



IN THE UXBRIDGE MAGISTRATES COURT

**INFORMATION IN SUPPORT OF AN APPLICATION
FOR THE CONTINUED DETENTION OF SEIZED CASH
Sec. 295 PROCEEDS OF CRIME ACT 2002**

I, Ciaran John Patrick Gillen, who being an Officer of Her Majesty's Customs and Excise, Heathrow Airport, acting under the authority of the Commissioners of Customs and Excise for the purposes of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 upon oath state:

I have been concerned with the seizure of a quantity of cash, said to be \$340,000 under the provisions of section 294 (1) of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.

At approximately 1510 hours on the 16th August 2003, Customs Officers attended the airport security area in Terminal 4 where they were advised that a quantity of cash, approximately \$25,000, had been found on a passenger. The passenger was identified as Mr. Abdurahman ALAMOUDI.

In answer to the Officers questions Mr. Alamoudi said: -

- He was resident in the USA and had been in the UK for five days with his wife and children.
- He was the President of the American Muslim Foundation.
- He was travelling to Syria for a holiday and to meet family for two to three weeks.
- When asked who the cash belonged to he said 'Now, to you' and when asked who it belonged to before he said 'Unfortunately me'.
- He said that the cash had been obtained whilst in the UK.
- He could not say if the cash had been withdrawn from a bank.
- He had no paperwork relating to the money.

When asked where he had obtained the cash, he replied, "I prefer not to talk about it". A further \$70,000 was then found in a document case. When asked if there was more cash in his hold baggage he said 'You will have to find out'.

Mr. Alamoudi was asked if he had any more cash on his person to which he replied 'No'. A further \$20,000 however, was found during a rubdown search.

Seven pieces of hold baggage were then retrieved and again Mr. Alamoudi was asked if there was more cash in the cases to which he replied 'Yes'. When asked how much more cash there was he replied 'See what you can find'. He then added that the total amount with him was \$350,000.

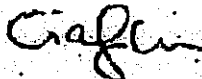
Mr. Alamoudi was told that we were not satisfied with his explanation he had given concerning the origin and the intended use of the cash. He was advised that the cash would be seized for further investigation. He was also advised that this application would be made this morning. He was told the date and time of the hearing and the location of the Court.

My grounds for suspecting that part or all of the cash, directly or indirectly represents any persons proceeds of unlawful conduct, or is intended for use in unlawful conduct are:

- The lack of any compelling legitimate reason, commercial or otherwise, for avoiding the banking system and, instead, carrying such considerable sum of cash, with the attendant risks of theft and loss.
- Cash transactions are the norm within the criminal world, since cash is unlikely to create an audit trail leading back to those engaged in criminal activity. The large sums generated cannot easily be launched into the legitimate banking system without evoking suspicion, or possibly triggering a report to the authorities under the provisions of the existing money-laundering regulations: hence, the need to transfer it across borders by unorthodox means.
- Mr Alamoudi was evasive and non-committal throughout questioning in relation to the origin and intended use of the cash.
- The stratagem of placing the cash in checked-in luggage is designed to avoid controls and prevent its detection before its departure from the jurisdiction.

I therefore request that this Court authorises the continued detention of this cash for a period of three months, in order that enquiries can be made into its origin and intended use. Should this application be successful, the money will be paid into an interest-bearing account ensuring that the owner suffers no financial loss should it ultimately be returned.

Signed



Claran John Patrick Gillen
Officer of Customs and Excise

Dated 18th August 2003