[UM]	Unidentified Male.
[UI]	Unintelligible.
[NFI]	Not Further Identified.
(LNU)	Last name unknown.
[*Italics*]	Translator's comments.
[...]	Incomplete sentence.

Sh = Shukri Abu Baker
Om = Omar Ahmad
Gh = Ghassan Elashi
Ss = Sheik Sharif
Ga = Gawad (LNU)
Ab = Abdel Salam (LNU)
Ak = Akram (LNU)
Au = Abou Usama (NFI)
As = Abdel Halim Al Ashqar (Aboul Hasan)
Aa = Abou Ahmad (NFI)
Aj = Abdel Jabbar
Ab2 = Abou Bassem (NFI)
Mu = Muin (LNU)
Ar = Abdel Rahman

Audio file: MTGB_19931002_9.WAV

Sh: ... brother Eweida is there and Abou Ibrahim went and stuff. But, frankly speaking, our work...UI in the field started to decrease. So, we are not reaping real fruit from..., from that. The one thing we reap the most fruit from is our brothers in the [*Islamic*] Association [*for Palestine*] and our own activities. So, there are no organizations, my brother, we don't cooperate with if we can even if it were just to spread the idea and to take advantage of this stage. At the mosques' levels, our relationship is very good with the mosques in America and, all year round, Abdel Jabbar, myself or Abou Ibrahim or others travel, give sermons and do fundraising. All year round. God's willing, more than that is on the way as we mentioned.

UM1: May God reward you well....UI.

UM2: Thanks be to God, we have a..., a very good relationship with the...UI. What is collected is very little but, everything is collected is transferred to...UI. We gave them some projects inside [*of Palestine*] so that they can present them to the government but they

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haven't responded to us. A project for a hospital or health clinic and stuff like that. If that succeeds, they will pay full sums of money through the government's institutions. But, we will present two projects to them and one project to IDRF. IDRF deals with us sheepishly, I mean, we told them that they have fellow Muslim brothers of yours who need your assistance. Not everybody is Fatah, not everybody is [*Palestinian*] Liberation Organization, you must take a look at the other party. So, they accepted some projects from us...UI but, we are still waiting for them to fulfill their promises. What was collected recently was transferred to...er...UI. We checked with them in that regards as the whole amount was $7,000 and we told them that 5 million Muslims are waiting for this 7,000 [*Dollars*]. Anyhow, our relationship with them is very, very good and with all. The Islamic centers also...er, we take part in their activities. On the contrary, because of our relationship [*with them*] they oblige us to assist them in management and in other matters. But, thank God, things are good.

UM1: May God reward you well. Abdel Rahman then Omar. Go ahead. Abdel Rahman is...UI.

Ar: I just have a question. This suggestion comes out of my feeling that, in the coming stage, the most important thing we can provide in this stage is to support Jihad In Palestine. I believe it is the only way if we want to bring the goals of the [*peace*] accord to fail. We would, at least, keep within the people's spirit...UI. We as a organization - as a non-profit organization - are not able to do that. But, at least, we can focus on the issues relating to that matter which is emphasizing the relationship between the...UI. Everyone knows that there is about 100,000..., 100,000 wounded persons. For instance, you have the issue of sponsoring the families of the martyrs, you have the prisoners..., these are the issues that I believe we should... Maybe now we don't have organizations or maybe we have organizations to support hospitals and other things. But, I believe that there must be more emphasis on these people than others who might benefit from the money they receive from the United Nations, from America and elsewhere. But, those people have a direct relationship with Jihad and they must get more money and more thought [*from us*]. In our letters we sent to people, we ought to place emphasis on the families of the martyrs, the prisoners, the orphans and the families of the wounded. This is one suggestion. The second thing I suggest to do is maybe something simple. The Fund already has permanent ads in Al Zaytouna and the Monitor. Let's place something in Al Zaytouna and The Monitor and some of the other Islamic magazines, some sort of appeal to the people, to Muslims, that the suffering hasn't ended and that the situation hasn't changed, the situation which... makes the peace accord...UI, which is different from speaking in political language. You will be speaking in humanitarian language saying that people's suffering hasn't been alleviated. And this is a very simple thing we can do; [*placing*] ads in the newspapers and the magazines as people read them and...UI in the Occupied Territories. These are written things instead of the picture of this girl which...er. The

question I have for brother Muin is: I might not be aware of the laws governing the inside. But, what is the possibility of transferring some of the organizations which are currently in the [*West*] Bank or Gaza to Jerusalem, to areas which are not under the authority of the [*Palestinian Liberation*] Organization, to have the headquarters over there, to have projects to channel [*money*] through people, that is.

Mu: Well, the issue is not easy as the core point in the projects over there is that the person who applies to get a project must be a bearer of an Israeli ID in Jerusalem. It takes time to establish an organization but, the issue of the transfer from Jerusalem to [*West*] Bank is easy. This means that, if an organization opens in Jerusalem with a Jerusalem ID, it will be easy for it to go to the West Bank. This experiment succeeded and it was some sort of...er, let me call it a spread for our organization meaning that the headquarters was in Jerusalem and it had branches in the West Bank. There are some other organizations which were established by our brothers in '89, I believe. It is the main organization and, thank God, it has opened some branches. But, if an organization is already in the West Bank right now and you want to move it, I expect that it is not going to be easy.

Ar: How about establishing new organizations in the [*West*] Bank?

Mu: That is possible but it needs time. For instance, The Truth And Law Organization was established in Gaza. It sailed through and obtained a license as a public service organization. Now, it is possible that this [*organization*] gets dissolved with the arrival of the self-rule. They will harass it. There was thinking to open an organization in Jerusalem. We discussed this issue specifically with some of the brothers in Jerusalem. They said it can be done if you make $10,000 available. We asked how and they said there is no harassment or restrictions right now. Matters are flowing as you like it and the attorney is a Jewish man in the Knesset. He said I'm ready to get you a license and the organization will become a legal organization working for human rights. The matter needs money to be spent but, the situation in the Occupied Territories is... Of course, the matter deserves this money to be spent on, for this organization, because those who live in the [*Gaza*] Sector might die and no one will know about them. But, when they have a branch in Jerusalem, there will be an excuse for an employee to go to Jerusalem. They will give him a card, some sort of an ID and stuff like that. So, the situation now in the Occupied Territories, in the '48 and Jerusalem, the factors which play into the matter are the attorneys, how to approach the subject and the judicial system. I mean, there are many issues which you can take to the Supreme Court of Justice and you win. Therefore, the issue is legal and it is possible that it sails through. But, to move it from the [*West*] Bank to Jerusalem is somewhat difficult based on the old information. But, to establish them, the matter is in the hands of the judicial system.

UM1: Omar.

Om: I would like to remind the brothers, brother Abou Usama and the brothers with the issue of Syria and...UI. There are two issues I would like to comment on as news. The brothers..., there is a rumor being circulated with some people that people would like to form alternate organizations in place of the [*Islamic*] Association [*for Palestine*] and the Fund and stuff. This is not true. There was a misunderstanding that...UI. There are no alternate organizations. The second point is that we asked them to work with the brothers, to work with the brothers from Palestine or the Muslims and they have agreed on that during their meeting. So, what Abou Usama is talking about is already here. Therefore, there is not going to be bypassing of the Organization now. We spoke with the people and, if the Fund wanted to...UI.

UM2: To continue this point and on the same issue is the notion that our brothers remember that some of the brothers in the field - whether in the [*Islamic*] Association [*for Palestine*] or the Fund - they deal with..., what should we call it, with arrogance with other people. [*They say*] You don't understand. Who are you? You are sheiks and religious dervishes. What did you do? So, we're saying that the Palestinian cause from beginning to end is an Islamic cause. Therefore, our relationship with all Muslims ought to be good. This is a request from the brothers, from all the brothers, to have the brothers from all the branches and sub-branches deal with them Islamically. You try to deal nicely with the Christians. Henceforth, you should deal nicely with the people you're from, the people who are your natural extension, in a manner which doesn't have arrogance, pride or contempt or any thing demeaning thing.

UM1: Shukri has anything?

Sh: Regarding the issue of registration. The Foundation is in the final stages of obtaining, God's willing, a license in Jerusalem. We registered the Foundation in Jerusalem as a legitimate, I mean as a...UI organization; it has a board of directors and stuff in Jerusalem. We will call it "The Holy Land Society for Relief & Development". God's willing, it will be good because people can deal with it and it will be able to work in the [*West*] Bank. As for Gaza, we contacted the attorney over there and we started the process to register a branch, a branch for a U.S. organization. This means that...

UM2: You're opening a branch for...UI or for a U.S. organization?

Sh: Our own organization...UI. It is a Jerusalemite organization...UI. At the end, even some of the national or the local organizations will not be effective unless you form an outside organization to carry out the programs. And I'm really thinking now while I'm talking as

we want to open an office in Nazareth or...UI. That one will be registered under Israeli law. In this manner, we're trying to avoid whatever troubles we can avoid.

UM1: ...UI.

Om: What?

UM1: ...UI. [*Laughter*].

Au: I would like to ask brother Omar a question. It is not true that there were rumors that we would like to start alternate organizations. I need a clarification for that.

Om: No. It is good, our brothers, to cover all the bases and it...UI cover all the bases. It is not fanaticism or..., what you call it, extremism to set things straight or...

UM1: ...to clarify things, that is.

Om: There was an idea, an intention and thinking to start alternate organizations for the Islamic organizations working for Palestine. Are they a failure?...

[*Brief group talk. UI*].

Au: I'm asking brother Omar a question as a clarification and I would like to ask brother Aboul Hasan a question.

As: Go ahead.

Au: There is no one..., excuse me...

UM1: Omar answered the question and said that there wasn't a...

Om: ...UI. I can clarify that. I can clarify that in a different way.

UM1: Ok. In a couple of minutes so that...

Om: I will tell the story in order to clarify the issue.

Au: The second point is that leadership figures ought to be humble and the individuals ask the leadership for humility and listening [*to them*] and that they're humble when dealing with the individuals. Really. And specially when speaking about the issue of Palestine. When

someone speaks about the issue of Palestine in front of them, it is as if...UI. They are not even willing to listen. Frankly speaking.

UM2: There is an issue hanging or undetermined right now between the brothers in the...UI and those in the wing. This is at the level of the regions and the branches or at the higher level.

Sh: We are now taking from the time slot for charity work, by the way.

Om: Yes... The issue..., the issue has two sides; one issue is that the brothers working for Palestine...UI don't work for anything else. I mean not only for Palestine, for anything else. Therefore, the brothers are feeling kind like "We're making contributions and working and where are you?". The other brothers, what do they feel? They feel that you sometimes work..., first of all, you took the potentials from the other branches of work and used them for Palestine and, at the same time, you're being arrogant with us and say that you work and we don't. Also, there is the issue of those brothers in Chicago who traveled and went to Palestine. So, there was a talk from the government and stuff that..., there is a danger from that. So, they went over and requested a meeting. They requested a meeting and a suggestion was made during the meeting to coordinate the issue, a suggestion was made by a Jordanian person to start an alternative, meaning that they want the organizations to form a solidarity committee for the Palestinian people and the other organizations would dissolve in it within two years. It was a suggestion made by whom? By one or two people.

Gh: Meaning before the end of the self-rule.

Om: Yes. And a committee was formed to study the situation, Palestinian activism with the group...
[*Brief group talk. UI*].

UM1: It is forbidden to interrupt Omar and we will focus on this subject after...UI.

Om: A suggestion..., a suggestion... The committee which was formed rejected it because it is not practical and the brothers who submitted it realized that they cannot go on with their suggestion, that the suggestion was wrong. The brothers in the Shura Council met and said during the Shura Council that it is true that they don't want to form this committee but, they have the right to establish an organization..., that is how it was written, an organization representing the Group's view in a...UI manner. This is to sum it up. What raised our doubts is that...

UM2: And what is the Group's view?

Om: It is that we are radicals alone...UI. We checked with the brothers and they said "Let's be the ones to say that we are a political entity". I mean a political entity and not a people's entity, a political entity in Washington such as the Public Affairs Council which...UI. It is the one which gives an opinion. It is for the Americans and not for the Muslims.

UM2: Ah.

Om: ...UI. Of course, some people were upset with the issue. How can you do that? This is wrong. Where did we go?

UM2: This is a different issue.

Om: So, the Americans we met with said that our opinion is that you don't form it and the suggestion which was presented by one or two was not approved. It was approved by the committee before it made its way to the Shura Council. You see? But, the environment of the situation...UI and when the decision was formed in a moderate way...UI and some talk started. This talk reached some of the brothers in some of the regions. During one of the past camps which was held two or three weeks ago, a ranking person said we are doing this and that. They told him you're doing things...UI and they were very upset because people knew about it and they didn't. So, they were very upset and they requested that they tell people that this wasn't true, it is a rumor. The issue is...UI. But, the unresolved problem, the one I spoke about earlier, hasn't been solved. God knows best.

UM1: May God reward you well...UI. I just have a question for brother Muin. What are the kinds of organizations which you expect will be directly hit, during the initial phase and which will be hit strongly? Are they the charity organizations, for instance, or the other organizations?

Mu: By God, in the Gaza Sector, the Islamic University will be target number one. If we talk about the West Bank, there are some organizations which came to distinction and particularly...UI in the West Bank from which some organizations which now constitute some notable Islamic organizations. But, it is God's grace that the most important activity for the Zakat committees, notably the medical activity in the West Bank is in the form of the Medical Scientific Society which now encompasses most the medical activity in the West Bank and I believe it has a parallel abroad and have now started working on establishing relationships with [*people*] abroad which might be some sort of a cover. The cover is now in place but, God's willing, it started to work now..., and a medical society was formed following the example of the medical society in the West Bank and it will be

a form of a cover. Among the other organization...UI in the [*Gaza*] Sector, the Islamic University is possibly the first to be targeted. Among the organizations, Al Islah [*Society*] is one which they might think about dissolving or interfering in it. But, generally speaking, we don't have a noticeable weight in organizations in the [*Gaza*] Sector, a presence which we might fear an eminent danger in the coming stage. But, in nine months, there are tens of organizations in the West Bank, from north to south, which might be targeted directly. For instance, there are several organizations in Hebron which might be targeted directly such as the Young Men Muslim Association, possibly the Islamic Welfare Society which is one of the organizations with notable activity. These might be hit in their administration and not in their activity because their oversees schools and orphans...UI. It is possible that the government...

Gh: You mean they might change the administration?

Mu: They can hit the administration or make a law that..., make law to control administration or something like that. Now, they might try to mess with some of the organizations in which we have some sort of activity through a number of laws. For instance, for the Chamber of Commerce, they can make a law to nullify the previous elections. Nullifying the previous elections will affect us in the West Bank and Gaza first of all because of the students and, secondly, because there is...UI which might be hit. Regarding the Chamber of Commerce in the Gaza Sector we control the accountants and they might get dissolved in a direct way. In my view, I expect that there won't be brutality in the beginning. They will deal with some sort of intelligence and they might give us a chance. They will tamper with laws and pull the carpet from under our feet through making alternate organizations available. For instance, the endowments organizations..., the endowments organizations in the inside will play a large role in controlling many of the..., let me call them the organizations we consider...UI. And the people over there..., for instance, Akrama Sabri one of the characters of the new rule. This person is just an image in his office or elsewhere. His appearance is that he is a Muslim yet, he knows everything about the Islamists such as their affiliated organizations. Therefore, the game of the laws is the main gateway, in my opinion, to control many of the organizations through the firing of some people. Making alternatives available [*is important*] because if you don't make available a strong alternative character in all aspects, they will have tens of alternatives. If we speak as educated crews of people, they also have more educated crews. For instance, at Al Ahli hospital in Hebron, Al Ahli Hospital..., one of the specialists in premature children, one of our brothers, was chosen by the hospital to study for two additional years in this specialization at the Jordanian University. His name is Dr. Hatem Shehate returned to Hebron and left his clinic and stuff. Now, they threatened that they are going to fire him. Now, the problem is not whether they fire him or not but the fact that they have 10-15 doctors of their own who are being sent [*to study*] by the hospital itself and by the

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[*Palestinian*] Liberation Organization. They keep working on getting their crews ready in order to fill out the vacancies on the inside. Now, here is a hospital and [*they say*] let's not change its administration or anything but, when I change its crews or...UI I'm then taking control of it. You have, for instance, Al Makased Charitable [*Hospital*], we established it, worked hard for it and worked in it and we now control the syndicate. The syndicate is now Islamist. The first step they [*the PLO*] took is that they stopped dealing with us as a syndicate and we are now talking about the [*Palestinian Liberation*] Organization which hasn't reached power yet. They didn't deal with us as a syndicate in its [*Islamist*] form and there was thinking to close the hospital. So, the decision of our brothers, regardless if it is right or wrong, was to dissolve the syndicate in the hospital and a new syndicate made up of us and them was formed making the leadership almost bi-partisan. Now, the brother..., the core person in the syndicate is from Tulkarem and works in Al Makased. Immediately, they barred him from entering Jerusalem and now he is barred from...UI. So, the problem is not only the laws, the problem is that you are dealing with people who know you, they know how things go and there is an old blood between you and them. This will be somewhat dangerous and God knows best.

UM2: How about the medical association affiliated with the coordination office...UI. Weren't they doing something in Bosnia, India or Afghanistan? They establish..., they establish clinics and work. They're called Doctors Without Borders...UI.

Sh: Yes, Doctors Without Borders.

Om: These people...UI. We have Muslim doctors.

Sh: We ought to have crews of doctors, even lawyers, engineers, laborers, stuff like that. But, doctors are the most important and they usually go to Mexico because doctors work with...UI. These are the kinds of projects organizations here in America and Canada work on. Assemble a team of Muslim doctors and they go and build clinics and stay there for a week, two weeks or one months. And its cost is not much, maybe $50,000 or something. There are similar projects that go out from here which have nothing to do with...UI.

UM1: Ok. ...UI. May God reward you well and we apologize for...UI. We will give you until...UI.
[*UI group talk until end of recording*].

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END OF RECORDING.