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Memorandum

Event: Interview of SSA Anthony Cervantes
Type of Event: Witness Interview
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Prepared by: Doug Greenburg
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Classification: **SECRET**
Participants – FBI: SSA Anthony Cervantes, Pat O'Brien, Esq.
Participants-Commission: D. Greenburg, J. Roth, S. Wille

On October 27 2003, we interviewed FBI Supervisory Special Agent Anthony Cervantes at the FBI's Minneapolis Division for approximately one hour. This memorandum provides a summary of what we consider the most important points covered in the interview, but is not a verbatim account. The memorandum is organized by subject and does not necessarily follow the order of the interview. All information in this memorandum was provided by SA Cervantes during the interview unless stated in brackets.

Background

Cervantes obtained a B.A. Sociology from the University of St. Thomas, after previously getting an A.A. in Criminal Justice from a community college. He joined the FBI in 1984, serving in Denver from 1984-88, where he worked domestic terrorism and organized crime cases. He then worked drugs in the Chicago office from 1988-98, before coming to the Minneapolis Division. From 1998 until October 2001 he worked violent crimes and foreign counter-intelligence in the St. Paul. R. A. On 10/23/01, he became the counter-terrorism (CT) supervisor in Minneapolis, with responsibility for international terrorism (IT), domestic terrorism (DT), and foreign counter-intelligence (FCI). In this role, he supervised both criminal and intelligence investigations. He served in this capacity until March 2003, when the roles were split up, and he assumed responsibility solely for counter-intelligence.

Al Barakaat/AIAI Investigations

Cervantes supervised the Al-Barakaat and AIAI investigations from 10/01 through 03/03. He had only a general recollection of these investigations. See Memorandums of Interview concerning [redacted] and [redacted] for more detailed information about these investigations.

Cervantes said he viewed the investigations as primarily intelligence gathering, with the intelligence needs driving the criminal case. The criminal investigation was

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hampered by the inability to trace money overseas. The investigators could identify money being sent through Al-Barakaat overseas, but could not trace the funds overseas without access to foreign records, which were extremely difficult to obtain. Cervantes recalled the FBI making very slow progress in getting the Arab states to share information. He had little knowledge of the USG trip to the UAE.

The intelligence case was hampered by AIAI's not being designated a Foreign Terrorist Organization. Cervantes supported [redacted] efforts to convince FBIHQ to support a designation, but to no avail.

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