

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN  
SOUTHERN DIVISION

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In the Matter of: )  
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FEDERAL GRAND JURY )  
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Case No. 09-3-202

Testimony taken of THOMAS RANKIN before a  
Federal Grand Jury at Room 530, Federal Building, Detroit,  
Michigan, on Wednesday, on December 16, 2009.

PRESENT:

BARBARA L. McQUADE, Assistant United States Attorney  
United States Attorney's Office

MICHAEL C. MARTIN, Assistant United States Attorney  
United States Attorney's Office

REPORTED BY:

Mona Storm, CSR-4460

1 Detroit, Michigan

2 December 16, 2009

3 11:05 a.m.

4 THE FOREPERSON: Can I swear you in, please.

5 Do you solemnly swear that the testimony you  
6 will give will be the truth, the whole truth and  
7 nothing but the truth?

8 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

9 THE FOREPERSON: Thank you.

10 MS. McQUADE: Good morning, sir.

11 EXAMINATION

12 Q (BY MS. McQUADE): Could you please state your name.

13 A. Yes, Thomas Lee Rankin.

14 Q. And could you spell your last name, please.

15 A. R-A-N-K-I-N.

16 Q. Agent Rankin, I'm going to be reading to you questions  
17 from a prior transcript and ask you to answer them  
18 truthfully, either by reading what's there or if you  
19 need to make any corrections, please do so. All right?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. "Where do you work?"

22 A. I am a special agent for the Federal Bureau of  
23 Investigation.

24 Q. And are you assigned to a particular squad there at the  
25 FBI?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. What is that squad?

3 A. It's CT-1, counter-terrorism."

4 I'd like to add that since the time of this  
5 initial transcript, I've been transferred to the  
6 Foreign Intelligence Group, I-15.

7 MS. McQUADE: Agent Rankin --

8 A JUROR: Could you speak up a little bit  
9 because our microphone isn't working.

10 MS. McQUADE: That's just a prop. If you  
11 could just project, that would be helpful.

12 Q (BY MS. McQUADE): "Have you been assigned to  
13 investigate a case involving an individual named  
14 Issam Hamama?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. I don't plan to ask you about every fact known to you  
17 about the investigation, but I am going to try to focus  
18 on the facts that will be sufficient to establish  
19 probable cause. All right?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. How did Issam Hamama first come to the attention of the  
22 FBI?

23 A. To my knowledge, in August of '03, the United States  
24 Army received documents listing Iraqi sources, that had  
25 been turned over to them by the Assyrian Democratic

1 Movement in Iraq. These documents consisted of various  
2 individuals living inside the United States, that at  
3 one time worked on behalf of the Iraqi Intelligence  
4 Service."

5 Q. And if I could ask you to speak up a little bit louder,  
6 Agent Rankin, I think that would be helpful.

7 A. Okay.

8 Q. "Did one of those files pertain to Issam Hamama?"

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. At that time, how was Issam Hamama employed?

11 A. At that time Issam Hamama was a translator for the  
12 United States Army, working in Iraq in that capacity.

13 Q. By that time, you mean August of 2003, when the case  
14 first came to the attention of the FBI?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. At that time, did Mr. Issam Hamama have a security  
17 clearance?

18 A. Yes, he did.

19 Q. At what level?

20 A. Secret level.

21 Q. What is meant by a secret level security clearance?

22 A. Secret information is information that if released to a  
23 foreign government, would cause serious and grave  
24 consequences for national security."

25 I'd like to add that secret level is -- we

1 call is serious consequences, whereas top secret would  
2 cause grave consequence to national security. And  
3 Issam Hamama had a secret clearance.

4 Q. "Let me ask you this. Once the FBI received those  
5 documents, what did --" the FBI "-- do with them?

6 A. Well, at the time the Army was receiving a great deal  
7 of documents from the Iraqi Government and they were  
8 triaged and went through a process where they were  
9 stored and eventually translated.

10 Q. And eventually signed out to the field divisions of the  
11 FBI?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. How was it that the Issam Hamama matter came to you in  
14 Detroit?

15 A. At the time that I received the document, his primary  
16 residence was located in Detroit, in the  
17 Sterling Heights area.

18 Q. You received these documents?

19 A. Yes, I have.

20 Q. Could you very generally describe what is contained in  
21 the documents? What type of documents are they?  
22 What's the topic?

23 A. The main gist of the documents are source reports,  
24 source administrative files and various accounts of  
25 payments for Issam Hamama.

1 Q. When you say source, what do you mean by source?

2 A. A source is a term given to an individual that provides  
3 information to a government. With this term, it is  
4 accepted that the person's information is valuable and  
5 credible, to an extent.

6 To be considered a source, that person has to  
7 have had a relationship with the government in some  
8 capacity.

9 Q. Based on your review of the documents, are these the  
10 kinds of documents that are intended to be shared  
11 publicly with the world?

12 A. No. In my experience, source documents are strictly  
13 held in confidence and the identity of people providing  
14 the information is a tightly kept secret.

15 Q. In fact, code names are sometimes used to protect the  
16 identify of the sources?"

17 A. Yes. "Code names and numbers.

18 Q. Do some of the documents bear the label "secret" on  
19 them?

20 A. Yes."

21 Q. Would that -- "indicate that the creators of the  
22 documents did not intend for them to be exposed  
23 publicly?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Have you reviewed records pertaining to Issam Hamama,

1 as part of your investigation?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Based on your investigation, where did he live between  
4 1991, let's say, and the present?

5 A. I am going to refer to an" SF-86, "which is a form that  
6 he filled out when he became a translator."

7 Q. Let me stop you for a moment. Is it called SF or  
8 FS-86?

9 A. SF, which stands for security form.

10 Q. Please continue.

11 A. "In response to a question asking, where have you  
12 lived, Mr. Hamama indicated that from 1998 to present  
13 time he resided in Sterling Heights, and prior to that,  
14 from 1993 to 1998, he resided in El Cajon, California.  
15 Since the creation of the document, from approximately  
16 2006, he has relocated to the San Diego area".

17 Q. And do you know where he's residing presently?

18 A. Yes. In San -- in El Cajon, California.

19 Q. The document you're talking about, the SF-86, "was  
20 created when, in 2005?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. All right. Now between, say, 2003 and at least the  
23 signing of this document, in 2005, how was he employed?

24 A. He was employed as a linguist for SOS International,  
25 which is a translating contract firm. Based on my

1           experience, these terms are contractual, so a duration,  
2           whether eighteen months or twelve months."

3    Q.    And "where was he assigned to work as a linguist?

4    A.    He was in Iraq with various military groups or units.

5    Q.    In the United States military?

6    A.    Yes.

7    Q.    By linguist, do you mean someone who translates?

8    A.    Yes.  Translates Arabic to English and English to  
9           Arabic".

10   Q.   Where was Mr. Hamama born?

11   A.    In Iraq.

12   Q.    "At some" -- time -- "did he become a United States  
13           citizen?

14   A.    Yes, I believe, in 1985.

15   Q.    Did Mr. Hamama use other names, based on your documents  
16           and interviews with him?

17   A.    Yes.  He used Issam George Zaia, until 1996,  
18           approximately, and he changed his name to Issam Hamama.

19   Q.    Have you actually seen a document filed with the court,  
20           indicating a" -- formal -- "name change?

21   A.    Yes.

22   Q.    Where was that contained?  Was that in his" SF-86?

23   A.    "Yes.  That was part of his application."

24   Q.    I'm going to refer to the exhibits that are in front of  
25           you, Agent Rankin, Exhibit Number 20?



1 MS. McQUADE: And, for the Grand Jury, the  
2 documents do have stickers down in the bottom corner,  
3 Exhibit Number 20. And within Exhibit 20, it's the  
4 third from the last page within Exhibit 20, so it might  
5 be easier to find Exhibit 21 and then count back three.

6 Q (BY MS. McQUADE): Agent Rankin, do you have the  
7 document in Exhibit 20 that's the third page from the  
8 back?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And what is that?

11 A. That's the SF-86.

12 Q. And what is the attachment that's the third page from  
13 the back; do you have that? Maybe I can come show you.  
14 Agent Rankin, I'm standing with you, indicating this  
15 document that's the third page from the back in Exhibit  
16 20. What does that appear to be?

17 A. "This appears to be a declaration from Superior Court  
18 of California, County of San Diego, indicating that he  
19 changed his name from Zaia to Hamama."

20 Q. Okay. And that -- that declaration is attached to a  
21 larger packet that's part of Exhibit 20.

22 "What is Exhibit 20?

23 A. This is the" SF-86 "packet, that was submitted for him  
24 to gain security clearance."

25 Q. Okay. Are there other names that he used "besides

1 Issam Hamama and Issam George Zaia?

2 A. Yes. I have seen various spellings of the name,  
3 Hamama, spelled H-A-M-A-M-A or H-A-M-A-N-A-H. Issam  
4 has been spelled I-S-S-A-M, E-S-A-M or I-S-A-M.

5 Q. Are you aware of him ever using the name Abu Zaid,  
6 Z-A-I-D?

7 A. Yes. During the interview, he said he would use that  
8 name while translating in Iraq and speaking with Iraqi  
9 citizens."

10 Q. Agent, if you could keep your voice up so we can hear  
11 you back here.

12 "Let me ask you some questions about the  
13 background on Iraq. Before 2003, when the United  
14 States Government went in, what was the leading party  
15 in Iraq?

16 A. The leading party was the Ba'ath party.

17 Q. Is that spelled B-A-A-T-H?

18 A. Yes, ma'am.

19 Q. When did the Ba'ath Party first come to power in Iraq",  
20 based on your background, training and research?

21 A. "From our research, in 1968, they became the leading  
22 party in Iraq.

23 Q. Beginning in 1979, who was the leader of the Ba'ath in  
24 Iraq?

25 A. That was -- "Saddam Hussein."

1 Q. When did Saddam come into power?

2 A. "He came to power in 1979, until 2003.

3 Q. So we all know that Iraq was invaded in 2003. When did  
4 Baghdad actually fall, what month?

5 A. To the best of my knowledge, we consider April of '03  
6 as the fall of the regime in Baghdad.

7 Q. When was Saddam Hussein captured?

8 A. I believe it was December, December 13th, 2003.

9 Q. Now, even after the fall of Baghdad and after the  
10 capture of Saddam Hussein, did insurgent groups and  
11 individuals continue to support the Ba'ath Party and  
12 the regime of Saddam Hussein?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. I want to ask you some questions about the background  
15 of the Iraqi Intelligence Service. Did the Saddam  
16 Hussein regime maintain an intelligence arm?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. What was that called?

19 A. It's also referred to Iraqi Intelligence Service or the  
20 translation is" Mukabrat.

21 Q. And how do you spell Mukabrat, if you know?

22 Let me try it and tell me if you think this  
23 is close. M-U-K-A-B-R-A-T, at least phonetically.

24 A. Yes, that's the way I've seen it.

25 Q. "Based on your investigation and research in this case,

1 can you tell us basically what was the mission of the  
2 Iraqi Intelligence Service?

3 A. Yes. The IIS, would often collect foreign intelligence  
4 on countries outside of Iraq. It also collected  
5 information on opposition groups within Iraq. They  
6 would attempt to discover which countries were trying  
7 to obtain information on their country or government.

8 Q. You mentioned that opposition groups is something that  
9 the Iraqi Intelligence Service would be interested in?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. What do you mean by the term opposition groups?

12 A. The Ba'ath Party was the majority, but there were  
13 minority groups within Iraq that the Ba'ath Party would  
14 view as a threat, either through military coup attempts  
15 or just basic opposition to the Ba'ath Party agenda.

16 Q. Was the Assyrian Beit Al-Nahrain Party, B-E-I-T,  
17 Nahrain, N-A-R-H-A-I-N, Democratic Party, one of those  
18 opposition groups?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Can you tell us, who are the Assyrians?

21 A. The Assyrians are the native inhabitants of Iraq. They  
22 occupy lands in the north. Up until the Babylonian  
23 empire, that territory was considered their land. They  
24 consider themselves to be Iraqis, however, they don't  
25 consider themselves to be Arab. They are Iraqi in

1 ethnicity, but do not hold the same religious views as  
2 the Arabs or the Ba'ath Party.

3 Q. Why would the Iraqi Intelligence Service want to know  
4 about the activities of individuals in the Beit Nahrain  
5 Democratic Party?

6 A. The Beit Al-Nahrain Party, this party was comprised of  
7 Assyrians and Chaldeans. The Assyrians were supported  
8 by the Kurds in the north and the Iraqi government was  
9 often in conflict with the Kurds in the north.

10 Q. This is a group that they just viewed with suspicion  
11 and wanted to know what they were up to?

12 A. Yes. There are lands that the Assyrians thought were  
13 theirs and wanted to form their own state within the  
14 country of Iraq. The Ba'ath Party wanted a united  
15 Iraq.

16 Q. Back to the Iraqi Intelligence Service, based on your  
17 investigation, did the Iraqi Intelligence Service  
18 operate offices within the United States, during the  
19 time periods of, say, 1991 to 2003?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Where did they have their primary base of operations?

22 A. They had an embassy in Washington D.C., and they also  
23 had a presence at the Iraqi mission, United Nations in  
24 New York, New York.

25 Q. First, let's talk about the station in Washington.

1           Where was the Iraqi Intelligence Service housed in  
2           Washington?

3    A.    It would have been up until 1991, part of the Iraqi  
4           embassy.  After that time, the Iraqi embassy was closed  
5           and they were allowed to move into the Algerian  
6           embassy.

7    Q.    When you say they, you mean some Iraqi diplomats?

8    A.    Yes.

9    Q.    Was it publicly known that the Iraqi Intelligence  
10           Service was operating within the United States?

11   A.    Yes."

12   Q.    Why don't you give me the answer you believe to be the  
13           correct answer.

14   A.    Based on our investigation, this became apparent to us.  
15           However, this is not a common fact known in the  
16           community.  Some governments send diplomats under the  
17           guides of a diplomat.  However, their main objective is  
18           to collect intelligence from the United States.

19   Q.    So, in other words, "up until 1991, part of the Iraq  
20           government had an embassy in the United States?"

21   A.    Yes.

22   Q.    But after that, there was no longer an Iraqi embassy.  
23           But how -- was there an Iraqi diplomatic presence in  
24           the United States?

25   A.    "Yes.  The Iraqi embassy was allowed to keep diplomats

1 under the Algerian flag. However, these diplomats did  
2 not have diplomatic privileges, as did other countries.

3 Q. So the United States knew that there were diplomats"  
4 from Iraq here. "Did the United States Government also  
5 know" publicly "that there were Iraqi Intelligence  
6 Operatives" or was it publicly acknowledged that there  
7 were Iraqi Intelligence Operatives operating at this  
8 Iraqi Intrasection?

9 A. "No. That's something that would not have been  
10 allowed.

11 Q. It would not have been publicly exposed?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. The diplomats were allowed to stay in the United  
14 States, out of the Algerian embassy, or was it called  
15 something else?

16 A. It was called the Iraqi Intrasection.

17 Q. So this is after -- in 1991 the first Gulf War, they no  
18 longer have an Iraqi embassy but some diplomatic  
19 presence is still acknowledged, publicly present housed  
20 under the Algerian embassy and called the Iraqi  
21 Intrasection; is that correct?

22 A. "Yes. It was often referred to as the Washington  
23 station."

24 Q. And was that the Washington station of the Iraqi  
25 Intelligence Service?

1 A. To the public, it was known as the Washington  
2 Intrasection.

3 Q. "You also mentioned that the Iraqi Intelligence Service  
4 was operating out of the Iraqi mission to the United  
5 States? What was the Iraqi mission to the United  
6 Nations?"

7 A. It's the IMUN. It housed Iraqi Intelligence Service  
8 officers", which our investigation determined.  
9 However, it also housed diplomats that had valid  
10 diplomatic presence in United States.

11 Q. So there was a legitimate presence of Iraqi diplomats  
12 at the Iraqi mission to the United States in New York,  
13 New York. But also within that were also members of  
14 the Iraqi Intelligence Service; is that correct?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. "During your investigation of this case, did you also  
17 interview Issam Hamama?"

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. How many times"?

20 A. "Three times, three separate occasions.

21 Q. I'll ask you some details about that later". But --  
22 "have you also interviewed an individual who is a  
23 former member of the Iraqi Intelligence Service?"

24 A. Yes, I have.

25 Q. Without giving his name or precise title, to protect



1 his identity, how would you describe that person's role  
2 with the Iraqi Intelligence Service?

3 A. This individual had a working knowledge of the  
4 day-to-day operations of the intelligence service, and  
5 was familiar with what type of documents would have  
6 been kept in that capacity.

7 Q. Would you say he was a low-level person" or "a  
8 high-level person?

9 A. I would term him as a high-level person.

10 Q. When you interviewed him, did you show this individual  
11 the Iraqi Intelligence Service documents that the FBI  
12 received pertaining to Issam Hamama?

13 A. Yes, I did.

14 Q. Was he able to tell you whether the documents were  
15 authentic?

16 A. Yes, he was able to authenticate the documents and say  
17 they were typical of the type of documents maintained  
18 by the intelligence service.

19 Q. Was he able to authenticate the logos, the formats, the  
20 signatures, and some of the names contained in the  
21 documents?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. All right. Let's discuss some of those documents now.  
24 You should have in front of you, your packet, Exhibit  
25 1. And you will see that Exhibit 1 consists of two

1 documents." Tell us what those are. Exhibit 1, right  
2 on the top. These two pages.

3 A. This appears to be a list of -- some information that's  
4 been deleted for purposes of public disclosure, but it  
5 lists the name, workplace and plan of approach, which  
6 is typical of internal documents maintained by an  
7 intelligence service.

8 Q. Where did the FBI get this document?

9 A. This document was recovered in Baghdad and was since  
10 seized and translated for" exploitation.

11 Q. For exploitation?

12 A. Yes, exploitation.

13 Q. "You said it has been redacted. Did you see an  
14 original" version of this document where it "actually  
15 had ten names, not just Issam Hamama's name on it?

16 A. Correct."

17 Q. What does it specifically say about him?

18 A. It --

19 Q. Does it say his name, Issam Hamama?

20 A. "His workplace is the newspaper Al-Ikhtiyar, in  
21 San Diego.

22 Q. What does it say under 'plan to approach'?

23 A. It says, 'Cooperated in a good way. The relationship  
24 with him is continuous.'

25 Q. When you interviewed Issam Hamama, did he tell you what

- 1 he did for a living?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Did he ever tell you that he published a newspaper?
- 4 A. Yes, he did.
- 5 Q. Did he tell you the name of it?
- 6 A. Yes, he did.
- 7 Q. What was the name of it?
- 8 A. He called it Al-Ikhtiyar, which" translated into
- 9 The Choice.
- 10 Q. "The same as what appears in this document?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Let's turn now to the second page of Exhibit 1. Did
- 13 this document also previously contain additional names
- 14 that had been redacted?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Looking at the columns there, I see the name Issam
- 17 George Zaia. Is that a name" that "you said
- 18 Issam Hamama previously used" until his name change?
- 19 A. "Yes.
- 20 Q. What's the next box?
- 21 A. The next box appears to be a source code number.
- 22 Q. 6129?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. Then, what is in the next box?
- 25 A. The term 'collaborator'.

1 Q. What does that mean?

2 A. This is someone that collaborates with a government in  
3 providing information.

4 Q. What is the next box?

5 A. The next box reads 1992. Based on seeing the original,  
6 this is the year that a relationship was officially  
7 initiated.

8 Q. All right. How about the next box? What does that say  
9 and what does that mean?

10 A. To the best of my memory, this box was for place of  
11 birth.

12 Q. That says Iraqi?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. What about the last column; what does that say?

15 A. He was assigned to follow up on hostile activities in  
16 the United States.

17 Q. Do you know what that heading was or what that category  
18 was?

19 A. This column indicated their role of expertise or the  
20 role within providing information, what area that they  
21 would report on.

22 Q. Let's move to Exhibit 2. Where did the FBI get this  
23 document?

24 A. This was a document that was provided to the FBI by the  
25 Assyrian Democratic Movement in 2003.

1 Q. What is it?

2 A. It appears to be a letter written by Issam Hamama.

3 Q. When you interviewed Issam Hamama, did you show him  
4 this letter?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Did he admit to writing it?"

7 A. Yes. "Prior to showing him the letter, he denied  
8 having any correspondence with the Iraqi Government or  
9 writing the letter. After being shown the letter, he  
10 admitted to writing this letter."

11 Q. So before you show him anything, he says no, I never  
12 wrote any letter to the Iraqi government. Then, when  
13 you confronted him with this letter, he admits yes, I  
14 did write that letter?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. I'm going to ask you if you would read maybe just a  
17 portion of this letter, maybe just the first line.

18 Or perhaps the most efficient way would be  
19 for you to read excerpts as highlighted there.

20 A. "'His Great Excellency, the Honorable Master, the Iraqi  
21 Minister of the Exterior, greetings and respect.'"

22 Q. Louder, please.

23 A. "'I introduce myself. I am Issam Hamama, owner of the  
24 immigrant Iraqi magazine Al-Ikhtiyar in America. I  
25 would like to introduce your high excellency to the

1 magazine, as it is a media podium and an ideological  
2 weapon and a political machine with all the meaning of  
3 the word, the tongue of the government of the  
4 revolution in Iraq and the voice of the Iraqi  
5 immigrant.

6 It continues its work to mute and rein the  
7 mouth of the hostile mouthpieces in standing as an  
8 observatory to the opposition forces, and silence and  
9 expose and disprove the fabricated reports of the  
10 suspect media that is opposing to the patient and  
11 resisting Iraq, and to defend the affairs and interests  
12 of Iraq and show the bright face of the revolution and  
13 our beloved Hussein Saddam (God save him) and to  
14 introduce to the immigrant Iraqi and Arabic public  
15 opinion to the truth and to defeat the slanderers and  
16 the concoctions that was fabricated against our  
17 historic political leadership in a persevering and  
18 defining Iraq.

19 As I consider myself an authentic Iraqi and  
20 among the true nationalists where I tied my fate with  
21 that of the journey of our almighty Ba'athist  
22 revolution in the past and in the present, without a  
23 hairbreadth of hesitation or indecision.

24 It continues, 'So we can expedite the process  
25 of returning the National Assyrian bloc party to the

1 folds of the revolution in Iraq, to be organized under  
2 the tent of Saddam Hussein's Iraq.'

3 The last one reads: 'His gain will lessen  
4 the size and influence and activity of the traitorous  
5 counteracting Iraqi forces." 'Issam Hamama.'

6 Q. After he admitted to you that he wrote this letter, did  
7 he explain to you why he wrote the letter?

8 A. His comment was that he was, if I can recall, playing  
9 with the regime."

10 Q. Playing with the regime?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. "In the letter, I notice a reference to the magazine  
13 Al-Ikhtiyar.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Did he admit to you that he did publish that magazine?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. That's also the name of the" publication "that shows up  
18 in Exhibit 1 as his workplace, as owner of the  
19 newspaper Al-Ikhtiyar?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Let's move on to Exhibit 3. Agent Rankin, am I correct  
22 that the exhibit here that's English translation and  
23 behind it is the original Arabic?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. What does Exhibit 3 appear to be?

1 A. It appears to be an internal document between the  
2 different branches of the Iraqi Intelligence Service.

3 Q. And up at the top, what is the date?

4 A. November 27th, 1996.

5 Q. All right. Does this have a classification on it?

6 A. Yes. Secret and personal."

7 Q. And can you read a portion of that.

8 A. "It reads: 'And attached to the letter of our source,  
9 Issam Hamama. That includes a letter addressed to the  
10 Minister of the Exterior from the named Nui'l Hermoz,  
11 Secretary General of the Al-Nahrain Democratic Party  
12 please review and take the necessary action on your  
13 part.

14 Q. Does this appear to be a memo documenting a letter  
15 received from Issam Hamama?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And is it "being forwarded from one part of the Iraqi  
18 Intelligence Service to another party?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Let's turn now to Exhibit 4. What is the date on  
21 Exhibit 4?

22 A. March 10, 1997."

23 Q. And would you read -- please read a portion of that  
24 document.

25 A. "'Our source 6129 will be in Baghdad during the second



1 half of the current month of March. Please look over  
2 and inform us if you have any inquiries about his  
3 affairs. With appreciation."

4 Q. And based on our conversation earlier and review of  
5 Exhibit 1, who was assigned that number, 6129?

6 A. "Issam Hamama."

7 Q. And does this prior transcript incorrectly reflect the  
8 number?

9 A. Yes, it does.

10 Q. What's the correct number?

11 A. 6129.

12 Q. So this is a memo from one part of the Iraqi  
13 Intelligence Service to another making reference to  
14 activities of source 6129, correct?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. And Exhibit 1 tells us that 6129 is Issam George Zaia?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Whose name was later changed to Issam Hamama?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. All right. "Let's turn to Exhibit 5." Is that "dated  
21 March 23rd, 1997?

22 A. Yes."

23 Q. And what does that say?

24 A. "'This document is a communication from M 40/3/4 to  
25 M4/D4/2/1 number 2283 and dated 3-23-1997.'" It reads:

1 'Kindly inform us as soon as your source 6129 arrives  
2 in the country, so we can interview him regarding a  
3 subject of interest.'

4 Q. Based on your investigation, what is M 40 and  
5 M4/3/4/D4? Are those different components of the Iraqi  
6 Intelligence Service?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. It appears from this that one component is  
9 communicating to the other to let us know when 6129  
10 arrives because we want to interview him regarding  
11 something we're interested in?" Is that correct?

12 A. "Yes, correct.

13 Q. Let's move on to Exhibit 6. What's the date of that  
14 document?

15 A. June 17th, 1997."

16 Q. And could you please read a portion of that document.

17 A. "Yes. 'Your letter 53 on 4-8-97 in your letter X40  
18 Sham'oun Khamo, submitted a personal application  
19 requesting and granting him a entry visa to visit the  
20 country, along with Nui'l Hermoz from Chicago and  
21 Yousif Su Yousif from Australia and Issam Hamama from  
22 California. The date of their arrival will be the  
23 first week of August, 1997. Please authorize our  
24 branch in Washington to grant them an entry visa and we  
25 will inform you the date of their departure later.'

1 Q. Based on your investigation, are you aware of whether  
2 those names, Mr. Khamo, Mr. Hermoz, Mr. Yousif, appear  
3 to be affiliated with any groups?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. What groups are they associated with?

6 A. They are part of the Beit Al-Nahrain Party. Nui'l  
7 Hermoz held a leadership role in this party and Khamo  
8 was also a member of this party.

9 Q. This is part of these Assyrian opposition groups --

10 A. Yes."

11 Q. And Iraqi Intelligence Service appears to be interested  
12 in learning about this group?

13 A. "Yes.

14 Q. Let's look at Exhibit 7. If you look at the second  
15 page, what is the date" of this document?

16 A. June 21st --

17 Q. I'm sorry. I guess it's the third page. There's a  
18 cover page and second page of the text, the date there?

19 A. "June 21st, 1997."

20 Q. And would you mind reading a portion of that document.

21 A. "Starting on the first page, the heading reads Secret  
22 and Personal. Number 2 reads: 'Attached is New York's  
23 letter, that includes the request of each of Khamo,  
24 Nui'l Hermoz and Yousif Su Yousif, who are officials of  
25 the Bayt Nahrain Democratic Assyrian Party/Iraqi wing.

1 And with them, the so-called 'Issam Hamama', in  
2 parentheses, (Mediating source between them in the  
3 New York station)" in parentheses, to grant them an  
4 entry visa to visit the country and their travel date  
5 will be during the first week of August, 1997.

6 Number 3 reads: 'In light of what preceded  
7 and with the goal of exploiting both subjects of  
8 interest to make use of the media means that they own  
9 and to influence the elements that they have relations  
10 with, in the northern area, we suggest the following be  
11 done. A, wire the Washington station with approval to  
12 grant them an entry visa into the country. B,  
13 facilitate the procedures of their entry and notify  
14 them of our interest and from our side we will deal  
15 with them according to what was previously mentioned.  
16 And with what serve the work of our apparatus toward  
17 the" opposition elements -- "opposing elements.

18 Q. Let's move on to Exhibit 8. What is the date of that  
19 document?

20 A. July, 1997."

21 Q. Could you please read a portion of that document?

22 A. "'An approval to grant an entry visa was obtained for  
23 each of Nui'l Hermoz from Chicago and Issam Hamama from  
24 California and Yousif Su Yousif from Australia. Both  
25 subjects of interest of New York letter 214 on

1 6-17-1997. Inform us of the date of their coming to  
2 our side, so we can facilitate the procedures of their  
3 entry. Let us know.'

4 Q. Does this appear to be an internal Iraqi Intelligence  
5 Service document?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Let's look at Exhibit 9. What is the date there?

8 A. August 3rd, 1997.

9 Q. Does this also appear to be an internal document of the  
10 Iraqi Intelligence Service?

11 A. Yes."

12 Q. Would you please read a portion that document.

13 A. "It's 'from M 40/Q. A to Washington. 'Coordinate with  
14 U.S. division of M 40. They may have information being  
15 that Issam Hamama is one of their sources. Kindly  
16 signed.

17 Q. The gist of this seems to indicate that one component  
18 of the" Iraqi Intelligence Service "is instructing  
19 another component to coordinate with the U.S. division  
20 because Issam Hamama is a source of the United States  
21 division? Is that what you take that to read?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. Looking at Exhibit 10, which has two pages, what is the  
24 date on the third page there?

25 A. The date is May 24th, 1998."

1 Q. Would you please read a portion of that document.

2 A. Yes. "Number 1: 'The New York station has previously  
3 informed us of a desire of A, Nui'l Hermoz, secretary  
4 of Beit Al-Nahrain separatist party. B, Issam Hamama  
5 station source. C, Yousif Su Yousif, member of the  
6 above party. D, Sham'oun Khamo, member of the above  
7 party, to visit the country and to meet with  
8 representatives of the Iraqi government, as this desire  
9 is a result of their prior being Iraqis and their  
10 national affiliation and awakening of their conscience  
11 make them declare clearly and with good intention their  
12 decision to cooperate with the state.'

13                   Number 5: 'The Washington station informed  
14 us in its letter 124 on 5-19-98 aside, that the  
15 mentioned have abandoned the idea of traveling to the  
16 country because of the development that took place  
17 during Beit Al-Nahrain Party's last conference in  
18 California, where the mentioned party requested that  
19 the leadership review all activities that the members  
20 carry out.'

21 Q. Let me ask you about that. Does this appear to be a  
22 memo from one part of the Iraqi Intelligence Service to  
23 another?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. It talks about the planned trip by Hamama and other

1 individuals who are members of the Beit Al-Nahrain  
2 Party?

3 A. Yes."

4 Q. And "it states that that plan was abandoned because the  
5 party is now going to review the activities of the  
6 members; is that right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. So it appears that these individuals did not want the  
9 party to know that they would be traveling to Iraq to  
10 meet with the Iraqi regime?" Is that a fair reading?

11 A. "Correct.

12 Q. Moving now to Exhibit 11, what is the date of Exhibit  
13 11?

14 A. Yes. November 28th, 1999."

15 Q. And could you please read a portion that document.

16 A. "It says, 'Please provide us with information about the  
17 persons named below, and conform to the enclosed  
18 application for the purpose of precisely observing  
19 them. And benefit from your sources to reach the  
20 extension of their families and make use of their  
21 frequent visits to you during the period when they had  
22 the intention of visiting the country, so we can move  
23 with them again to benefit our work.'.

24 The names listed below are Nui'l Hermoz,  
25 Sham'oun Khamo and Yousif Su Yousif."

1 Q. Are these "the same individuals affiliated with the  
2 Beit Al-Nahrain party?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Does this appear to be a document to the New York  
5 station, the member of Republic of Iraq/New York, from  
6 another component of the Iraqi Intelligence Service?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. What is going on here? Are they providing a directive  
9 or tasking the New York station to do something in  
10 particular?

11 A. Yes. Based on my experience in this matter,  
12 intelligence services often would monitor people's  
13 activities, and an extension of that would be to  
14 monitor their family's activities, if it would be  
15 easier to do so.

16 Q. So essentially, the Iraqi Intelligence Service is  
17 instructing its New York station to go out and get  
18 information about these people, reach into their  
19 families, use the opportunities of their visits to  
20 gather information that" would "benefit the Iraqi  
21 Intelligence Service?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Moving on to Exhibit 12, what does Exhibit 12 show with  
24 respect to this investigation?

25 A. This is a summary of translation of documents



1 recovered. The highlighted portion indicates that code  
2 6129 received \$357 for the month of June, July of 1998,  
3 and also received \$147 as a gift in June of 1998.

4 Q. All right. Where did this document come from?

5 A. This complete document was recovered in Baghdad by the  
6 United States military.

7 Q. I want to ask you now about another individual that you  
8 have interviewed. Have you interviewed an individual  
9 who was an employee at the Iraqi Intrasection in  
10 Washington D.C. during the time period that's covered  
11 by this investigation?

12 A. Yes, I have.

13 Q. And for today's purposes, we don't want to expose that  
14 employee's name, but why don't we refer to him as the  
15 Iraqi Intrasection employee.

16 A. Okay.

17 Q. Now, during your interview with this employee, did the  
18 employee have information about Issam Hamama?

19 A. They did.

20 Q. Did that employee provide you with any information  
21 about Issam Hamama's relationship with the Iraqi  
22 Intelligence Service?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. What did the employee tell you about Hamama's  
25 relationship with the Iraqi Intelligence Service?

- 1 A. This employee did disclose that Hamama had a  
2 relationship with the Iraqi Intelligence Service and  
3 was paid by that agency.
- 4 Q. Did this employee tell you what kind of information  
5 Hamama was providing to the Iraqi Intelligence Service?
- 6 A. He stated that Hamama would provide information on  
7 opposition groups in the United States.
- 8 Q. Did the individual provide you with any information  
9 about someone named Hamid, Al-Jellami?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. What did he say was the position of Hamid Al-Jellami?
- 12 A. Al-Jellami would have been responsible for gathering  
13 intelligence in the United States and reporting it back  
14 to the Iraqi government.
- 15 Q. And where was Hamid Al-Jellami based?"
- 16 A. He was based in Washington, D.C.
- 17 Q. "At the Washington station?"
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. This Iraqi Intelligence Service employee who you  
20 interviewed, did he tell you anything about Hamama's  
21 relationship with Hamid Al-Jellami?
- 22 A. This individual indicated that Hamama's main activity  
23 was during the period of time that Al-Jellami was in  
24 power, had a position at the embassy.
- 25 Q. Did the employee tell you whether Hamama would have

1 contact with others, contacts or associates of the"  
2 Iraqi Intrasection "in the Washington D.C. area?

3 A. Yes. It was typical for sources to report through  
4 various chains, so that one aspect of the chain not be  
5 compromised. So Hamama would have reported information  
6 to other individuals.

7 Q. Did the employee say during what time period Hamama was  
8 most active as a source?

9 A. Yes. This employee indicated that from" 1996 to 1999  
10 "was when Al-Jellami would have been the collection  
11 agent at the embassy and that would have been the time  
12 that Hamama was most active.

13 Q. Did the employee provide you with any information about  
14 how Hamama provided his reports to the Iraqi  
15 Intelligence Service?

16 A. The employee stated that it was typical for sources to  
17 mail information to PO boxes or other means of  
18 communicating with their handlers.

19 Q. Did this employee say how frequently Issam Hamama was  
20 paid?

21 A. Yes. Approximately every three or four months, Hamama  
22 would have been paid.

23 Q. Did the employee explain the procedure for paying  
24 Hamama?

25 A. The employee said that it was typical for sources to

1 have been paid with money orders.

2 Q. Was this employee of the IIS able to authenticate for  
3 you some payment documents?

4 A. Yes."

5 Q. Let's look at some of those payment documents. First  
6 Exhibit 13. Can you tell us what that is?

7 MS. McQUADE: And I apologize to the  
8 Grand Jury. Our photocopies are very poor.

9 Q (BY MS. McQUADE): But based on your review of your  
10 better version of this, Agent Rankin, can you tell us  
11 what Exhibit 13 is?

12 A. "This is a receipt that was actually found in Baghdad.  
13 It lists Issam Hamama as the recipient on a customer's  
14 receipt from the United States Post Office.

15 Q. On the 'paid to' line", it's grainy on my copy but it's  
16 a handwritten name Issam Hamama?

17 A. "Yes."

18 Q. And "I see down below on my copy in illegible lines.  
19 Can you tell us, based on your review of the better  
20 version, what is listed at the bottom" there. What's  
21 cut off? What amounts or dollars appear there?

22 A. "Well, on the portion that's torn off, right at the  
23 edge is a post office, and it reads" 22312, "which  
24 turned out to be a ZIP code. A date is 1-23-01. Based  
25 on this copy, that's all I can ascertain from this

1 specific page.

2 Q. From looking at another copy, was the amount apparent?

3 A. The second page of the packet shows a receipt with an  
4 amount and then the money order number.

5 Q. Before we move on I want to ask you about that post  
6 office you said the post office ZIP code is 22312. Do  
7 you know what community that comes back to?

8 A. It comes back to a post office in Alexandria, Virginia.

9 Q. Did the employee of the Iraqi Intrasection tell you  
10 which post office box was utilized by" Issam "Hamama,  
11 where that was?

12 A. Yes. The employee indicated that there were post  
13 office boxes in Alexandria, Virginia."

14 Q. That were used for mailing reports?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. "Let's move on to Exhibit 14. You said that this is a  
17 money order receipt. Where was this document obtained?

18 A. This receipt was also found in Baghdad.

19 Q. Again, based on your better copy of this, what is  
20 indicated on your receipt?

21 A. It provides a money order number, a serial number  
22 assigned to each money order, and the amount of the  
23 money order was \$250. With the fee, the total was  
24 \$250.75. It was purchased at this particular post  
25 office in Alexandria, Virginia and it was purchased

- 1 from Clerk Number 17."
- 2 Q. And does it specify the number 02440416510?
- 3 A. "Yes.
- 4 Q. And now let's look at Exhibit Number 15. What is that?
- 5 A. Yes, this is a postal money order that was payable to
- 6 Issam Hamama.
- 7 Q. And where did you get this document?
- 8 A. This was located in bank records obtained from Comerica
- 9 Bank for Issam Hamama.
- 10 Q. What is the amount of the money order?"
- 11 A. "\$250."
- 12 Q. I'm looking at that serial number at the top. "What is
- 13 the serial number on this money order?
- 14 A. I'm unable to read it from this copy, but based on the
- 15 copy I have, it matches the serial number listed on the
- 16 money order.
- 17 Q. So in other words, the money order deposited into Issam
- 18 Hamama's Comerica Bank account matches the serial
- 19 number on the receipt that was recovered in Baghdad for
- 20 a money order?
- 21 A. Yes. As well as the clerk ID number.
- 22 Q. Clerk 17?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. And the amount of the money order is \$250, the amount
- 25 on the receipt is" for \$250 plus a 75 cents fee; is

1           that correct?

2    A.    Correct."

3    Q.    All right.  Turning to Exhibit 16, what is that?

4    A.    "This would be an accounting of source payments made by  
5           the Iraqi Intelligence Service, during a certain time  
6           period.  It lists a translation of an entry.  It  
7           indicates in January of 2001, code number 6129 received  
8           \$250.  It says 75 cents, but this would have been  
9           typical of someone submitting their expenses indicating  
10          that they had paid 250.75 in order to get a \$250 money  
11          order.

12                           This is a document that's typical, to keep  
13          track of the source payments during that certain  
14          period."

15   Q.    And again, 6129, as we saw in Exhibit 1, was the code  
16          number affiliated with Issam Hamama?

17   A.    Yes.

18   Q.    Where did the FBI get this document, Exhibit 16?

19   A.    "This document was recovered in Iraq, also, by the  
20          United States military.

21   Q.    Did you show this document", Exhibit 16, "to the  
22          embassy employee or the Iraqi Intrastation employee" we  
23          talked about?

24   A.    "Yes.  The employee said this was typical of the type  
25          of documents that the intelligence service would

1 maintain."

2 Q. All right. What is Exhibit 17?

3 A. "This is a deposit slip for the account of Issam Hamama  
4 at Comerica Bank.

5 Q. And did you use a Grand Jury subpoena to obtain bank  
6 records from Comerica Bank?

7 A. Yes."

8 Q. And "this is a deposit slip dated 2-4" of "'01"?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Does it include a deposit in the amount of \$250?

11 A. Yes."

12 Q. Now, "let me" -- "turn to Exhibit 18. Is this a  
13 document" from "the Iraqi Intelligence Service?

14 A. Yes."

15 Q. And would you please read a portion of this on page 3.

16 A. "It clarifies that the post office box has been  
17 penetrated, whereas code 6129 and 1788 sends their  
18 reports through the same and have not been exposed to  
19 any difficulties during the past period.

20 Q. All right. Did this document actually come out of a"  
21 source file for a different "IIS file?

22 A. Yes."

23 Q. That source indicates that he was having problems with  
24 the post office box. That what's going on here?

25 A. "Yes. This particular source was suspicious that his



1 activities had been compromised and his reporting  
2 methods had been discovered.

3 Q. But nonetheless, the Iraqi Intelligence documents Code  
4 Section 6129, we know was associated with Issam Hamama,  
5 sending his reports through a post office box.

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. Has the FBI obtained a videotape of an event occurring  
8 at the Iraqi Intrasection in Washington D.C.?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. How did the FBI get that video?

11 A. The party guests supplied it to us.

12 Q. Has anyone authenticated the video for you?

13 A. Yes. Someone that was at the party viewed the video  
14 with me and stated that it was a true and accurate  
15 depiction of the party.

16 Q. When did the party occur?

17 A. This was in July of 1996.

18 Q. And did the person say where it occurred?

19 A. This would have been at the Iraqi Intrasection in  
20 Washington D.C.

21 Q. Have you watched the video?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. What language is the video in?

24 A. It is written in Arabic. The initial title indicated  
25 who sponsored the party and the reason for the party,

1 and the people are speaking in Arabic on the tape.

2 Q. Have you watched the video with an FBI translator?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Has the translator explained to you what is being said  
5 and what is being written in the video?

6 A. Yes."

7 Q. I'm going to show the video in a moment. But first  
8 there will be some letters. What did the letters say?

9 A. "It will be quick but I'll refer to my notes. It will  
10 read, 'Revolution of July 17th to commemorate the  
11 revolution. The party is being held at the Iraqi  
12 Embassy on July 20th. It was sponsored by the Iraqi  
13 American Friendship Committee, recorded and directed by  
14 Babylon TV, Asad Yousef.

15 Q. Let me stop you there. I have marked a DVD as Exhibit  
16 19 and I'm going to play just a "short portion of it,  
17 to give the Grand Jury a flavor" of what's being said.

18 So why don't we see if we can make that work  
19 now.

20 (Videotape played)

21 Q (BY MS. McQUADE): Agent Rankin, "Who is that?"

22 A. That is Issam Hamama. During this time and throughout  
23 the video, Hamama introduces the guest speakers. Prior  
24 to his introduction, he does a three-minute moment of  
25 silence for Iraqi soldiers killed in battles, and in

1 the battle of all battles, which was referred to as the  
2 Gulf War.

3 He praises the Iraqi people for their  
4 struggle against international pressure and declares  
5 that Iraq will remain strong under the leadership of  
6 the greatest leader ever, Saddam Hussein. He tells the  
7 people that this party" was "done to show" their  
8 "support and -- "pray that the Iraqi people will  
9 overcome this terrible time. He then introduces the  
10 first speaker."

11 Q. Okay. And this -- what we showed you just a small clip  
12 from a longer video; is that correct?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. All right. I want to move on to the topic of security  
15 clearance.

16 MS. McQUADE: And for the Grand Jury now  
17 we're getting close to noon. I think we have just a  
18 little bit more. Do you mind if we continue and finish  
19 up?

20 THE FOREPERSON: No, go ahead.

21 MS. McQUADE: Thank you.

22 Q (BY MS. McQUADE): "We talked about the security  
23 clearance application form. To apply for his  
24 employment as a translator" or with the US military in  
25 Iraq "and to get his security clearance, did Mr. Hamama

1 complete that SF-86 form of the United States Office of  
2 Personnel Management?

3 A. Yes."

4 Q. Let's look at Exhibit 20. "And on your copy, Agent  
5 Rankin, there's some Post-It Notes."

6 First on page 7 of the document, question 14,  
7 which I apologize on the copy I think it's a little bit  
8 cut off this the left margin. But question 14 says,  
9 Your government -- your foreign activities contact with  
10 the foreign government. Do you see that one?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And based on a better -- your review of a better copy  
13 of this, what was his response to the question that  
14 asks have you ever had any contact with foreign  
15 government, it's establishments embassy or consulate,  
16 it's representatives, whether inside or outside the  
17 United States, other than on official U.S. Government  
18 business. "Does not include routine visa applications  
19 and border crossing contacts.)" et cetera.

20 "What was" the "answer to that question?

21 A. He indicated no."

22 Q. And "on page 10, where I've also put a Post-It Note,  
23 did Mr. Hamama sign and date that document?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And what is the date?

1 A. June 5th, 2003."

2 Q. And then let's turn to Exhibit 21. And Agent Rankin, I  
3 put a Post-It Note for you on page 5 which is, again,  
4 question 14, I -- first I should clarify what is  
5 Exhibit 21?

6 A. This is the SF-86.

7 Q. So he signs one SF-86 in June of 2,003 and then he  
8 completes another one in 2005; that is correct?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Just for a -- a routine review or upgrade?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And "on Page 5, where I put your Post-It Note, does it  
13 ask the same question about contact with a foreign  
14 government?"

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And, "What was his response?"

17 A. He indicates no."

18 Q. On Page 9, where I've put a Post-It Note, did he sign  
19 and date that?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And what is the date there?

22 A. "January 19th, 2005."

23 Q. I know you said you interviewed Issam Hamama and I  
24 don't want to ask you about all of the things that he  
25 told you during that interview in the interest of time.

1 But I did want to ask you specifically a couple of  
2 questions. Did you interview him in September of 2006?

3 A. "Yes."

4 Q. And "during that interview, did you ask Issam Hamama  
5 whether he had ever had a relationship with the Iraqi  
6 Intelligence Service?

7 A. Yes, I did.

8 Q. What did he say?

9 A. That he did not have any such relationship.

10 Q. Was that question material or important to your  
11 investigation?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Could it have affected the outcome or direction of your  
14 investigation?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Did you ask him whether he had ever received any  
17 compensation from the government of Iraq?

18 A. Yes, I did, and he stated that he had not.

19 Q. And again, is that a question that could have affected  
20 the outcome or the direction of your investigation?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. One of the elements of Count One is that the Defendant  
23 failed to notify the Attorney General that he was  
24 acting as an agent of a foreign government in the  
25 United States.

1                   Did you contact the United States Department  
2 of Justice" about this?

3   A.   Yes.

4   Q.   "Did you talk to" someone "in the components of the  
5 Department of the Justice, headed by the Attorney  
6 General, who handles foreign agent notifications?

7   A.   I contacted the Foreign Agent Registration Unit.

8   Q.   Did you ask anyone to run a search on Issam Hamama's  
9 name?

10  A.   I requested a search of the name and various spellings  
11 and aliases, and a search was ran.

12  Q.   What was the result?

13  A.   No record was found for any of the names that I  
14 requested.

15  Q.   Agent Rankin, this is a long question." I need to ask  
16 you about the technical requirements of the statute so  
17 if you just bear with me.

18                   "Based on your experience, is Mr. Hamama a  
19 duly accredited diplomatic or consular officer of" a  
20 "foreign government recognized by the United States  
21 Department of State or an officially and publicly  
22 acknowledged official or representative of a foreign  
23 government or an officially and publicly acknowledged  
24 and sponsored member of the staff of or representative  
25 of a foreign government?

1 A. No."

2 Q. I want to ask you one more question. With the SF-86,  
3 the 2005 SF-86, which is Exhibit 21. If I could ask  
4 you to read Question 12. What does that say? I'm  
5 sorry. There's a Post-It Note there.

6 A. This one?

7 Q. The prior Post-It Note. The same page question 14  
8 appears on, just one prior. Tell us about question 12.

9 A. Your foreign activities property: "Do you have any  
10 foreign profit property, business connection or  
11 financial interest?" And Issam Hamama indicated no.

12 Q. All right. Now, when you interviewed Mr. Hamama, did  
13 you discuss his business interests in Iraq?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. When you interviewed him in -- is one of the dates of  
16 your interview June 27th of 2006?

17 A. I'll refer to my notes. Yes.

18 Q. And on June 27, 2006 did you ask him about his business  
19 interests in Iraq?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. What did he say with respect to his business interests  
22 in Iraq?

23 A. He stated that in 2004 he had invested \$30,000 with two  
24 Iraqi ventures. Wissam Murad and DerGham Murad, in a  
25 business located in Najaf. He stated that these



1 vendors had wired money to him in 2005 in various  
2 amounts to his wife Amira Hamama. She deposited the  
3 money into a Comerica Bank account.

4 Q. All right. So he was talking about investing money in  
5 Iraq in 2004. Is that different from what he said on  
6 his SF-86 application in 2005?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And in that other interview in September of 2006, did  
9 you discuss with Mr. Hamama, again, his business  
10 interests in Iraq?

11 A. Yes, I did. And he indicated then that he invested  
12 \$35,000 in Iraq, which is called Brothers Rugs and  
13 Antiques. He provided the names as he did in June and  
14 he said he had received approximately \$45,000 in wire  
15 transfer from this business since his investment.

16 He denied having any other businesses,  
17 interests and denied wiring money to anyone in a  
18 foreign country. He stated that he had recently  
19 purchased a restaurant in El Cajon, California called  
20 Greektown Restaurant and that he was relocating to that  
21 area in the near future.

22 Q. Have you attempted to find any documents confirming  
23 these business interests in Iraq, for instance, whether  
24 his wife Amira Hamama received money from Iraq?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Let me show you Exhibit Number 22 and ask you if you  
2 can tell us what that is.

3 A. This is a receipt that I received from Middle Eastern  
4 Financial Services located in Dearborn, indicating that  
5 his wife had received money from Iraq.

6 Q. And is Exhibit 22 a collection of approximately seven  
7 different wire transfers going to Amira Hamama?

8 A. Yes, it is.

9 Q. And over what time period; is it in roughly 2005 and  
10 early 2006?

11 A. September, expanding through April of 2006. September  
12 of '05 to April of 2006.

13 Q. And do you know where those funds originate from? They  
14 were wired to her in the United States, correct?

15 A. Right.

16 Q. And where did they come from?

17 A. Najaf, Iraq.

18 Q. And how do you know they came from Najaf, Iraq?

19 A. I spoke with the manager of Middle East Financial  
20 Service and she told me that she recognized the name on  
21 the signature line as a representative from Najaf and  
22 she stated that all funds wired from Najaf came through  
23 that individual. So if he would have signed it, they  
24 would have come from Najaf.

25 Q. And Najaf is the place where he told you he invested

1           this money with the Brothers Rugs and Antiques  
2           business?

3    A.    Yes.

4    Q.    And what is the amount?

5    A.    \$48,758.

6    Q.    And that number was close to the approximation he gave  
7           you of \$45,000 that was wired back to him from Iraq?

8    A.    Yes.

9    Q.    So from these documents, it appears that he did have a  
10           business interest in Iraq?

11   A.    Yes, from these documents.

12   Q.    Is there anything that would cause you to believe that  
13           these wires transfers are simply his paycheck as a  
14           translator in Iraq?

15   A.    No. We did; a financial analysis of his bank records  
16           and there's a notation that he would receive -- it was  
17           paid from SOS International and it was a separate wire  
18           and it would indicate that's where it was from.

19   Q.    Based on your training and experience, are statements  
20           on a SF-86, such as financial interests in a foreign  
21           country or contacts with a foreign government,  
22           important or material to the decision as to whether  
23           someone will get their security clearance?

24   A.    Yes, certainly.

25   Q.    And why is that information important?

1 A. If the party has a business interest in a foreign  
2 country, they may not be biased, they may be motivated  
3 by their own personal gain so they wouldn't be an ideal  
4 employee and wouldn't be objective in their job duties.

5 Q. They might have some conflict of interest that would be  
6 important to know about?

7 A. Correct.

8 MS. McQUADE: Those are all the questions I  
9 have for Agent Rankin. But I invite members of the  
10 Grand Jury to ask any questions that you might have.

11 Yes, sir?

12 A JUROR: This is a superseding document.  
13 What's changed since the last one -- I mean, what in  
14 the indictment is different?

15 MS. McQUADE: You know, my suggestion to you,  
16 if you really want to know that, I'll answer it but I  
17 will say to you your decision is to decide whether  
18 there's probable cause for all of these counts.

19 Anything else?

20 All right. May the witness be excused?

21 THE FOREPERSON: Yes.

22 (Testimony concluded at 12:03 p.m.)

23 \* \* \* \*

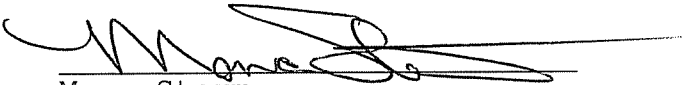
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## C E R T I F I C A T E

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2  
3 I, Mona Storm, do hereby certify that I have  
4 recorded stenographically the proceedings had and  
5 testimony taken in the above-entitled matter at the  
6 time and place hereinbefore set forth, and I do further  
7 certify that the foregoing transcript, consisting of  
8 (53) typewritten pages, is a true and correct  
9 transcript of my said stenographic notes.  
10

11  
12 12-22-09  
Date

  
13 Mona Storm  
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