

MF04019362

Memorandum for the Record

Event: Interview of Fahad al-Thumairy

Location: Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Date: 23 February 2004

Access Restrictions: D.S.M.

Commission Participants: Dieter Snell
Raj De

Non-Commission Participants: 9/11 Law Enforcement Privacy

Foreign Representative: Major Khalid (Mabahith)

Interpreter: U.S. Embassy representative from B.P.M.

Prepared By: Raj De

Reviewed By: Dieter Snell

The interview of Fahad al-Thumairy was conducted at the Conference Palace in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Al-Thumairy was waiting at this location with Mabahith representatives when Commission staff arrived. The interview of al-Thumairy started at approximately 9:20 pm and concluded at approximately 11:50 pm. Commission staff led the interview.

Upon arriving at the Conference Palace, the interpreter approached al-Thumairy and asked him whether he would prefer to conduct the interview in English or to use an interpreter. Al-Thumairy stated he preferred to use an interpreter because he would be more comfortable doing so. Before starting, Commission staff again confirmed this preference. During the interview, al-Thumairy appeared to generally understand the questions in English and early on started to answer in English. He would only use the interpreter on occasion.

Al-Thumairy initially sat at the table calmly with his hands folded in front of him. Over the course of the interview, his posture changed noticeably when the questions became more confrontational. During such instances, al-Thumairy would cross his arms, sit back in his chair, and rely more heavily on the interpreter (not only would he answer in Arabic, but he also waited for the interpreter to translate the questions – which he otherwise usually seemed to understand – rather than answer immediately). One example of this change in behavior occurred when the questions turned to his reported role in the wedding of Iyad Kreiwesh at the King Fahad Mosque (KFM).

The interview began with discussion concerning al-Thumairy's education and background. Al-Thumairy stated that he concentrated in Islamic Studies. He received his masters degree from the Imam Muhammed Bin Saud Islamic University. He has also studied English at UCLA for three quarters.

Al-Thumairy stated that it was because of this background in Islamic Studies that the Saudi government placed him at the Saudi consulate in Los Angeles. His role was to deal with any religious issues that arose at the consulate. Saudi Arabia is the "Mecca" for Muslims around the world, and therefore people came to the consulate to ask about Islam, the Hajj, etc. He was there to help answer such questions. Al-Thumairy added that he also served as the person to answer such questions at the KFM, and that this role was part of his official duties working for the consulate.

Al-Thumairy said that he spent a total of about six and a half years in the U.S. He returned to Riyadh about one year ago, around 6-7 February 2003. While living in Los Angeles, al-Thumairy noted that he traveled back to Saudi Arabia every year for vacation. He stated that he liked Los Angeles and that the people were friendly there. Al-Thumairy lived in Los Angeles with his wife and two children, ages three and six years old.

When asked how he was assigned to the Saudi consulate in Los Angeles, al-Thumairy said that he was given the position by the Ministry of Islamic Affairs. He said that any person who graduated with a degree in Islamic Studies like he did from Imam Muhammed Bin Saud Islamic University could have been a candidate for this position. Al-Thumairy denied that he was sponsored for this particular position by any specific individual. He said that after he graduated, he simply filled out an application and submitted it to the Ministry of Islamic Affairs.

Al-Thumairy stated that the application itself did not specify any particular position. Only at the interview was he told what positions were available. Al-Thumairy said that he wanted to go to a place where he could learn English, so he chose the U.S. He stated that he did not choose Los Angeles, though. Once he was chosen to serve in the U.S., al-Thumairy said he was sent to the Saudi Embassy in Washington, D.C. The Embassy then assigned him to the Saudi consulate in Los Angeles. Al-Thumairy said he was pleased with this assignment because of the warm weather in Los Angeles.

When asked who at the Saudi Embassy in Washington, D.C. made the decision to send him to Los Angeles, al-Thumairy said he could not recall, but noted that it was the person in charge of Islamic Affairs, who was new at the time. Al-Thumairy said that he first went to Los Angeles by himself. He was not married at the time. After six months, he came to Riyadh to get married. He returned to the U.S. with his wife.

Al-Thumairy said the person in the Islamic Affairs section at the Embassy in Washington, D.C. whose name he could not recall had phoned the Saudi consulate in Los Angeles and arranged a hotel room for him when he first traveled to the West Coast. He

looked for apartments with the assistance of the Consul General at the consulate in Los Angeles at the time. He could only remember this individual as "Hassan." This individual assigned his driver to help al-Thumairy look for apartments and interpret for him. Al-Thumairy recalled that the driver was a Saudi, but could not recall his name.

Upon arriving in Los Angeles, al-Thumairy stayed in a hotel close to both the KFM and the Saudi consulate for approximately one week. He then moved into an apartment on Kelton Avenue, near Venice Boulevard. Al-Thumairy said he subsequently moved from this apartment to a house in Culver City on Huron Avenue. This house was at the end of the same street as the KFM. Al-Thumairy said he moved from this house into an apartment closer to the consulate during his last year in the U.S. Specifically, he said he moved into the Avalon Westside apartment complex on Sepulveda Avenue with his family sometime in 2002. Al-Thumairy said that he decided to move at that time because he gave up his prior place (so as not to waste rent) when he traveled to Saudi Arabia for two months.

When asked for more details about his position at both the Saudi consulate and the KFM in Los Angeles, al-Thumairy said that before he started working, he was a full-time student at UCLA. He studied English for seven months in 1998 initially, and only after that time did he start his job at the consulate, where, as he mentioned earlier, he answered religious questions. People at the KFM would direct those from the mosque with questions about Islam to him at the consulate. Although he also helped at the KFM, al-Thumairy wanted to clearly express that he did not consider his activities at the mosque to be "work." As he put it, the mosque is a place for prayer, and he volunteered his services at the KFM.

Although it was difficult for him to estimate, al-Thumairy said that he spent about 60-70% of his time at the consulate, and about 20% at the KFM. When asked if he had an office at the consulate, al-Thumairy replied that there were more desks than there were people so he would often sit in different places while he was working there. He would answer religious questions in person and in writing, and provided advice on a range of issues concerning how to pray, etc. Al-Thumairy said he never had any role in the secular duties of the consulate, such as dealing with issues involving passports and visas.

When asked whether others at the consulate performed duties similar to his, al-Thumairy said he was the only person who dealt with religious issues besides those who assisted him with administrative matters, such as answering the phone. Al-Thumairy was asked to name others who worked at the consulate when he was there. He named the following individuals: Hamad Saloun, Consul General; Dr. Sami Ibrahim, Deputy Consul General; and Waleed Bukhari, who dealt with visa matters. Al-Thumairy said that he worked most closely with two individuals named Said Jabreen and Abdullah Hawad, both of whom helped him with administrative matters. Jabreen replaced Hawad in this role. Al-Thumairy denied having a driver at the consulate; he said he drove his own car. When asked who was his superior, al-Thumairy said he reported to the Consul General. When asked if there was anybody at the Saudi Embassy in Washington, D.C. to whom he

reported, al-Thumairy said that he had the most contact with Dr. Majid, who was responsible for Islamic Affairs at the Embassy.

Turning to his role at the KFM, al-Thumairy said that while he was a full-time student at UCLA, he did not provide any religious consultation at the mosque. As did everybody else at the consulate, he attended the KFM. Because he was a good reader of the Koran, he was on occasion asked to lead the Friday prayer. This was a very important role, but any student of Islam with the ability to do so may be asked to lead prayer. When asked who selected him to lead this prayer, al-Thumairy named Tajjudin Shuaib, the manager of the KFM and the main imam at the mosque. Shuaib was al-Thumairy's primary contact at the KFM.

Al-Thumairy stated that at the time, the KFM constantly approached the consulate for help because it needed support. Lots of Muslims and non-Muslims came to the mosque with religious questions, and the KFM did not have the resources to address them. Al-Thumairy said that people soon started to approach him with questions after prayers at the mosque, and he started to spend more and more time at the KFM providing religious consultation. He did not perform any function other than prayer and consultation at the KFM, though. Shuaib performed most of the weddings and funerals. Shuaib is not Saudi. He is from Africa, but he is an American and has lived in the U.S. for 25 years. Al-Thumairy was not sure how Shuaib was assigned his position at the KFM because that was before his time there. He speculated that Shuaib was likely appointed by the Council of the KFM.

Al-Thumairy said he did not have much contact with the Council. Although he prayed with its members at the KFM, he did not know them well. Al-Thumairy said that his appointment to the KFM was not made by the Council, but rather by the consulate. He reiterated that his role at the mosque was not "work," however. When asked about the names of people on the Council, Al-Thumairy identified only a Turk named Dr. Othman and another person from Burma whose name he could not recall. Al-Thumairy noted again that he did not have much contact with the Council.

Al-Thumairy described the mosque as having approximately 500 attendees at Friday prayer services. He did not believe that was especially large compared to other mosques in the area. Thumairy said that about 90% of Friday attendees were people who came to the KFM on more than one occasion and whom he at least recognized as such. Only about 10% were newcomers. He saw many of the attendees in the neighborhood, however he said that most of his friends were from the consulate rather than the KFM.

When asked whether he ever helped students or other visitors to the U.S. get settled in the U.S. either through the mosque or the consulate, al-Thumairy recounted only one occasion around 1999. Al-Thumairy recalled two Saudi guests to whom he gave some general advice about where to live. He stated that a man named [REDACTED] came to the U.S. with his sick father who needed medical treatment. Notably, without being asked, Thumairy volunteered that he did not find an apartment for these visitors or make any reservations for them. He recalled that the son and the sick father stayed

somewhere near the UCLA hospital and left after about three months. Al-Thumairy did not know where or exactly how long they stayed, but he guessed it must have been about three months based on when he saw them at the KFM.

When pressed as to whether he could narrow the time period during which the two Saudi visitors may have come to the U.S., al-Thumairy could not provide any greater detail other than to say that it must have been after 1998 when he finished his courses at UCLA and began to spend more time at the consulate. Al-Thumairy repeatedly confirmed that this was the only instance in which he assisted Saudi visitors, that the only people who came were the son and his sick father, and that all he did was provide them with his general thoughts on which areas of Los Angeles it would be safe to stay. Further, al-Thumairy did not think that they traveled outside Los Angeles at any time, such as to San Diego.

Al-Thumairy insisted that he first saw the sick father and son at the Saudi consulate and that he did not find any drivers or taxis for them. While initially stating that the Saudis told him they already had a driver, al-Thumairy conceded, when pressed, that he never actually saw their driver. When pressed further as to how they would have had a driver, he stated that many people come with their own driver, or maybe they obtained a driver through the Embassy or the consulate. He ultimately stated that he really did not know if they had a driver, and they could have gotten around in numerous ways. They may even have had a drivers license and rented a car on their own.

Al-Thumairy said that visitors came all the time – students, sick people, etc. He repeated that he provided religious advice at the Saudi consulate and never provided help with apartments, taxis, or other similar things. When asked who at the Saudi consulate was responsible for providing such assistance, al-Thumairy said that nobody in particular had this responsibility. Rather, he stated, visitors would be assisted by the first person they dealt with at the consulate and everybody who worked there helped in this way.

When asked whether he recognized the name Iyad Kreiwesh, al-Thumairy said no. When confronted with the fact that we have information that he performed a wedding ceremony for this individual, who is from San Diego, at the KFM, al-Thumairy responded that he never performed any wedding ceremony and that he in fact does not know how to do so. When asked whether anybody at the KFM performs weddings other than Shuaib, al-Thumairy referred to an individual named FNU Amin, or Abu Ahmed. Al-Thumairy stated that in order for a wedding to be legal, the person performing the ceremony must possess some kind of license. His description of the authorization needed to perform a wedding ceremony was translated literally as “the writing of the book.”

Al-Thumairy again denied recognizing the name Iyad Kreiwesh. He also denied recognizing the names Qualid Moncef Benomrane and Mohdar Abdullah. Al-Thumairy repeated that his friends were mostly from the consulate, but that while he may be known to many people as the person who provides religious advice, he himself might not everyone who knows him. He said that he does not question the people who approach him for religious advice, and that the only individuals from the KFM he would know are

those who may have lived nearby and whom he may have seen regularly. When asked if he knew whether any individuals from San Diego visited the KFM, al-Thumairy remembered an individual named Hassan Abukar. Abukar was an old man from Somalia, and according to al-Thumairy he always came to the KFM seeking assistance for the Somali community.

Al-Thumairy stated that he did not recognize the name Omar al-Bayoumi. When shown a photo of al-Bayoumi, al-Thumairy first denied recognizing him. At this time, Major Khalid whispered something to him in Arabic, and Thumairy said in English, "Oh, Bayoumi." Al-Thumairy then acknowledged that he recognized al-Bayoumi because he had seen him on television, but he denied ever seeing him in Los Angeles. Al-Thumairy was then shown a series of photos of individuals whom he denied recognizing, including: Qualid Moncef Benomrane, Osama Basnan (though he said he recognized the name from newspapers), Osama Nooh, Mohdar Abdullah, and Yazeed al-Salmi. Al-Thumairy once again said that normally there were many people coming to the KFM, indeed as many as 500 on some Fridays, so he simply cannot remember all those people.

When asked whether he had ever been to San Diego, al-Thumairy recounted one time when Hassan Abukar invited him to the opening of a new mosque. Al-Thumairy said that he only went for dinner and he returned to Los Angeles that same night. He did not know exactly where the mosque was, other than that it was in the city of San Diego. The mosque was called the al-Ansar mosque. Al-Thumairy recalled that both he and Shuaib went that night. When asked whether he had heard of the al-Ribat mosque, al-Thumairy said that he could not recall specifically but noted that there was a list of all mosques in southern California posted at the Saudi consulate. When asked whether he had ever had any contact with any individuals associated with the al-Ribat mosque, perhaps by providing Korans or the like, al-Thumairy said that he did not know because, like any mosque in the area, its people may have come to the consulate at some point and he would not remember. Al-Thumairy did not recognize the name or identify the photo of Anwar Aulaqi.

Al-Thumairy was next asked about his rental history at the Avalon apartment complex, where he rented an apartment after vacating the house on Huron Street. When asked specifically whether he, the KFM, or the Saudi consulate ever rented any other apartments there, al-Thumairy responded no. He said he did not know many others from the complex, and remembered only one individual named [redacted] who was about 40 years old and lived at Avalon with his family, including four or five children. Al-Thumairy did not recognize the name [redacted]. Al-Thumairy did not know of any relationship between the apartment complex and either the mosque or the consulate. He said that if somebody were coming to the mosque, he believed that Shuaib would usually recommend staying at the Travel Lodge on Sepulveda. He did not know, but speculated that maybe Shuaib received some sort of discount there.

Focusing on the time period around of January 2000, al-Thumairy could not definitely recall whether he was in Los Angeles or not. He said that although he usually traveled to Saudi Arabia in the summers, one year he went in January. He could not recall what year

it was that he visited in January. He thus assumed he was probably in Los Angeles at this time. When asked if he remembers two Saudi visitors appearing at the consulate, perhaps even with a sick father, at this time, Thumairy said no and that the only visitor he recalled was the person who came alone with his sick father, as he described earlier. When pressed a bit more on this topic, al-Thumairy repeated that visitors seek assistance from the consulate but not from him specifically. As a religious figure, he would not be approached in this way. He believed that visiting students may not be provided a point of contact as he was through the Embassy when he moved to Los Angeles, but rather might simply walk into the consulate after arriving at the airport.

When asked whether he recognized the name Mohammed al-Muhanna, al-Thumairy said yes. According to him, al-Muhanna had a similar role as he did at the consulate. When asked why he did not mention al-Muhanna before when he was asked whether any other people at the consulate performed a similar religious function as he did, al-Thumairy said that al-Muhanna only arrived during his last year in the U.S. Al-Thumairy said that al-Muhanna volunteered at the KFM in the same capacity as he did. Al-Thumairy confirmed that neither of them received any financial compensation from the KFM. Al-Thumairy also confirmed that while living in the U.S., he had no source of income other than the consulate.

Al-Thumairy said the KFM was a gift from King Fahad in 1996 or 1997. Construction of the KFM was coordinated through the Saudi Embassy and the mayor of Culver City. Upon further questioning, al-Thumairy clarified that from 1996-1998 the mosque used to be known as the Ibn Tamiyah mosque, and that services were held in the small prayer hall across the street from the current KFM. The license needed to open the KFM was not obtained until 1998. One of the sons of King Abdul Aziz attended the opening ceremony.

Al-Thumairy was then asked whether he recognized the name Khalil al-Khalil. Al-Thumairy recognized the name, and said that al-Khalil had been in the U.S. for a long time and had helped coordinate construction of the KFM through the Saudi Embassy in Washington, D.C. Al-Thumairy said he saw al-Khalil a couple of times at the consulate in Los Angeles, as well as at the opening ceremony for the KFM in 1998, which is where he learned about al-Khalil's role in coordinating construction of the KFM. Al-Khalil was the head of the KFM Council. Al-Thumairy said he first met him at the old Ibn Tamiyah prayer center before the KFM was built. Al-Thumairy claimed to have never met al-Khalil prior to coming to the U.S., but he knew that al-Khalil had his family in Saudi Arabia.

When asked about the following individuals, al-Thumairy claimed not to recognize their names: Fathi Abdullah, Arif Sheikh, Asif Sheikh, Abdusattar Sheikh, Musaed al-Jarrah, Fahad al-Hudaydi, Khalid Cherif, Mohammed Aliter. He was also shown photographs of 9/11 hijackers Nawaf al-Hazmi and Khalid al-Mihdar, but he said he recognized these people only from the news.

Returning to the issue of weddings, al-Thumairy again denied ever performing a ceremony at the KFM. He said that the closest thing he ever did was congratulate people after they were married. When confronted again with the fact that we have information from other sources that he performed the ceremony for an individual named Iyad Kreiwesh, al-Thumairy flatly denied that this information could be true. Al-Thumairy also explained once again that he did not assist Saudi visitors because, as a religious figure at the consulate, it was beneath him to do things like look for apartments for guests. Al-Thumairy said that the only visitors he ever had from abroad were his father-in-law and his uncle-in-law. Al-Thumairy also once again confirmed that he never rented any other apartments at the Avalon complex. When asked whether he would be surprised if there were other apartments at Avalon with leases in his name, he said yes because the management would have required identification to sign the lease.

When asked whether students from the Ministry of Islamic Affairs would ever visit the U.S. prior to the completion of their studies in Saudi Arabia, al-Thumairy said no. When asked where he had traveled during his time in the U.S., al-Thumairy said he had been to Orlando, Florida to visit Disneyworld with his family and he had been to Washington, D.C. and Virginia when he first arrived. Al-Thumairy denied ever having traveled to any other places in the western U.S., such as Arizona or New Mexico.

Finally, al-Thumairy was asked whether there ever were disagreements at the KFM. He acknowledged that there were disagreements, but said he was not involved with them, and that they concerned such issues as who would provide the Friday sermon. When asked to explain why such disagreements arose, al-Thumairy somewhat cryptically said sometimes religious figures like him are loved by the community and others, who may wear religious clothing, are not religious in their heart and therefore people do not love them. These latter people are envious of the first kind. Al-Thumairy at first refused to name any person in particular because he said he did not want to speak behind anyone's back. Upon further questioning, he mentioned Khalil al-Khalil.

When asked whether there was any discussion of jihad at the KFM, al-Thumairy said that there was but that it was only about "good" jihad, not "bad" jihad. He said that this discussion was not only necessary, but that it was his responsibility to teach the Islamic community the different between good and bad jihad, especially after 9/11.

At this point during the interview [redacted] asked a few questions of al-Thumairy. Upon being asked the number of his apartment at the Avalon complex, al-Thumairy said he could recall only that it was on the second floor of the complex. He then stated that he actually lived there twice, first in an apartment alone on the first floor and then second with his family on the second floor. No further details were provided. When told by SA Maguire that his name appears on more than one lease at Avalon in the summer of 2001, al-Thumairy said that when he returned from vacation in Saudi Arabia, his apartment was not yet ready so he was living in a different apartment from that into which he later moved. Al-Thumairy offered this speculation as his only explanation for why his name may appear on the lease for more than one apartment at that time. He could not recall whether this was in 2001 or 2002, however.

Al-Thumairy was asked whether the disagreements at the KFM discussed earlier ever escalated beyond discussion and whether anybody was ever asked to leave the mosque or not give a prayer. Al-Thumairy said no. Al-Thumairy also denied ever having a disagreement with an unknown Yemeni at the KFM, and could not identify who this unknown Yemeni might be even when told he owns both a blue car and an off-white minivan.

Al-Thumairy was asked whether the individual with the sick father that he discussed earlier was the same person he mentioned during his interview last year at LAX, when he spoke of a person named "Salah." Al-Thumairy did not recall mentioning that individual during a prior interview and affirmed that the only person with a sick father who visited was the person he described in this interview.

Lastly, when asked about his attire in the Los Angeles, al-Thumairy confirmed that he generally wore a thobe both at the consulate and at the KFM. However, he also indicated that he sometimes wore a western business suit, pointing to Snell as an example.

Before concluding the interview, al-Thumairy wished to say a few words. He said that he has always spread the message of peace, both in the U.S. and here in Saudi Arabia, and especially since 9/11. He said he wants to work with the U.S. and the Saudi government because terrorism hurts everyone.

Al-Thumairy also said that he has been affected a great deal by the media, since everybody assumes he helped the 9/11 hijackers. In particular, he referred to an article in the Los Angeles Times.

Al-Thumairy also noted that it is difficult for him to feel like he cannot go to the U.S., even though he is settled here in Saudi Arabia. At some point, he would like to finish his PhD in the U.S. and does not know if that will be possible.

YFR 04019361

Memorandum for the Record

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Location: Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Date: 24-25 February 2004
Access Restrictions: D.S.M.
Commission Participants: Dieter Snell
Raj De
Non-Commission Participants: 9/11 Law Enforcement Privacy
Foreign Representatives: Major Khalid (Mabahith)
Major Habib (Mabahith)
Interpreter: 9/11 Law Enforcement Privacy
Prepared By: Raj De
Reviewed By: Dieter Snell

At about 7:00 pm on the evening of 24 February 2004, Major Habib of the Mabahith informed Commission staff that he had received a call from Fahad al-Thumairy, who wanted to clarify some statements he had made the previous night regarding his rental history at the Avalon Westside apartment complex. Al-Thumairy was invited to return for a follow-up interview. This follow-up interview started at approximately 11:45 pm, and ended at about 1:15 am. The interview was conducted at the Conference Palace in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Commission staff led the interview.

Al-Thumairy began the follow-up interview by noting that, upon further reflection, he wished to clarify what he had said the previous night regarding his rental history at the Avalon apartment complex. Al-Thumairy said that he had thought of a reason why his name may have appeared on multiple leases at Avalon. Contrary to what he said at his first interview, it was probably not because he had been placed in a separate apartment until his regular apartment was ready. He said he now recalled another incident that he had forgotten to mention in his prior interview.

Al-Thumairy said that in July 2001 he received a call concerning an old, sick man from Riyadh who was soon going to come to Los Angeles for a liver transplant. The name of the man was Muhammed al-_____. Al-Thumairy said he spoke with this man's son, but he could not recall the son's name. The son's name may have been "Ali" or "Saleh."

The son said that he would be accompanying his father to Los Angeles for the medical treatment and that they needed a house or an apartment in which to stay. Al-Thumairy initially suggested that they stay in a hotel, but he was told that they needed a place with a kitchen to prepare special food for the old man. The son asked al-Thumairy to reserve an apartment for them.

Al-Thumairy approached the leasing office at Avalon and was told that he would need to sign a lease in his name and place a deposit in order to reserve an apartment for these two Saudi visitors. Al-Thumairy therefore signed a lease and placed a deposit. The sick man and his son arrived about a week later. The sick man went to UCLA hospital for his liver transplant, but he was told that his body was not ready and that he would need to wait six more months. The sick man and his son decided to return to Saudi Arabia soon thereafter and to come back to the U.S. at a later date for the medical treatment, so they only ended up staying in Los Angeles until about mid-August. The lease for the Avalon apartment that al-Thumairy had rented was month-to-month, so it was not a problem to cut it short. Because the sick man and his son did not have any checks to pay the rent, al-Thumairy said he paid it on their behalf and they paid him back. Al-Thumairy said the deposit for the apartment was returned to him directly by the management at Avalon. Although he said that he knew when the two Saudis had arrived at LAX, al-Thumairy said he did not know exactly when the two left the U.S. Al-Thumairy said that the sick man and his son spent most of their time in the hospital at UCLA, but that he saw them a few times at the KFM during the month or so that they stayed in Los Angeles. According to al-Thumairy, the sick man has since passed away.

When pressed about the details of the visit, al-Thumairy often claimed not to know or to recall many specifics. For instance, although al-Thumairy said he remembered receiving the initial call on his cell phone, he did not know how the sick man and his son knew to call him. He said he assumes that somebody at the Saudi Embassy in Washington, D.C. or somebody in Riyadh gave them his name and number. Al-Thumairy also said he did not know exactly when the two men left Los Angeles because they did not let him know when they were leaving. When asked how they could have paid him back for the rent if they did not inform him of their departure, al-Thumairy said that he could not recall but thought that they must have deposited cash or a traveler check into his Wells Fargo bank account. Although al-Thumairy claimed that he accompanied the sick man and his son to the leasing office at the Avalon apartment complex when they arrived in Los Angeles, he did not recall how the two visitors received the key to the apartment, which was rented under his name. When pressed about the fact that the Avalon management assigns individualized electronic key cards to its residents for the outer gate, al-Thumairy speculated that the two Saudi visitors may have used his electronic key card. Finally, al-Thumairy said he did not know how the sick man and his son got around Los Angeles; he guessed that they may have called the Saudi consulate in Los Angeles for assistance, but said he was unsure.

Al-Thumairy was certain that this sick father and son, as well as the sick father and son he had mentioned during his prior interview, were the only Saudi guests he had assisted while he was in the U.S. Al-Thumairy was also explicitly asked to confirm again that at

no time during his six and a half years in the U.S. did he ever arrange for or pay for any visitors to be driven around Los Angeles. He said that was correct.

At this point, al-Thumairy was asked again about Omar al-Bayoumi. Al-Thumairy was reminded that at his interview the previous night, he had initially denied recognizing al-Bayoumi until Major Khalid said something to him, which was when he acknowledged recognizing al-Bayoumi from the media. Al-Thumairy was also informed that we have information that shows numerous phone calls between him and al-Bayoumi over a short period in December 1999, from both al-Thumairy's cell and landline phones. Finally, al-Thumairy was told that since speaking with him the prior night, we were told by another witness [i.e. Khalil al-Khalil] that he had been seen meeting with al-Bayoumi on several occasions at the KFM.

Despite being confronted with these facts, al-Thumairy continued to deny knowing al-Bayoumi. First, he suggested that his phone number may have been given to somebody else after him, so the calls may have been made by that person. When he was reminded about the time frame of the calls, as well as the fact that the calls were reflected on more than one phone line subscribed under his name, he noted that he often spoke with people who called him with religious questions but he did not necessarily know them. When he was reminded about the frequency of the calls during this time period, as well as the fact that a person whom we recently interviewed said he knew that al-Thumairy had met with Bayoumi in person at the KFM, al-Thumairy initially said he may have been mistaken for somebody else. He then said that there are some people who may say things that are false out of mere spite or jealousy. When asked whether he was speaking about any particular person, al-Thumairy declined to provide a name but did note that some of those involved in the management of KFM wanted to be loved and respected even though they were not.

At this point, al-Thumairy was once again pressed on the issue of wedding ceremonies at the KFM. When asked to confirm what he had stated in his prior interview, namely that he was not qualified to perform wedding ceremonies, al-Thumairy contradicted himself, saying that under Islamic jurisprudence he was qualified to perform weddings. However, although he was qualified, he said he never performed a wedding at the KFM. He said that Tajuddin Shuaib, the manager and primary imam at the KFM, was the individual to whom people went when they wanted to get married because Shuaib was known to have the necessary authority. Al-Thumairy once again denied performing a wedding for Iyad Kreiwesh. Al-Thumairy said that if somebody came to the KFM and wanted to marry a second wife (while still married to his first wife), no official at the KFM would perform such a wedding because it would violate U.S. law, and the policy of the KFM was to do nothing illegal.

Al-Thumairy also confirmed that when a Saudi person wanted to marry a non-Saudi, the KFM would have had to notify the Saudi consulate for approval. Al-Thumairy said that he was unaware of any such weddings at the KFM. When asked whether he knew if one of the 9/11 hijackers Nawaf al-Hazmi or Khalid al-Midhar had ever approached anybody at the KFM to inquire about the possibility of getting married without notifying the Saudi consulate, al-Thumairy said he did not know of any such thing. If this incident happened,

al-Thumairy speculated that it must have been one of the visiting imams that the hijacker approached.

Returning to the issue of the sick father and son for whom he claimed to have rented an apartment at Avalon, al-Thumairy was asked how he thought we could confirm his story, since (1) the sick man is dead, (2) al-Thumairy could not seem to recall the name of the son, and (3) the Avalon records would have no indication of who actually lived in that apartment. Al-Thumairy first suggested that we check the hospital records at UCLA. When it was brought to his attention that it could very well be that such an individual did in fact visit UCLA hospital, but that the key point we would need to confirm was whether this man and his son stayed at the Avalon apartment that al-Thumairy had rented, he suggested we speak with the "Iranian" man with whom he dealt in the Avalon leasing office. Al-Thumairy could not recall this man's name or other details to identify him.

Lastly, al-Thumairy was asked whether the individual he identified from the consulate in Los Angeles only as "Hassan" during his prior interview was named Abdul Aziz Hassan. Al-Thumairy, contrary to his apparent inability to recall the name of this person the night before, quickly said no, and that the person to whom he had referred was named Hassan Nazer.