows that there is a decision regarding the matter. He decides to bring him over and claims that there was no decision in order to create..., I mean, in order to create *tension*. You know what I mean? Why, then? I mean, he..., he who wants to solve the problem, he tries to win people over, not to upset them and create problems for them. This my opinion.

Mu: That's right, by God, my brother. I mean,...

Om: Therefore..., therefore, we must reach a decision. There is no way we will end this call without r a decision.

[Brief silence].

Mu: Ok, fine, my brother, it will be good. Let someone..., my brother, Omar.

Om: Yes.

Mu: Let a suggestion be made and we put it to the vote. We see what is the majority's opinion, see what...

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...

[Call waiting beeps].

Om: The decision is that ...

[Hook flash].

Mu: Hello

Ab: Peace be upon you.

Mu: Peace and God's peace.

Ab: How are you doing, Abou Mohamed?

Mu: Abu-Bilal?

Ab: Yes.

Mu: I'll get back to you later, Ok?

Ab: Fine.

Mu: Peace be upon you.

Ab: Peace.

[Hook flash].

Mu: Hello.

Om: ...through the *Holy Land Foundation*.

Is: Yes.

Om: In such a way, that the funds that will be raised will be disbursed according to an agreement to be reached between Sheik Jamil and the *Holy Land Foundation*.

Is: It will be good, God willing...[SC].

Om: And we will ask..., we will inform Aboul Hasan of this decision...

Is: Yes.

Om: ...and ask him to comply with it.

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...

Mu: My brother, he who wants to be upset, will not matter at the end, Omar.

Om: [SC] No, no, by God.

Mu: [SC] It is..., it is..., we ended it like that, Omar...[SC]

Os: [SC] Now that we have reached that decision. In the event Sheik Jamil says that he still wants to continue with the Al Aqsa Fund, we will not upset him and we will tell him to continue with his program.

Om: Yes, yes.

Os: I mean, so that he is in the picture.

Om: I say that, in the event Sheik Jamil declines and requested to stay with...er, with Al Aqsa, we consider Al Aqsa the one in violation, and not Sheik Jamil in violation.

Os: Yes.

Om: We would consider... [Heavy breathing].

Sh: But then..., but then I would need the committee to stand by me. I would then have to take a stand with the Sheik.

Os: No, you don't have to get involved.

Sh: [SC] Because I am not committed to pay him anything over the usual because I am...[SC]

Om: [SC] No. This is something else.

Os: [SC] Fine. This is an internal matter.

Om: [SC] This is another matter, Abou....

Os:[SC] the people in America, the funds and that's it.

Om: Abou Mohamed, this is an issue....[SC].

Sh: I don't..., I don't have the funds, I mean.

Om: [SC] Not now. Leave that one until later.

Os: [SC] This is another issue.

Sh: Ok, Ok.

Om: But, meaning that we do not consider Sheik Jamil the one in violation. Aboul Hasan is the one in violation.

Sh: [SC] No. I consider Aboul Hasan the one in violation. Yes. And...

Om: You are....

Sh: [SC] Because if I..., if I go to Palestine and, there is a certain situation....

Om: Fine...

Sh: [SC] ...I mess up, and the brothers over there asked me to adhere to a certain situation and I....

Om: [SC] By God, we are..., out of respect for us..., out of respect for the Sheik...

Sh: [SC] By God, I..., I know the Sheik and he is not going to disobey the committee's order, I mean.

Om: [SC] That's it then. We are..., he will speak with you then...

Sh: But, if he disobeys it, I mean, he is free, of course. But, don't ask me to consider it the same if..., if he complies as if he disobeys. No, there will be a difference, of course.

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.

Sh: Ok, fine, fine.

Om: This is what I believe.

Sh: I don't have a problem.

Om: Fine? Ok, who will inform Aboul Hasan of this decision?

Os: He, who objected to it [Laughs].

Om: No, no, no. Did you write it down, Osama? [Heavy breathing]. Ok.

Os: Sheik Jamil will be contacted by the comm.... Sheik Jamil or Aboul Hasan will be contacted?

Sh: Both.

Om: No, we will contact both of them. [Heavy breathing].

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.

Os: Give me your *fax* number. What is your *fax* number?

Om: 2-4...., 4-0-8-2-4-4

Os: 244?

Om: 5-9-9-3.

Os: What is the *area code*?

Om: 408.

Os: Yes.

Om: 2-4-4-5-9-9-3.

Os: Ok. I will...[SC].

Om: [SC] Is this Ok, God willing?

Os: I will send it to you within five minutes.

Om: God willing.

Os: I will put on it..., I will put on it that it is the committee's decision. No need to mention that this person consented and that person dissented.

Om: No, this is the committee's decision, yes [Heavy breathing]. All are in agreement except Muin, just for the *record*, I mean. But, Aboul Hasan..., we do not need to inform the Sheik of this. He doesn't have to agree, my brother.

Os: I will put it in the *record*, I mean.

Om: Yes.

Os; It will be good.

Om: It will be good, God willing?

Is: Fine, God willing.

Om: Ok, may God reward good.

Mu: [SC] Brother Shukri.

Sh: Yes.

Mu: Shukri.

Sh: Yes, my brother.

Om: [SC] Peace be upon you. Speak with him on your own.

Mu: I only need Shukri for just a little bit.

Om: Yes.

Os: [SC] But I still need to talk to you because we do not have a single penny in the..., not even a single cent.

Om: [SC] Fine, fine. Let me *check* tomorrow if the money has arrived.

Os: [SC] May God keep you. Because we finished everything today. [Heavy breathing].

Om: Ok, fine.

Is: Peace, my brothers.

Om: Peace be upon you.

Mu: Peace be upon you and God's mercy.

Sh: Peace be upon you. Many happy returns to you.

Mu: [Sighs] Abou Mohamed. [Heavy breathing].

[Silence].

Mu: Hello.

END OF CALL.