



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Minneapolis, Minnesota
August 19, 2001

MOUSSAOUI, ZACARIAS;
IT - OTHER

- This document is classified ~~SECRET~~.
- Nature of investigation: International Terrorism (199M-MP-60130)
- Full Field Investigation Initiated: 08/15/2001.
- Request of Minneapolis: Provide identifying information on captioned subject and any information pertaining to his activities and known associates connected with radical Islamic causes.

Investigative Summary

■ This investigation was initiated after Minneapolis received information that Zacarias Moussaoui, born 05/30/1968 in Saint-Jean-De-Luz, France, was in the process of receiving simulator training in the Boeing 747-400 aircraft at Minneapolis. What made this unusual is that Moussaoui was not a pilot and had minimal aviation experience.

■ The facility at which he was training is a fully accredited flight training center which uses Flight simulators to train airline pilots from all over the world. Training conducted there consists exclusively of initial training for newly hired airline pilots or update/refresher training given to active airline pilots. In both cases, the typical student holds a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airline Transport Pilot (ATP) rating or foreign equivalent, is employed by an airline, and has several thousand flight hours.

■ Moussaoui, who met none of the above criteria, had been in contact with this company's headquarters in Miami, Florida and had paid \$8,000-\$9,000 dollars in cash for training on the Boeing 747 Model 400 aircraft simulator.

*Declassified by: UC CT/STP
NSLB, OOC
On: 1/25/06*



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██████████ Moussaoui's ground school instructor, who is a retired airline pilot with more than 10,000 flight hours in a wide variety of aircraft, was subsequently interviewed regarding Moussaoui. The instructor is a contract employee of Pan Am who travels to Minneapolis in order to train students and has been doing so for several years. He characterized Moussaoui as unlike any other student with whom he has worked.

██████████ The instructor described Moussaoui as a Middle Eastern male, age 30-40, 5'9"-5'11" in height with a heavy build and a trimmed beard. He indicated that he spoke French-accented English and advised that he was very amiable. The instructor noted that Moussaoui was extremely reticent in discussing his background, but did indicate that he had been born in the South of France, but was now living in London, England.

██████████ The instructor noted that although Moussaoui lacked aviation experience and knowledge, there were certain systems on the 747-400 in which he was particularly interested. Although the instructor himself brought the subject up, he indicated Moussaoui was extremely interested in the aircraft doors and their operation. He indicated that Moussaoui seemed surprised to learn that the doors cannot normally be opened in flight because of the pressurization of the cabin of the aircraft.

██████████ The other system in which Moussaoui was interested was the Mode Control Panel (MCP). This is the portion of the aircraft's avionics suite which controls the aircraft when flying in an automated mode and what allows the 747-400 Series aircraft to have a two-person flight crew as opposed to earlier models which required additional pilots. The instructor indicated that at the time they did their one simulator session, Moussaoui already knew how to operate the MCP from previous study. For information, the instructor explained that the level of automation provided by the MCP gives the 747-400 the ability to fly, navigate, and in some modes land in a fully automated manner.

██████████ The instructor stated that for his upcoming high-fidelity simulator sessions, Moussaoui stated that he would "love" to fly a simulated flight from Heathrow Airport in England, to John F. Kennedy airport in New York, to include all navigation and communications. He offered no explanation as to why he wished to do this. The instructor was also aware that Moussaoui was interested in booking additional simulator sessions after he finished his currently scheduled syllabus.

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Investigation by Minneapolis Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Special Agents revealed the following information regarding Moussaoui and the individual believed to be traveling with him, Hussein Al-Attas:

- Moussaoui, a resident of the United Kingdom, traveling on French passport # AE27016, entered the U.S. at Chicago, Illinois on 02/23/2001 on a visa waiver. Under the terms of the visa waiver program, citizens of certain countries may enter the U.S. without applying for a visa, however they are allowed to remain in the U.S. for no more than 90 days from the date of entry. According to the INS records, Moussaoui was admitted to the U.S. only until 05/22/2001 and was therefore in an overstay status and subject to arrest any time after this date.

- Al-Attas, a resident of Saudi Arabia, traveling on Yemeni passport #0503683, is in the U.S. on an F1 (student) visa, first issued in 1995. Al-Attas indicated to INS that he is a student at the University of Oklahoma at Norman.

As these individuals had been located by the afternoon of 08/16/2001 and Moussaoui was known to be scheduled for a simulator session beginning at 6:00 p.m. that evening, INS was requested to arrest him on the overstay violation in order to delay his receiving any further training on the Boeing 747-400 aircraft until he could be interviewed and his true intentions determined. When arrested, Moussaoui was armed with a small sheathed knife in his pocket and admitted that a larger folding-blade knife found under the seat of Al-Attas' car was his.

Subsequent interviews of both men and a consensual search of the effects of Al-Attas revealed the following:

- Al-Attas, during an interview on the evening of 08/16/2001, described Moussaoui's beliefs as having characteristics known to be consistent with those held by radical Islamic Fundamentalists. He also admitted that Moussaoui is preparing himself to fight and has expressed approval of martyrs in the past.

- During this same interview, Al-Attas indicated that Moussaoui believes that it is acceptable to kill civilians who harm Muslims. Al-Attas was also asked if he had ever heard Moussaoui make a plan to kill those who harm Muslims and in so doing become a martyr himself. Al-Attas admitted that he may have heard him do so, but that because it is not in his own heart to carry out

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acts of this nature, he claimed that he kept himself from actually hearing and understanding.

- In a sworn statement signed on 08/17/2001, Al-Attas indicated that Moussaoui, whom he knows as Shaqil, would harm "non-believers", described as Jews and Christians, secretly if he believed they were harming Muslims.

- Moussaoui was unable to give a convincing explanation for his paying Pan Am \$8,300 for 747-400 training. Although he indicated that he had completed approximately 50 hours of instruction in light aircraft at a flying school in Norman, Oklahoma, his level of aviation experience was in no way adequate to qualify him for this training. His continued insistence that this was indulging a desire for a "joy ride" clashed with the seriousness with which he was studying and preparing and his anxiousness to return to this when released from INS custody. When arrested, he had among his belongings several Boeing 747-400 Flight Manuals and is believed to have been making provisions to acquire additional data about this aircraft through electronic means.

- Moussaoui had no convincing explanation for the large sums of money known to have been in his possession during his time in the United States. For information, upon arrival in the U.S. he is known to have opened a checking account with a deposit of \$32,000 at a bank in Norman, Oklahoma. Minneapolis opines that Moussaoui's income from his self-described employment as a freelance telemarketer in the UK would not be adequate to allow him to spend \$8,300 for aviation training of no value to his stated goal of becoming a pilot. Although Al-Attas indicated that he is aware that Moussaoui receives money from overseas via a bank in Norman, Oklahoma, he had no information as to the source.

- Moussaoui was likewise unable to convincingly explain a trip to Pakistan lasting from December 2000 until February 2001, initially informing Agents that this was for "personal reasons". He later indicated that he was in Pakistan in attempting to find a wife. Recipients will note that Moussaoui arrived in the U.S. only 16 days after leaving Pakistan.

Minneapolis believes that Moussaoui and, to a lesser extent, Al-Attas were deceptive in their answers regarding their reasons for being in the U.S. and their involvement in terrorist activities.

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Descriptive Data on Zacarias Moussaoui

The following information was obtained through interview of Moussaoui or from documents he presented the INS Agents upon his arrest.

Moussaoui, whose address is listed on his UK driving license (#MOUSS605308Z99PL 02) as 23A Lambert Road, London SW2 SBB, began his first of two interviews by stating he was highly suspicious of immigration authorities in general because of a problem he had in the UK in 1993 while traveling on his identity card provided by the French Consulate in London. Moussaoui indicated that he was questioned extensively by UK immigration authorities who believed he was Algerian, despite his possession of valid French documents. Moussaoui related that he was saved from this difficulty only through a friend's acquaintance with a French Senator who interceded on his behalf, but whose name he could not recall.

Moussaoui indicated that he works in the UK as a freelance marketing researcher. When asked if this was his sole source of income, he indicated that he also works "here and there". When asked what that involved, Moussaoui at length referred to a business initiative with an Indonesian telephone card company, but stated that it did not work out. He was unable to give even an approximate figure for his annual income, claiming that he did not pay taxes in the UK in 2000.

He also indicated that he earns some income from relatives in Saudi Arabia. When asked in what capacity this occurs, Moussaoui indicated that it is "absolutely legal, but private". When asked how a business venture could be private, Moussaoui began describing his family connections in Saudi Arabia without attempting to answer the question. While being pressed to describe the nature of the business, Moussaoui stated that he was trying to arrange the "import-export of some product". At length, Moussaoui indicated that the product was grape leaves which he wished to export from the South of France to Saudi Arabia, but that this venture had not been successful either.

Moussaoui advised that his employment in connection with marketing research consisted of telephoning people to conduct customer satisfaction interviews on behalf of various corporations who contract with his employer for this service. Moussaoui indicated that the name of the company he worked for was NOP, located in London, but could not recall what the initials stood for, being able to state only that the "N"

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represented National. When questioned about this, Moussaoui became angry and began listing his academic qualifications, including a Master's Degree in International Business from Southbank University and an advanced degree in Commerce and Technology from the "Institute of Export", both believed to be located in the UK.

██████████ Among the documents contained in his passport folder which he presented to INS Agents was a slip from Barclays Bank PLC, Dulwich Group, 223/229 Rye Lane, Peckham, London SE15 4TY, telephone 0171-6396411 with the words, "Savings, a/c No. 30520055" written on it. It is not known if Moussaoui is the account holder on this account, but Minneapolis considers it likely.

██████████ Moussaoui indicated that he is a French citizen, having been born in France to Moroccan parents. When asked why he resides in the UK, Moussaoui indicated that he was educated there and likes the qualities of the British people. He indicated that in his absence from the UK, his flat is being sub-letted by friends. He was unable to name any specifically, but indicated that most of his friends in London are restaurant employees of Moroccan origin and that they are on the lower end of the financial scale.

██████████ Moussaoui also indicated that he has a close friend of Pakistani origin who resides in London. When first interviewed, he stated that his friend's nickname was Talil, but that he was unable to remember his true name. During an interview conducted the next day Moussaoui indicated that Talil was actually Ahmed Atif (phonetic) and that he lived in London and worked as an executive for a large Dutch Company whose name he could not recall.

██████████ Moussaoui stated that it was Atif's brother he contacted in Pakistan during his visit to that country. A previous examination of Moussaoui's French Passport showed that he entered Pakistan on 12/09/2000 and exited on 02/07/2001 and that he had done so using Pakistani Visa #VE086976 issued by the High Commission for Pakistan in London on 12/04/2000. Moussaoui indicated that current passport was a recently issued replacement for one which had gone through the washing machine.

██████████ Moussaoui stated that he attended the Regent's Park Mosque in London and a small mosque near the University of Oklahoma while in Norman. He advised that he considers himself a religious Muslim, but became very agitated when asked if, on the

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basis of his religious beliefs, there are any particular Islamic scholars he follows. He claimed that "things are very clear for him" and that he is able to think for himself. Moussaoui indicated that he follows the Islamic practice of praying five times per day and of helping his Muslim brothers. He indicated that with regard to studying Fatwas (Islamic religious decrees), he is unable to read Arabic, only to speak it, and that this precludes his ability understand them.

██████████ Minneapolis believes that Moussaoui is an Islamic extremist preparing for some future act in furtherance of radical fundamentalist goals. The numerous inconsistencies in his story, his two month long trip to Pakistan which ended less than three weeks before coming to the U.S., and his inability to explain his source of financial support all give cause to believe he is conspiring to commit a terrorist act, especially when this information is combined with his extremist views as described by Al-Attas.

██████████ Further, based on his residency in London and his intention of flying a simulated flight from Heathrow to John F. Kennedy airport during his training at Pan Am, there is reason to believe that Moussaoui's plan has elements rooted in the UK and that he has associates there who are assisting him.

██████████ Request of Minneapolis

██████████ Minneapolis requests full identifying information be provided on Moussaoui and any associates residing in the UK who can be identified in connection with his activities described above. Information which will be particularly beneficial to Minneapolis' investigation includes the following:

- Names of associates known to be involved with radical Islamic Fundamentalist causes.
- Information on Moussaoui's sources of financial support and previous employment.
- Additional foreign travel from the UK by Moussaoui which does not appear in his replacement passport.
- Information on previous contact with Moussaoui by security services or law enforcement in the UK.
- Information regarding education and training received by Moussaoui in the UK.

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