

MFR 04016253

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Events: Interview of James R. Sobchack

Date: October 16, 2003

Special Access Issues: none

Prepared by: Quinn John Tamm, Jr.

Team Number:

Location: FBI Washington Field Office, Washington, DC

Participants-Commission: Hyon Kim, Michael Jacobson, Quinn John Tamm, Jr.

FBI Representative: Robert Stuart Sinton

(U)Special Agent (SA) James R. Sobchack, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is assigned to International Terrorism Squad Three (IT-3) of the Washington Field Division (WFO) of the FBI. SA Sobchack entered on duty with the FBI on 01/05/1997. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from the Pennsylvania State University, and is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). SA Sobchack was previously employed by the accounting firm Arthur Andersen.

^u(S)Mr. Sobchack was assigned the investigation of Mohammed Abdi on 10/01/2001. Abdi's telephone number was found on a map of the Washington, DC metropolitan area, in a motor vehicle operated by Nawaf al-Hazmi. This vehicle was located by the Washington Metropolitan Airport Authority Police Department in the parking lot of Dulles International Airport, Herndon, VA. FBI agents and the police reviewed surveillance videotape from the airport. The Flight 77 hijackers were observed on the videotape. There were no images identifiable as Abdi.

^u(S)Mr. Sobchack stated that Abdi's telephone number, 703-519-1947, along with the first name "Mohammed," was written in highlighter ink on a map of the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Investigation determined that the number was subscribed to by Abdi on telephone service provided by the Verizon Telephone Company. The telephone number was assigned to Abdi's telephone in September 1999, by the then Bell Atlantic Telephone Company. Mr. Sobchack determined that the edition of the map, on which the number was written, had been distributed to Safeway Supermarkets in the Washington, DC area, in January 1999. The FBI Laboratory examined the map for latent fingerprints, indented writings, and the chemical composition of the ink in both the telephone number

cc 60302/UP

S-007

and other writings on the map. No distinctive information was developed that assisted the investigation.

^u
(S)Abdi is an American citizen, originally from Somalia. Abdi was employed as a security guard with the Burns' Security Company, and assigned to the Freddie Mac campus in McLean, VA. During a search of Abdi's apartment it was discovered that he had five uniform coats from Burns Security.

^u
(S)Abdi was initially interviewed by SA Keiva Ashby. Mr. Sobchack later was assigned the case and determined that Abdi had defrauded Arlington County, VA of rent support payments. Abdi was charged with the forgery of bank checks from the rent support account. He pled guilty to this charge and was sentenced to five months in jail. Investigation was unable to link Abdi to any of the hijackers, other than the telephone number on the map. Mr. Sobchack stated that Abdi was an unobservant Muslim. Abdi stated in an interview that he had never attended the Dar al-Hijra Mosque in Falls Church, VA. Abdi was given a polygraph examination. The results were that Abdi was considered to have been deceptive on some questions and inconclusive on others. Abdi has since relocated to Seattle, Washington.