

~~SECRET~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Event: Interview of [REDACTED]

Date: November 5, 2003

Special Access Issues: None

Prepared by: Dieter Snell

Team Number: 1A

Location: FBI Baltimore Field Office

Participants – Commission: Dieter Snell, Hyon Kim

FBI Representative: Bob Sinton

9/11 Law Enforcement Privacy

SA [REDACTED] was assigned to the public corruption squad before 9/11 and became the case agent for the [REDACTED] case within a week of the attacks. He held that position until October, at which point he returned to his squad and [REDACTED] took over the [REDACTED] case. [REDACTED] has spent his entire career with the FBI (6-7 years) on the criminal side.

[REDACTED] was present at the arrest and initial interview of [REDACTED] which [REDACTED] cut off by asking for an attorney (who, at least initially, was the same lawyer whom all of the area material witnesses retained). [REDACTED] also worked with [REDACTED] of Customs on the application for a material witness warrant for [REDACTED]. The investigation of [REDACTED] grew out of the Route 1 canvass. The area to which [REDACTED] were assigned included the Holiday Inn; although no one there recognized any of the hijackers, [REDACTED] was identified as a suspicious character who: paid his bill in cash; used pay phones to make telephone calls in Arabic; repeatedly took the hotel shuttle to the NASA Space Center without ever entering the Center; had no luggage; and refused to allow cleaning staff inside his room when he wasn't there.

During additional canvassing along Route 1, the Best Western manager claimed to recall seeing [REDACTED] and Hani Hanjour praying together in the parking lot. [REDACTED] wasn't present for this interview.) At Congressional Air, a flight school, several people thought they remembered seeing Hanjour in the company of someone who looked like a clean-shaven [REDACTED]. At the Kebab House (which the hijackers frequented), an employee recalled [REDACTED] requesting permission to display a photo of a deceased Palestinian militant in the store window.

The FBI began following [REDACTED] after receiving a tip from an employee at the Avis office in the Holiday Inn that [REDACTED] was exchanging a rental car for another one. By this time, the Bureau was aware of a warrant for [REDACTED] arrest in connection with a stolen car

9/11 Law Enforcement
Sensitive

DECLASSIFIED BY UC 60326/60

2N

S-3-07

~~SECRET~~

1

9/11 Law Enforcement Sensitive

~~SECRET~~

charge. The ensuing surveillance followed [] to the Denny's restaurant parking lot, where [] inexplicably tossed a wrapped remote car opener into an empty dumpster. Based on the suspicious nature of this action, the agents feared that the opener might be part of an IED, so they sent it to the FBI's Engineering Research Facility in Quantico for analysis. The item proved to be nothing more than an opener, and [] believes the FBI identified the rental car to which it belonged. None of the cars [] rented contained anything of significance.

A thorough, multi-agency workup of [] was conducted by the FBI, IRS, Customs, CIA and NSA, but only the Virginia stolen car arrest warrant turned up in the way of criminal behavior. After arresting [] on the warrant, the agents obtained his consent to search his room, where they found an address book containing over 1000 phone numbers, including one for Osama Basnan. [] sees [] as someone who wrote everything down, including contacts who provided him money and work as an interpreter/facilitator for foreign visitors. Having arrived in the US as a student in the early 1980s, [] simply never left the country; he lived here without any family. He spent some time in northern Virginia, near Seminary Road, as well as in North Carolina and South Carolina (where he attended school). At the Holiday Inn, he said he was waiting to "hear from my people" regarding some undisclosed employment.

[] is uncertain about the GRF check recovered during the consent search.

It appears that [] went to the same Kinkos as the hijackers. He also took trips via hotel shuttle to various malls, asking to be dropped off behind the stores. He may have had one or more phone numbers pertaining to the Saudi embassy. [] contacted Bureau FCI agents familiar with Iraqi intelligence but failed to uncover anything of substance.

9/11 Law Enforcement Privacy

~~SECRET~~