

BATF Video Tape
Case #265B-CE-82188 SA Rick Schwein
Translated by: LS Kurt Abourched

The conversation was initially between an unknown male with a Lebanese accent (hereinafter referred to as LUNKM) and the cooperating witness with what sounded like a Yemeni accent (hereinafter referred to as CW). Then Chawki arrives and the conversation becomes between the CW and Chawki.

Both the date and time of the recording were recorded at the bottom of the screen. According to this information, this recording started at 13:50:00 on 3/24/98.

Most of the of the conversation was translated verbatim. However, there were times when the speech was not clear enough for a verbatim translation at which point a summary was given. At other times the speech was not clear enough for neither a verbatim nor a summary translation at which point (unintelligible) is written.

CW: Hello Abu-(unintelligible). How are you?
LUNKM: Hello. How's your health? Hope all is well. Why didn't you set the time when you were coming today?
CW: Why is Chawki not here?
LUNKM: Chawki is coming now. Welcome. Rest.
CW: No, I'll stand.
LUNKM: He'll be coming now.
CW: OK.
LUNKM: He should be on his way right now. Bassam is coming today. You didn't set a time.
CW: How's work?
LUNKM: Thank the Lord. How's work?
CW: Thank the Lord. It's busy.
LUNKM: [on the phone with Chawki. LUNKM told Chawki that the 'person' is here. LUNKM asked Chawki how long before he gets here. LUNKM repeated 'about a 1/4 hour?']
LUNKM: He'll take about an hour before he gets here. I don't know where he is.
CW: An hour?
LUNKM: Yeah.
LUNKM: [LUNKM answered the phone 'Queen Tobacco.']
LUNKM: I don't have a problem at all if you want to wait here. It's a long trip. He's coming from a far area. He need's about an hour to get here.
CW: OK. No problem.
CW: Did you take the smokes from here?
LUNKM: What?
CW: Did you take the smokes?
LUNKM: His?
CW: Do they want to sell it?



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LUNKM: (unintelligible)
CW: (Unintelligible)
CW: How's work?
LUNKM: Thank the Lord. May God's blessings be plenty.
(unintelligible) yeah but you don't feel the cold like
you guys do up in Michigan. Our weather is very, very
nice.
CW: Aha.
CW: Is he still on the promise? Has he brought it yet?
LUNKM: I don't know, but I told him Michael called and the
order is such and such and he said OK. I don't get
involved in his work.
CW: Yeah, no problem.
LUNKM: Do you have a gas station, or ah..?
CW: Me? Stores.
LUNKM: Stores. So they're..?
CW: Not big, not small. I have six brothers.
LUNKM: Wow!
CW: We all work and sometimes I go and get smokes and
whatever.
LUNKM: That's good (unintelligible)
CW: Yes of course.
LUNKM: This way you don't get stuck in the store; one can take
care of this thing, and one can take care of the other
thing.
CW: Do you know if you ship them?
LUNKM: Which?
CW: The 'Optimus.'
LUNKM: (unintelligible) some of them come by single pieces.
CW: Just the price. How much is it?
LUNKM: Well, we sell it for 24.59. We just sell it like that.
Of course the bulk rate is cheaper (unintelligible).
9.49 we sell it, of course everything has its bulk
price (unintelligible, static).. do everything with
cigars.
CW: Yeah, we could do something.
CW: [his cellular phone rings and he stated to caller that
he would call back in about an hour. The caller
sounded like a female and he spoke in English to her.]
CW: It's OK you know what? I don't have to wait until he
comes back. Do you need anything?
LUNKM: No, so you'll be back in about an hour.
CW: Yes. I'll just go and come back.

CW leaves and then comes back in about an hour.

LUNKM: He's on his way.

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CW: He's still on the way.
LUNKM: Yeah, yeah he's coming for sure.
CW: The area is nice here. Nicer than Michigan.

LUNKM: Yeah, it's very nice and it was small but now they're building and it's growing and why? Because its climate is very nice. It only snows a little here.
CW: Aha.
LUNKM: I've been here from Lebanon for about four months and still haven't felt any winter. I mean I don't have to wear anything. In Michigan, you guys have the anger [of the Lord]. He'll be here in a little bit. Just another five minutes.
CW: Aha (unintelligible)
LUNKM: They're all coming (unintelligible)
CW: (unintelligible)
LUNKM: What?
CW: (unintelligible). I did not like the chicken at the restaurant.
LUNKM: Where? What restaurant?
CW: About three, four miles from here. The houses were really nice.
LUNKM: Oh, yeah.
CW: Beautiful houses.
LUNKM: Of course the area is very nice here. A lot of people, Lebanese are coming here from Michigan and Florida and buying houses.
CW: Yeah, yeah (unintelligible)
LUNKM: Had you set a.. if you called yesterday to give us the order for example. You come here a couple of days prior (unintelligible) he'll be here in five minutes.
CW: Are the customers good here?
LUNKM: (unintelligible) There are no problems here. I lived in Germany for eight years.
CW: Good people.
LUNKM: Yeah.
LUNKM: [with customer. Register sounds.]
CW: (unintelligible)
LUNKM: (unintelligible) I only help Chawki here. I work at the restaurant as delivery and such.
CW: Aha, Good.
LUNKM: The English language is easy, but the German.. (unintelligible)

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LUNKM: [not clear enough for a verbatim translation. LUNKM was discussing the similarities between the English and German languages. He was also describing some of the pronunciation problems he has with English due to the German language influence.]

CW: How long has it been since you left Lebanon?

LUNKM: Since 88, almost.

CW: You came here from Germany?

LUNKM: No, from Germany I went to Lebanon then I came here.

CW: Lebanon is nice. I lived in Lebanon from age eight to eleven with my mom and dad.

LUNKM: Where? What area?

CW: 'Animrata.'

LUNKM: Really?

CW: Really! It's nice man, it's nice.

LUNKM: What year was this?

CW: 74 I came here, end of 74.

LUNKM: Aha, so at the beginning of the Lebanese events.

CW: Yeah, when the war started in 'Akka.'

LUNKM: Aha.

CW: In no time we got a visa and came here.

LUNKM: You came to America.

CW: Yeah. [Lebanon] is nice, nice, nice.

LUNKM: I mean the area you're talking about 'Animrata'...

CW: Oh 'Animrata' on the 'Roasha' we used to walk the 'Roasha'...

LUNKM: That's the most luxurious area.

CW: Yeah, there used to be a lot of Iraqis during that time. What year were you born?

LUNKM: I was born in 62.

CW: You 62. Me 64. My cousin is married to a Lebanese (unintelligible)

LUNKM: Yeah.

Speech not clear enough for a verbatim translation. They were talking about the area where CW lived in Lebanon and how nice it is.

LUNKM: If you see these areas now, they are nicer and nicer, but the thing that ruined us is the Syrians.

CW: The Syrians, yup.

LUNKM: (unintelligible)

CW: (unintelligible)

LUNKM: So then you know Lebanon?

CW: I was young, but I know it very well. It's beautiful. Good air. (unintelligible, more about Lebanon).

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Chawki walks in the store.

LUNKM: Hi Chawki.
 CW: Hi Chawki. It's about time. How are you?
 Chawki: We had to go to more than one place in order to get them.
 CW: Yeah.
 Chawki: (unintelligible)
 CW: How much is the accounting?
 Chawki: (unintelligible)
 CW: OK.

Unintelligible, static.

CW: I'm going to the back. On 40 and 77.
 Chawki: Aha, how much?
 CW: Well, he usually charges me anywhere between 12 to 12.75 on the...
 Chawki: OK. How much did you agree on with the 'Hajj'¹?
 CW: he told me 12.25, but I talked to him a week ago and he said maybe I can do better in the price.
 Chawki: OK. yeah.
 CW: So how much do you want to charge me?
 Chawki: What ever you want.
 CW: 12.25?
 Chawki: No, Less.
 CW: Less? How much?
 Chawki: Ahm, 11.90. Is that good?
 CW: OK.
 Chawki: So what's going to happen now is that your selling price is 12.25.
 CW: OK.
 Chawki: Every time I, most of the time I do better, you know what I mean?
 CW: You got it.
 Chawki: What I want, we now deal together, what I want for example, for example, I'll tell you next week 11.60, you, the maximum..
 CW: Me the average 11.90
 Chawki: The maximum that I might charge you is 12.25. You know what I'm saying?
 CW: 12.25 OK.

¹This is more than likely a reference to Mohamad Hammoud as he is often known as and referred to by almost everyone as the 'Hajj.'

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Chawki: Every time you come here the maximum is 12.25. Maybe
11.50 it depends.
CW: OK.

(unintelligible)

CW: Let me ask you this; if you deliver to Detroit, how
much will you charge me?

Chawki: I can't go there.

CW: You can't bring it there?

Chawki: No.

CW: Because the first time I talked to what's his name,
Adel, he said it's possible.

Chawki: No.

CW: I have a group of friends who can come to buy, if we
came to buy a big quantity as a one time, how much?

STATIC

Chawki: (unintelligible/static) even 11.85

CW: OK I'll talk to them (unintelligible/static)

Chawki: Do you want to load from the front door?

CW: (unintelligible)

Chawki: Do you want to load like this or do you want to load
the back?

CW: No, bring them. Load.

Chawki: I mean load the back or like this?

CW: (unintelligible)

Chawki: OK let's do this. No problem (unintelligible) Who gave
you my number?

CW: Well, some guy, Ali, on EastWay.

Chawki: Ali Naser?

CW: Yeah, Ali Naser. You know him?

Chawki: Yeah, I know him.

CW: Yeah, (unintelligible) he would load outside in front
of all the people, I didn't like that (unintelligible)
so one day I was looking in the Yellow Pages and I saw
EastWay, so I got directions and I came on.

STATIC

CW: (unintelligible/static) if anything happens, I'm not
gonna tell them anything.

Chawki: No, for you. Selling down there is still better.

CW: OK, no problem.

Chawki: We'll take care of them from over there, you know.

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CW: OK. How many cartons did you get me?
Chawki: I got all of them for you.
CW: OK. I have thirteen.
Chawki: What do you mean `thirteen?`
CW: Thirteen thousand.
Chawki: Thirteen thousand? OK.

[Speech not clear enough for verbatim translation. It sounded like they were talking about how to situate the boxes as they're loading the car.]

CW: OK, look, let's calculate it. How much is this?

unintelligible/Static

CW: Look Shukri.
Chawki: Yes?
CW: Chawki, sorry (unintelligible)

[still loading car]

CW: This one is six hundred. OK?

unintelligible/Static

CW: OK 11.90, thousand.
Chawki: 925
CW: give me, give me another, give me five packages this way we'll be at 1080 then we'll have finished thirteen thousand. You know what I mean?
Chawki: wait for a moment. [Chawki is talking to someone in the background: `Boss, Abu-Mohamad.`] Because you have, 1020...
CW: Calculate it for 1080.
Chawki: Keep it 1020 (unintelligible)
CW: 900
Chawki: 900, 990 OK keep it 1020 this will give you 10 (unintelligible) by 200 and.. [Chawki is talking to someone in the background: `we'll go back to 2000 (unintelligible)]. 1020 by 11.85, OK?
CW: OK.
Chawki: 12,087. So you still can add two cases.
CW: Yeah OK what about 1080.
Chawki: 1080 times 11.85
CW: 12,798
Chawki: Yeah.
CW: OK that's good (unintelligible)

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Chawki: (unintelligible)
CW: OK two more.
Chawki: [talking to someone in the background:
(unintelligible)]
CW: That's it. 12,800.
Chawki: (unintelligible)
CW: yeah, eleven, four, five, nine hundred. OK sweety.
Chawki: (unintelligible)
CW: Two dollars don't worry about it, it's OK.
Chawki: OK.
CW: OK I'll call you next week.
Chawki: OK good bye.
CW: Chawki, what was that guys name who was here?
Chawki: Abu-Alhasan.
CW: Abu-Alhasan, OK.
Chawki: (unintelligible)
CW: Whatever deals you get, if you get a lot of deals we'll
come and get it.
Chawki: It'll work.
CW: We'll arrange things and come to get it.
Chawki: OK.
CW: OK sweety. I'll see you.

End of Conversation.