

[UM] Unidentified Male.  
[UI] Unintelligible.  
[NFI] Not Further Identified.  
(LNU) Last name unknown.  
[*Italics*] Translator's comments.  
[...] Incomplete sentence.

Sh = Shukri Abu Baker  
Om = Omar Ahmad  
Gh = Ghassan  
Ss = Sheik Sharif  
Ga = Gawad (LNU)  
Ab = Abdel Salam (LNU)  
Ak = Akram (LNU)  
Au = Abou Usama (NFI)  
As = Abdel Halim Al Ashqar (Aboul Hasan)  
Aa = Abou Ahmad (NFI)  
Aj = Abdel Jabbar  
Ab2 = Abou Bassem (NFI)  
Mu = Muin (LNU)  
Ar = Abdel Rahman  
Ni = Nihad (LNU)

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Om: ...because there is a self-rule. I believe that if you want to form an organization to match the organizations..., the Popular Front or Fatah or the..., the ones which already..., already exist on the front and deal with them..., I personally believe that anybody's secret will be revealed right now. I mean, no matter what names you will use they will be revealed because, my brother, you cannot hide a Muslim. A Muslim wants to pray. What are you going to do about him. Or is he not going to pray and....er, go attend dance parties in order to prove that he is not a Muslim. This is not possible. We tried and you cannot hide him.

UM1: So, this is a legal edict, you mean. [*Laughter and a brief UI group talk*].

Om: You want to deal with people and from the first minute you deal with people you...

- UM1: So, you tried this plan [*Laughter*].
- Om: We tried and found out that if you try to hide yourself behind people...
- UM2: Tell the brother that you tried that.
- Om: ...if we try to hide our Islamic identity..., it is not possible. You can do it for 2, 3 or 4 days, a year, maybe, but they will know. From the moment you begin talking they will recognize you. Unless you really change and it is a problem if we do change. It would be over for us then. If we start speaking in their language I'm afraid we might stick to it and we don't return to who we were or...
- Sh: I mean, someone who works in medical health field, what is the need for him to say "Praised by God the Almighty" or "Thanks be to God" in everything he says? My brother, I'm a professional, you are an engineer, be professional. The brother is a professional in the educational field, let him be professional in his field, in his specialization. Meet with presidents of universities and stuff like that...
- UM1: But this is your nature to speak like...
- UM2: This is a different issue. [*UI group talk*].
- Om: ...unless the profession is...UI. If we have the ability to be creative...UI.
- UM1: This principle was mentioned in the previous sessions relating to organizational activism and others. Let's stay with brother...UI.
- UM2: I studied the topic and I hope we get something out of it.
- UM1: Go ahead.
- UM2: In reality... I resort to God from the pelted Satan. Shukri,...UI. Our brothers, may God reward you well. Establishing a new neutral organization to deal with the [*Palestinian Liberation*] Organization...er, with the...
- Om: The new state.
- UM2: ...with the [*Palestinian Liberation*] Organization or the new state between brackets. What are the features of this new organization? One of the brothers a short while ago said that it is like..., it is like we feel that everything has collapsed. Excuse me. And we also feel that

in America..., I mean if we fail in this country it means that our entire cause will fail. I started to get this feeling, really. This new organization..., brother Shukri is discussing it in a way while brother Ghassan looks at it in a different way. But, there is one conclusion we will get out of this organization which is confusing the Islamic mentality here in America. The Islamic mentality in America will be confused. It is already confused. A lot of you will say "Confused? How come? They are already confused". But, you have to understand that in case it wanted to win the general public opinion here in America..., in case the other organization was hit or stuff, it can issue a statement saying "By God, we are in agreement. We are in agreement on this and in agreement on that". And those who read your stuff..., who reads your stuff? This is a question we must ask ourselves. Who is going to read your ads and your statements? The only thing people will see is that there is a new organization - and it is not known what it is - which writes articles about the issue of the new Palestinian state. And you could try to convince people from behind [*saying*] "Tone it down a little". Thus, you want to address the enemy while you are speaking to your friend and this friend of yours doesn't...UI. Our brothers, my opinion is - and God knows best - that we don't discuss the goals but focus very much on what we have in the discussion, arrange our priorities in a good way and go on with that and there is no need for new organizations or stuff. Let's be distinguished, God's willing, in a way which will get us out of this crisis, God's willing.

Sh: ...UI. [*Laughter*].

UM1: God's willing we will...UI. I would like to ask brother Omar about two points in that regards.

Om: Go ahead.

UM1: The first point is: Have you studied the legal status of the [*Islamic*] Association [*for Palestine*] in light of its address and found there are real dangers such as closing the [*Islamic*] Association [*for Palestine*] soon, for instance, any time soon?

Om: By God, I will tell you where the danger is. The danger is two-fold, either a financial connection or orders.

UM1: Hum.

Om: I mean if you work for someone overseas and he gives you orders to carry out. These are the only two dangers.

UM1: Yes.

Om: The issue is that if you cover these two bases, you will find that you, as an American organization, can do whatever you want. This is from legal point of view. As for the media, it is possible that you could be destroyed by the media without the law touching you.

Sh: Aha.

Om: For instance, newspapers and magazines can say that you are a terrorist because you are an Islamic organization...

UM1: Yes, I understand.

Om: I mean, they could hold things against you and destroy you on the media front before you're destroyed by the government and the law. This is like Sheik Omar, for instance.

UM1: Yes.

Om: Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman, there are no..., what you call crimes against him, you see?

UM1: Yes.

Om: Other than they kept digging around him and stuff like that. But, it was the media which accused him before he was legally charged and he wasn't able to..., because he didn't have a support system. He couldn't defend himself in face of the media. The media is overwhelming, that is. So, what I can say is that our problem at the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine] is the following: the problem is the address; if you want to the Americans, you lose the Muslims. If you address the Muslims, it means that you cannot reveal your address to the Americans. Frankly speaking.

UM1: Yes.

Om: This is the thing. Like when you're talking opposition to peace. It is possible that..., people are telling us that we have become peace-loving, for instance. Some people are telling you that you're peace-loving, that you have become peace-loving. Ok, it is true that we are peace-loving. But, one could interpret peace-loving that we have surrendered and another would interpret it that we keep use diplomatic terms in order to...UI. I mean, for instance, if someone asked you if you want to destroy Israel, what are you going to say on TV? Destroy it meaning...UI

Sh: ...are you going to forsake your belief...

Om: For instance. If you say "Destroy it" on TV, it means...UI.

Sh: Is this what our Islam says?

UM1: You don't have to answer him.

Om: I understand. I know. But, if you give an inconclusive response which is like you didn't answer the question, someone will come to you and tell you that you have forsaken your principles.

UM1: Yes.

Om: Someone will do that. So, you will be in a problem. But, legally, I see that we don't have any..., I mean I'm personally comfortable that we don't have a problem with the law if we covered these two things.

UM1: Ok, the other point is: Is it wrong if we wanted to form an organization from a precautionary point of view? I mean, just in case...

Om: Let me tell you...

UM1: ...just in case something happened to the [*Islamic*] Association [*for Palestine*], God forbid. And I'm not saying it will be a...UI organization. No, we will give the same input. We will not change as it is a matter of principle.

Om: [*You mean*] as a quick alternative.

UM1: But, suppose they cornered us regarding this point we would have another way out. Is this wrong to think about?

Om: No, it is not. But, where is the problem? It is that there are no available people to work. I mean, you say...

UM1: Let it get registered and....

Om: ...UI. Registering an organization is easy. I can register 100 organizations in 100 cities in one day. Registration is not important. Here in America you begin working first and then you then go register. It is not a problem here.

UM1: Yes.

Om: The problem is where? We don't have available people to work in the existing organization. Where do we go to find these people? Like I told you, go ahead start a new organization but you won't be able to find new faces. Do we have hidden faces we now bring up to light? We have what we have. I mean, we don't really have available people whom we could dedicate for the work we want to hide. We don't have available people to work right now. This is one. The idea which we can discuss in more details is whether we should drop our Islamic identity or keep it.

UM1: Yes.

UM2: Let us discuss this point after we listen to brother Nihad regarding the issue of political and media address and how it should be for the American people for members of the Islamic and Arabic community, and how do we handle our issues with the brothers.

UM1: I just have a remark.

UM2: Hum. Go ahead.

UM1: The idea behind the goal which was discussed is meant to stir discussion around it and not for..., by God... First of all, I don't adopt it as an idea but as an idea to be discussed on the table. Every brother is supposed to give his ideas around it and not block it.

UM2: You mean tweak it.

UM1: I mean all the ideas which were suggested to destroy this goal. But, suggesting a goal like that and points like these are meant for discussion to see if this thing is applicable, can this thing benefit us in the future. We now jump to conclusions so fast. Our inclination might not be to go mingle with people, drink and dance and stuff like that. The idea..., the idea is to create an organization and we need to discuss it in a scientific manner and not in a discussion in which we jump into conclusions. I'm not going to keep defending it...

Om: What benefit could be gained from it?

UM1: My..., my..., my point is that I would really like everyone to discuss it in a logical way. I'm not going to keep defending it. It is not a matter for debate, between you and I...

Om: What is its benefit? What is its benefit? Tell me about the hoped benefit from the [creation of] this organization.

UM1: I believe that its benefit in the future is that... I mean, my view and God knows best is

that...

Om: that the self-rule will succeed.

UM1: that the self-rule will succeed.

Om: Ok, fine. Assuming that it will succeed, what are you saying?

UM1: Assuming that it will succeed, there must be a method and a line for dealing with them. God knows what agreements will be made in the future between sister Samah and the [*Palestinian Liberation*] Organization. In the future, they might make agreements and become friends. God knows. God knows.

Om: Ok, assuming that they remain enemies. Assuming that they remain enemies.

UM1: Assuming that they remain enemies, huh... I work on the American front and the [*Palestinian Liberation*] Organization has some Palestinian community that it won't ignore. I'm telling you from now, anyone who will think that the [*Palestinian Liberation*] Organization will...UI is not correct.

Om: Fine. Yes.

UM1: It will come and compete with you in educational work, in charitable work, in media work. So, if you are labeled as an Islamist with the community and with the people there will be a large segment of Palestinians which have interests with the Palestinian state and they will stand behind it. This will happen regardless of..., of the Islamic... I will give you an example; Saudi Arabia..., I will give you Saudi Arabia as an example. There are a lot of Islamists in Saudi Arabia who don't like..., who don't like the state in their hearts but they...

Om: Deal with it.

UM1: but you find them deal with the Saudi government because he is afraid, he goes along and he has interests with the government and he cannot oppose it. So, if you are an Islamist and an Islamic movement, he won't deal with you. You won't be able to win him. Therefore, there must be a... I'm telling you I don't have a full concept on its structure, what it should do and...

Om: ...UI. Let me tell you something else.

- UM2: We need to hurry up, our brothers.
- Om: ...UI. I just have a quick point. If we don't want to show the Islamic identity, if we want to portray it as a neutral body and the [*Palestinian Liberation*] Organization has a neutral organization similar to it and we deal with it what is the benefit? What are going to get at last? What is goal? Are we going to be just on the arena without a goal? Or do we need a goal? This is the point. Ok, I've become a neutral organization and I'm accepted by the [*Palestinian Liberation*] Organization and I deal with it, I send stuff, I bring stuff over and do things and my matters are flowing smoothly like you are saying. What is the benefit? What am I going to get at the end?
- UM1: It might be..., it might be...
- Om: For instance, if I'm in Palestine, fine. I want to survive. Yes, I can. I want to survive for at least five years until things change. But, I'm here in America. This is different. I'm here in America and not in Palestine.
- UM2: There might be some benefit in some of the auxiliary issues such as the educational matters. There is no need to tie them with the Islamic Association for Palestine.
- Om: Right, right.
- UM1: So, if the [*Palestinian Liberation*] Organization is giving grants for self-rule and stuff like that, for instance, it will get a share.
- Om: Yes, this is something else.
- UM1: An economic organization. There is no need to tie it the issue of the [*Islamic*] Association [*for Palestine*] and stuff like that.
- Om: Yes, yes. That's right.
- UM2: This is the conclusion we reach, my brother. We could now arrive to a conclusion that it is possible that this [*new organization*] be an economic organization from which we benefit and from which our foreign exchange students brothers can benefit, or a charitable organization, why not?
- Om: ...UI if it is not political, neither charitable or...UI.
- Um2: Not an alternate organization.



Sh: Allow me. Allow me, my brother. Let's listen to each other. By the way, one of us talks while the other is not... We didn't hear each other, my brother. No one said that the goal of this organization be... UI that I get a mirror and reflect myself in it. It is a only a stupid person, a person who is digging his own grave that suggests the formation of an organization that is parallel to the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine] but with a secular mentality, for instance. I would be destroying myself. This is not the idea. The idea is to take advantage of certain opportunities. For instance, for instance, for instance, we can form an organization for youths, a friendship..., Palestinian-American Friendship Association. What is the problem of doing that. This will be done in order to send them on tourist trips to the land of Palestine and put some honey a little bit at a time with the poison they're given. But, if from the first night you want to call it "The Islamic Society for Youths Welfare", they will shut the door in your face. Work on the level of the new community and don't have a bold color, for instance. You raise a community at your convenience, a little bit at a time. When they see you for four years...

Om: I don't see a problem with that.

Sh: This is for example, for example.

[UI brief group talk].

UM2: I don't think we will disagree on that issue.

Om: I'll tell you something. Even if you have an economic organization right now while there is no self-rule, you still must make it non-Islamic. It is not reasonable that you go deal with the House of Muslims Bank and stuff like that [and tell them] "Come invest with me". It is impossible. [UI brief group talk].

UM1: Regarding the presented paper, this might have been the most discussion-generating point. But, there are some other points in the papers..., I don't know.

As: ...UI. Organizational motto.

UM1: Huh?

Sh: The organization's motto.

UM1: Is it regarding the motto...UI. You might not accept the motto but..., I believe [you might accept] the direction.

Om: A part of the direction is ok.

UM1: The direction is to make people aware because people are ignorant. The public is ignorant of [the *contents of*] the agreement.

Om: Fine. Right.

UM2: Ok. We will listen to Aboul Hassan and then...

UM1: But, there is a point in our brother Abdel Jabbar's speech regarding the...UI will confuse the people who are with him. I will give you an example from our end...UI and our brother, one person from the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine] used to go tour with Dr. Ahmad. People were saying "See, the Fund's people are now forming other organizations" and this must be for fear that their organization might be exposed or hit or stuff like that. People think like that.

Sh: Oh, yes. There are some people who say "Agent. Our brothers at the Fund are...UI... want to go to Madrid to...UI". Therefore, if you have an organization working in the same field it will be...UI.

[UI brief group talk].

UM1: Ok. Are there any other comments? Let us listen to our brother...

UM2: I want to say..., it looks like..., I know the [Palestinian Liberation] Organization and its method. First of all, you have Yasser Arafat. If you are not with me you are against me. This is the law with him. There is no other..., you're either with me or against me. If you oppose him you're out the question. You're either with me or against me. All of us are supposed to know these things when talking about implementing any project or any organization, that you're either with him or against him...UI. This is their method over there. You're either with me or against me.

Om: Let's go, people.

UM1: But the idea is..., I suppose all of these remarks can be discussed if the idea is clear. I mean, the brothers are asking questions and discuss the details of such an organization. But, I believe that organizations will be formed..., organizations will be formed in America and then they will be adopted by the [Palestinian Liberation] Organization and by the state of Palestine. Organizations will open, I mean this will take place. You can now open organizations and, by the time to come to you...er. It is possible..., this is the

direction of a lot of organizations but you are already labeled. It is over. You as the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine] is labeled. Another point, a final point is that in order for activism in the field to expand and get better it should..., it is going to expand and get bigger since the Palestinians now have a state. So, work will get bigger and will expand. Therefore, we must get bigger and expand the organizational work in addition to the work performed by the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine]. Not everything should be grouped in one organization for charity work and one organization for public work. We must expand and there must be..., I mean you must have other choices...

UM2: ...UI. If you have a goal to..., if you have a goal to form one or ten organizations we must have a unified goal.

UM1: Yes.

UM2: If it is one organization or ten organizations.

UM3: Not necessarily, my brother. Not necessarily.

UM2: My brother, the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine] can make available those who work with the youths, the schools and stuff and don't show themselves as Islamists. That's true. But for an organization such as the Islamic Association for Palestine to take a secular path or a near-secular path it is not going to be compatible with our creed and we cannot go on with it. And if we go along with them, we are like them.

UM2: And this also depends on the nature of the organization. If you want to form a public organization such as the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine] and then one of your brothers speaks at the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine] and then tries to speak at a different organization, he won't be able to speak with a double face. And the leaders and the persons whom you want are limited. But, if it is a specialized auxiliary organizations there won't be a problem. And God's knows better.

UM1: If the idea is available on the table, it can be solved through..., it needs a study. I mean all the ideas presented are not.... The idea was just tossed in a manner which...

Om: We're still working to see what ideas we can suggest.

UM2: This paper really needs a state to implement it and not the Islamic Association for Palestine.

UM1: Why?

- UM2: No. I'm talking about this paper and see the things required for it, they are more than what the Islamic Association for Palestine can undertake. We should be practical. The issue of having specialized bodies overseeing sub-issues and all of them are built-up together is bigger than saying this is an issue for the Islamic Association for Palestine to handle. The Islamic Association for Palestine cannot tackle that.
- UM2: The goal..., the goal of the paper, I wrote these ideas to make them available on the table and people can think them over and the brothers might find things in them they could recommend. I don't say that we should make a decision right now to open an organization, nor do I say that we ought to make a decision right now to do this or that, but an idea it should be put on the table for discussion and it can be assigned to one or two brothers to discuss it from all aspects. I mean, there is nothing to further identify it, whether it is a political, a specialized or a media organization or whatever. It is just an idea on the table, that's all.
- UM1: Ok, my brothers. We will...UI in these few minutes. After the discussion, after the paper which was presented by our brothers and our discussion of the political address and the other problems, it is fine if another idea is brought up to further clarify this idea. We will discuss it anyway.
- Sh: It is not the topic of the session anyway.
- UM1: Yes, yes. May God reward you well. Is there any other final comment before we move on to...
- UM3: I see that we move on now and then...UI.
- As: My brother, regarding the goals...UI but we should really specify the goals. I believe it should be the future of the Palestinian activism..., the Palestinian activism in North America. We really shouldn't end the presentation until we have identified the goals we wish to accomplish in the upcoming stage. Making Muslims in America aware of the danger of this event which is targeting the Islamists. It is goal of a stage. Introducing the meanings of the sanctity of Al Aqsa to educational curricula, making charitable work effective, forming the public opinion or coming up with a policy to influence the..., the way the Americans deal with the Islamists, for instance. I believe these should be the goals of this stage. ...UI.... The paper was good and specific. May God reward you well.
- UM1: I put the questions so that the brothers..., I mean, my goal is that the brother will go through them and that they open the door for discussion if the brothers could answer them. This is just to scratch your head. These questions..., really, we ask them at the

[Islamic] Association [for Palestine] and we want to know them, want them to be clarified either officially or they could be agreed on here. I mean, they need to be very specific. Now, is the new Palestinian state going to....

UM2: The self-rule authority.

UM1: The new self-rule authority..., Ok, the new self-rule authority..., are we going to fight it, totally boycott it or take a neutral stand or adopt a stand which supports two solutions or exactly what? These are..., these are... We need answers which can be either provided now or be presented to the researchers so that they can give us replies to them. That's it. I left them unanswered because I don't want to answer them as I don't have enough power to answer them.

UM2: You as what? The [Islamic] Association [for Palestine] or as a Movement or what?

UM1: I'm speaking as the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine], as an individual or regarding the presentation I'm making. But, it is difficult for me to reply to these questions as they need brothers who are researchers who work on these answers.

UM2: Ok, let's move on to brother Nihad and keep in mind that - like brother Aboul Hasan mentioned - the issue of specifying goals for the future of the Palestinian activism in America is an important issue we should get out of this session like the issue of the political address for the Americans or the Islamic communities.

[UI brief group talk].

Sh: I swear by your God that war is deception. War is deception. We are fighting our enemy with a kind heart and we never thought of deceiving it. War is deception. Deceive, camouflage, pretend that you're leaving while you're walking that way. Or do we have to be...UI. Deceive your enemy.

Om: ...UI. This is like one who plays basketball; he makes a player believe that he is doing this while he does something else...UI. I agree with you. Like they say; politics is a completion of war.

Sh: Yes, politics - like war - is a deception.

UM1: So, are you going to play basketball in order to camouflage yourselves from the Organization, you mean? [Laughter].

Sh: For instance. We should have a...UI and play basketball. We play and become professional players.

UM2: The reality is that the entire world is not resisting us due to our connections to Palestine. The Palestinian cause came to existence - and I believe you know the history - as a war on Islam and Muslims. If this was not the whole issue, it is a big part of the issue. Now, regarding the world strategy or what is called the New American Order, isn't its most prominent aspects is how to strike Islamic activism? How can you now change any of your work aspects under the excuse of camouflaging myself from this or that person? Ok, I don't have an objection. Camouflage, but what are the slogans you will be raising? We have issues I wonder how are we going to change them. I as a Muslim, what can I say about the Palestinian cause? Do you have anything to change or alter regarding this cause since I as a Muslim cannot forsake any part of Palestine, even one flea. I mean, [like saying] "We accept the division of '47. We accept the '67 solution. Accept this and that". Can I say any of that as a Muslim? The other issue is that crying over these fundamentals is a display of the Islamic call which is our grand cause. We took up the cause of Palestine out of our desire to call to Islam or is it not? We shouldn't let all of our causes pour into the cause of Palestine and then come back and present Islam or ideas..., ideas about our issues in a frame which, instead of being an Islamic Sharia perspective, becomes a political matter which might be mixed with some Islamic hue. So, what I was hearing... This is what I understood: that our enemies..., forget about them. Brother Shukri mentioned that we send people to Palestine under this excuse or under that name. This is as if people over there don't understand, read, spy or are informed or anything. What I say is that I don't have a problem with us forming organizations whose names and colors are chosen with any sort of caution. There is no problem with that. But, we shouldn't forget that the fundamentals we spoke about - specially regarding the Islamic Association for Palestine - are fundamentals which have no change or alteration. This is one point. Another point is that Arafat in particular..., I don't there is anyone else who lies more than him and I don't think there is anyone who is more criminal than him. By God, in '68, Saleh Sirryah told me that he sat with him in a reconciliation session at the house of Dr. Kandil Shbeir in '68. The session lasted from midnight until morning. And he stayed with Arafat for three days with the bases. He said I didn't see him perform one prayer and I saw him eating pork. This is what Saleh Sirryah said. And I asked Qandil about the session when he came to America and he said "Yes, the session took place at my house". The witness told me that Saleh Sirryah and...UI to my God, he told me that this man [Arafat] eliminates his opponents. He is a criminal. See all of those he killed...

UM1: Abdel Fattah Issa Humoud and...

UM2: Yes, all of those. So, what I wanted to say... And you know that Arafat was appointed by

force by Abdel Nasser. He was supported by Abdel Nasser who was the one who brought him on board and protected him for the cause as Al Shokeiri didn't..., didn't succeed and didn't do. In fact, we must take some precaution which suits our presence in America but, my brothers, we cannot change the fundamentals of our creed. We cannot change whatever relates to a Sharia aspect. I just wanted to draw attention to these fundamentals because I see that the talk is gradually wearing political hues which might be dominant in presenting the issue to the point of making us a different entity. I say once more, if you get drunk and woke up and did whatever, it is known that you work for Islamic activism. Like the Muslim Brothers said before, they said "I went inside the bar and this spy following me and it still didn't work". He shaved his beard and it didn't work. Did whatever and it didn't work. He is a Muslim Brotherhood [*member*] and that's it. You see? "Jews and Christians won't be pleased with you until you follow their religion". What does "...until you follow their religion" mean? It is like what Arafat did. Arafat followed their religion and he became a Jew.

UM1: Is this an edict, sheik?

UM2: I'm not saying someone became an infidel or...UI. [*Laughter*]

UM1: Go ahead.

Ni: Peace be with you and God's mercy. Praise be to God, prayers and peace be on God's prophet. God's willing, I will read the paper I wrote and which was distributed to the brothers. Many of them...UI. I hope that you write down your remarks, suggestions or objections because this talk will be the implementation of all what I understood from you. All that was said before are theories and this is the application. I will read to you what will be said by us at the [*Islamic*] Association [*for Palestine*] or what will be put in our writing or our work curriculum until the end of the year or until God wishes. Of course, we are the primary entity doing media activism and it seems that, based on our appearance on CNN, people have started to contact us. Americans, Muslims, non-Muslims, Jews, Zionists, Arabs, branches of Islamic communities and all of them are asking us for the conclusion, the conclusion of our opinion and our direction. They want us to display all we have. This is one thing. On the other hand, organizations such as NAAA invited us to participate in their conference to deliver a lecture about the Islamic view regarding it. So, the [*Islamic*] Association [*for Palestine*] will be attended by James Baker, Dennis Ross from the U.S. delegation and all the chairmen of Arab negotiation delegations. This is on one aspect. So, I hope that at the end..., the conference is at the end of the month. So, I hope that you take notes, listen to what I'm going to say, remind us and advise us on how our address should be.

UM1: Nihad, this means that this paper contains what you are going to say?

Ni: No, this one is... The last..., the last page I will say...

UM2: ...UI are you going to say something else? [Laughter]

UM1: No, no... I mean, the format you're talking about now..., are they new formats or..., a summary of what was said before?

Ni: In fact, I will speak about the media aspect in the beginning as mentioned in the paper. At the end..., the end of the session, I will speak about the sensitive points which they always bring up to us, or the points which we are supposed to present. It is clear from the latest events as well as the ones prior to them that the media is stronger than politics. On the contrary,...UI that politics might not measure up to the media level and the agreement was a media round. It sacred people through media marketing to the point that politicians weren't able to confront the media campaign, I mean those who are opposed to the agreement in general terms. Five goals are clear in this paper. These five goals include establishing some media means and developing some of the existing outlets. As for the third goal, it is a continuation of what was asked of us in the morning. May brothers in the media field remember these points and...UI. The first goal is increasing the awareness and the attention of those working for Palestine to media at the local level, meaning in the cities, or on the U.S. level because we normally ask where are the people who work in the media field and we don't think that we could personally work in the media field. For instance, we have about 20 brothers, maybe only brother Nihad or Ghassan who work in media. But it could be that none of us perform that [media] role when he expresses the view of the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine] and the Islamic view to the media outlets. In order to achieve this level of awareness, I have four points I mentioned; the first thing is training and qualifying individuals in the branches and the communities on media activism through holding special courses on media. Also, we could have internships for students, either in institutions or universities. They would get a credit and then come to us at the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine] to write or assist us in activism. This would be a part of their program. Second, encouraging the...UI of activism between students and directing them to study media and political sciences through meeting with them and encouraging them to do so. The brothers in the morning mentioned that students must be directed to study media. Brother Aboul Hasan mentioned that we must direct people to study journalism, political sciences and stuff like that. How can that be accomplished? I mean through which way? It is right there and this should be mentioned to the company (NFI) or we should be asking about the students when we meet with the community. Or you could ask about the students in the community and direct them in that regards. Otherwise, they are not going to study media or politics on



their own if they don't find someone to encourage them to. The 3<sup>rd</sup> aspect is providing branches and communities with materials, statements and information needed to help them cooperate with media outlets. This is like what is going on right now. People contact us [asking] "What is the view of the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine] so that we can adopt it with the media outlets? Issue statements for us, positions", or it could be that they want information. "What do you say? Why don't you hold a press conference, a statement...". All of these are things the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine] is trying to make available. Four, supplying lecturers and speakers with academic materials and information to facilitate their job. Many of the brothers now would like to give a lecture either to the communities or to the universities but they don't have information. We will try to group it and give it to them, God's willing. The second goal which is making the Palestinian public aware of the nature of the Islamic solution and its validity and also the dangers of the current events and incidents first through making sure Al Zaytouna reaches as many people as possible. Second, cooperating with Arab media. There are Arab media outlets. There are organizations which own TV's, radio, magazines and newspapers. We don't reach them. We need to reach these people and ask them for a statement or to open the door for the Islamic current to present its view. Three, holding political seminars with other opposing parties present, meaning building coalitions and holding seminars to make the community aware of the Islamic voice. Four, field visits and meeting with branches and communities in order to speak with them. This is a very important point. We have the largest public while the leaders, you at the communities or the brothers at the executive committee of the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine] are supposed to visit the community and meet people. I mean, they shouldn't just see the newspaper or see some of the statements but, they want to see some individuals from the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine] to come to visit. The [Palestinian Liberation] Organization was doing this for 15 years. This was the only connection between the leaders of the [Palestinian Liberation] Organization in America and the communities. They used to visit them, do...UI for them and work according to a plan.

UM1: Worked according to a plan?

Ni: They knew whom to go to and which individuals to pay attention to. Therefore, they would be affiliated with the [Palestinian Liberation] Organization. Five, focusing on the common national rights for all opposition figures when giving an input. The third goal now is the Islamic community in addition to the Palestinian public. Informing the Islamic public with the importance of the Palestinian cause from the Islamic aspect and the necessity of supporting it. Of course, some of this stuff was mentioned but, I have to mention here eight points quickly. Means: first, contacting and cooperating with Islamic non-Arab media outlets such as ISNA and ICNA and all the other existing non-Arab organizations and exchanging articles and subscriptions with them. Second, giving an

opportunity to the largest number of non-Arab writers to adopt, write about and speaking about the Palestinian cause and developing a list of these people. This means that, in order to reach the Pakistani or the Indian community, it is better to get a Pakistani person or an Afro-American to speak about your cause. This will be better than if you speak. Brothers, we are already doing some of these things at the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine]. For instance, I started to compile a list of people who like to..., I provide them with information so that they speak to their public. Three, making sure that the Muslim World Monitor reaches the centers and the organizations which don't receive it. This issue needs a survey. Four, inviting non-Arabic speakers to attend The Return Festivals so that they see that Palestine has a certain cultural and artistic characteristic. Let them come and attend even if they don't understand Arabic. We can make ...UI for them. Also, inviting them to attend the MAYA conferences and its forums. We normally don't think about that because we don't provide translation to them. You can bring the Muslim non-Arab activists and leaders of activism and have them attend the conferences where they meet the scholars and see for themselves the sensitivity of the Palestinian cause with its people and with the Arab public and they will be more touched. Five, re-writing some leaflets and media issues relating to the Palestinian cause in English. Six, publishing short leaflets and booklets about the importance of Palestine and the existing solutions. That means issuing quick brochures. For instance, the issue of the agreement, we put together a full package and it is possible that we can now improve it and put it in the form of question and answer. A question-and-answer format and present it to the public. Seven, attending the conferences of the non-Arabic speakers. I mean, participate in them and deliver lectures or we could participate in the seminars. Finally, in order to familiarize people with the Islamic view, we must hold meeting with Dr. Jamal Badawi, for instance...

Om: There is no need to mention the details as we won't finish this way.

Ni: Why do I tell you about these things, brothers? Because this is a practical... Everything you said is theoretical in my opinion while this is what the action the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine] will tackle.

UM1: What kind of accusations are these?

Ni: No, excuse me... I mean, how are you going to implement all what you said, all what you said unless through the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine]?

Om: You wrote it down. You read it to us and we decide.

Ni: I will read it and he who is opposed can raise his hand.

Om: We can summarize them.

Sh: No. The goal of this seminar, my brother, is for us to reach certain convictions and then the organizations are to format these convictions into action plan and stuff like that. But, for us to discuss the action plan now in details..., this is not the purpose unless there are main, main, broad strategies in media, politics or stuff like that, the brothers can reach a consensus regarding them. If they are accepted, they will be turned over to the organizations to discuss them as an action plan. And every organization has its board of directors and its board and private public.

[UI brief group talk].

Sh: Focus on the goals.

UM1: The only goal which needs discussion is the sixth goal. As for the rest of the goals...UI.

Ni: Ok, for those people who have the papers, I will quickly read the goals for them. The fourth goal is becoming open to the media in the U.S. and the Western society to ease the intensity of the campaign and to explain the legality of the opposition led by the Islamists. This is the work of the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine]. Five, developing and strengthening the media department of the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine]. This needs..., needs attention and I urge the brothers to understand that the administrative media department of the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine] is very weak and that if brother Mohamed or myself are absent, this would mean that no newspaper or media work will be done. Therefore, we need to speak about the necessity of finding reporters to do media work because we only have two individuals or even one and a half. We need someone at the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine] to handle the secretarial issues.

UM1: ...UI a secretary.

Ni: There are..., there are options...UI.

[UI brief group talk].

UM2: What is the goal of...UI.

Ni: Huh?

UM2: It is not written here.

Ni: ...UI I asked him last time and he didn't have an objection.

UM1: On what?

Ni: A young man named Ahmad, a good-looking man. [*Laughter*].

UM1: To handle secretarial issues? [*Laughter*].

Ni: Let's discuss the last goal which is the third goal. A media attempt to deal with the agreement and its ramifications. The first thing, there are four axes; the first axis....

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END OF RECORDING.