

[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 Yehya
Gh = Ghassan Elashi
Gh2 = Ghassan Saleh
Ss = Sheik Sharif
Ga = Gawad (Abou Ayyoub, 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 Hamdan
Ab2 = Abou Bassem (NFI)
Mu = Muin (LNU)
Ar = Abdel Rahman
Ni = Nihad (LNU)
Os = Osama (NFI)
Ay = Ayman Sharawi
Ha = Haitham Maghawri
Yo = Yousif (LNU)

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Sh: The Americans have no business in our own internal affairs. No business.

UM: How about all of your internal affairs. They're the ones who decide all of it.

[Brief UI group talk].

UM: Our brothers, let's just stay within the subject. Go ahead, Abou...

GOVERNMENT
EXHIBIT
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UM2: In my belief, when we spoke about bringing failure...

Sh: Ah...

UM2: ...bringing failure..., bringing failure, I believe that we are not going to make them fail here on the American front...UI. In my belief, bringing failure means bringing failure to the organization which adopted this project, causing the project itself to fail through the principle that it does not achieve the minimum we want for our people. In addition to playing a very important tune to the average American which is the issue of democracy, the issue of representation. When you tell an American individual that, "By God, this person is not elected. He is an oppressor. He is appointed. This is a dictatorial regime like any other regimes...UI". Bring up Saddam Hussain's name, for instance, and he will understand it. He will understand it easily. And, the stuff we're saying has credibility and the Americans know. The politicians know. The average person on the street might not know. But, I mean that our point has credibility. I mean, we're not talking about issues we invented, for instance, or about issues we heard about such as the secret accords and stuff like that. No, these are things we live through, that is that all of the Organization's institutions are not elected. All of them, even the parliament is appointed. Of course, they will not be happy that this and that happened, here are the reasons ...etc. But, they know that they are appointed. We know and they know why they were appointed and on what bases. We should be saying... If we want to defeat the accord, defeat its symbols, we must talk to them about the administrative corruption at their end as well, that these people are thieves and they should not be entrusted with the money which reach our people, that they have stolen them and will steal them. What is our gain from that? Not showing that we as Palestinians are in disaccord, no, but you're destroying these people who carry this project because, without them, the project will fail as they're the ones who carry it.

UM: Ok, anyone who wants to say something about causing the project to fail.

Ak: There are two points: the first one is that we are against this project. This is a good point as no democratic decision has been reached about it [*the project*] or anything. But, they might bring up another point to counter this point which is that elections are coming, they will take place in nine months. You will be able to elect your representatives and stuff. The main point is that this is a major turn in the history of Palestine and that the resolution was made without taking our opinion and anything that comes after this resolution, as far as we're concerned, is an application of that accord, whether it is elections in Palestine or... It is true, democracy will take place in the future but, you have already put us in a tight corner which we don't agree with. You placed the cause in a road the Palestinian people don't agree with. Henceforth, we want to bring everything back to the original accord which is a historical turn in the history of the Palestinian people. It

remains that the resolution was made without democracy and without a referendum. Even if the Organization later obtained a majority in the Palestinian street, this is not an objection as the resolution which was reached is null in the first place.

UM: I can repeat the text if that is going to solve the problem. We can say, "Attacking the..., the credibility of the representation of the Organization..., the Organization's right to sign an accord on behalf of the Palestinian people".

Ga: No, he didn't sign as "The Organization". He signed as "Abou Ammar". He didn't sign as the Organization.

UM: No, he signed "The Palestinian People". What's his name..., Abou Abbas, signed as "The Palestinian Delegation".

Ga: But, not even one major democratic Palestine organization until now has...

UM: This is the point. This is the point.

[Brief UI group talk].

Sh: This is what they understand, Abou..., Abou... This is what they understand; currently Abou Ammar is the chairman of the PLO. Our brothers, we cannot use the same poetic Arabic style when addressing the American mentality. Our brother, the Americans will not understand it... *[UI interruptions by others]*. Please allow me, they will tell you, "If he doesn't represent you, why the hell don't you get rid of him?". He will tell you, "If he doesn't represent you, who represents the Palestinian people?".

UM: We should drop the Arafat issue now. We're talking about the Organization.

Sh: These are very critical questions. We're replying to the question. It is very critical.

UM: ...UI if he is democratic.

Sh: I cannot say to him that I'm Hamas...UI

Gh2: I still believe that we should oppose and combat this accord using its humanitarian aspects, its aspect relating to the Palestinians' national rights and not by criticizing this person and that person. I mean, in order for us to be practical and logical in our address, we shouldn't keep saying that, "Ooh, by God, this is not a fair deal because this guy doesn't represent us and he is not the right person to do it", because we are...

Om: Good point.

Gh2: ...because, my brother, people look at you..., look at you as what? I'm the Association...

Sh: You are an American organization.

Gh2: I'm the Association, an American organization. I'm not sister Samah. This means that I..., I represent this Group, this Movement...

UM: You represent the Palestinian's public opinion...

Gh2: Which I'm not. Which I'm not. I don't represent the..., the... Movement officially in front of people. Neither do I try to impose...

UM: Let me answer him, my brothers...

Sh: I have more than one point... [UI brief group interruption]

UM: Let him..., let him... and I will reply to him. Go ahead, yes.

Sh: There is more than one point...UI.

Gh2: Therefore, the Association's address shouldn't be the address which criticizes the Organization or an address that..., I mean in the same style as Samah's. We..., we cannot do it. As an American organization, we present an approach that this is a right..., I mean, it is a retrieval of national rights.

[UI brief group interruption].

Om: ...UI they wrote an article in Al-Zaytouna...

UM: Ah.

[UI brief group talk and laughter].

Sh: ...I would do it again and again. There is a difference between me writing an article in the newspaper or publish a caricature, and between an official position.

Gh2: It is possible that one...UI.

UM: People...

Sh: You can go meet a congressman in your name, in Omar Yehya's name, in the name of the Association's present and tell him, "...UI doesn't represent us. Mr. Ahmad Yasin represents us".

Gh2: You cannot say that...

UM2: See what they're saying about Clinton, what they're saying about his father and what they say about...

Sh: The point you presented which is..., which is withdrawing..., attacking his credibility as a representative and a leader of the Palestinian people. But, I tell you that we don't want the American front to become a front for direct conflict. These things will put us in direct conflict, not only with the Palestinians, even with the official government circles. What is our benefit, what is our interest? As Palestinian action organizations in America, what is our benefit in creating more enemies than necessary? What is the interest that... Are you going to win the Palestinian cause if this guy who works at McDonald's, the worker who works there for \$4.00/hour, understands whether Abou Ammar represents us or not? Or the congressman, if you explain this situation to him that he is...UI and doesn't represent the Palestinian people, is he going to tell you, "Yes, by God, you convinced me"? Despite that, everything goes as planned. The point is that we are not going to expose ourselves to another wave and be anti-establishment, anti-establishment. Ok? Because, for the American organizations, if you're against peace, you're a terrorist. When you start attacking Abou Ammar, his leadership, the people who signed and attended and arranged their affairs with..., such as a Saudi person who attacks the Saud family and say that he is not a ruler. My brother, let him...

UM: Ok. Amazing. But, brother, please finish.

[UI brief group talk].

Ga: There are organizations which work in America. They're legal and...UI.

Om: If you please, if you please, if you please...

[UI brief group talk].

UM: Brother Sharif and then...

Sh: You voted, my brother, we are just opening the door for discussion once more...UI.

UM: Yes, yes. Brother Sharif, yes.

Ss: We..., I mean, I, as an American organization here don't want my government and my president to put his hand and sign a deal with the wrong people. Consequently, I speak up out of that reason which is being keen on my country, my president and its dignity with the people he claimed to represent.

Om: *[Laughter]* You...UI the American president and then comes Sheik Sharif to say...UI this is your president. "Oh, are you American?" *[Laughter]*.

Sh: Because he wants him to face reality. He wants him to face reality [Laughter]. Don't they know that Assad is hated by his people? Why don't they heed his example, my brother?

UM2: It is a different country, my brother.

UM: Ok. We mentioned..., we mentioned...UI Abou Ammar. We will add it in the suitable manner which doesn't bring harm to..., which doesn't bring harm to the Palestinian people's reputation. Ok, the second point which is opening a political office and public relations in Washington. Its goals are: One, presenting our point of view to the American political and media organizations and winning friends and supporters. Two, coordinating..., coordination in political alliances. You want someone who is active with these people as the Association is busy with many other tasks and stuff like that. Three, it represents... Yeah, we mentioned it. It should represent the point of view of...

Ss: It expresses the point of view...

UM: Yes, yes. It passes along our suitable point of view to this segment, just to give an example. I mean, this office is... If the AMC serves goals, it also achieves the goals. We want one like it, the same function, but one which achieves our goals.

Ga: An international conference for solidarity with the Palestinian people will be held, an international Islamic conference, most probably in Malaysia.

UM: Over here is more important than Malaysia.

Ga: Here is more important. I know.

UM: Over here will serve them and serve us.

Ga: ...UI an international one. It won't be local...UI.

UM: I know. We're saying that. But, if they adopt it and contribute in sending the invitations out... I mean, if they adopt it...

Ga: The issue of sending the invitations out is not... It is an administrative issue.

UM: No, it is not an administrative issue, my brother. I mean, when you..., when you go to the Sheik and tell him, "So and so person is inviting you" is different from telling him that...

UM2: He will decline just to...UI.

Sh: Who is going to adopt it?

Gh: I admire the idea very much.

Sh: He is saying, "Samah should adopt it". We..., what is our relationship with Samah?

UM2: We are not going to tell the other people that is held in Samah's name.

Sh: Are you going to tell them that Samah is holding it? And invite the scholars in Samah's name.

[UI brief group talk].

UM: ...because this will serve them indirectly.

Gh: They're having an international conference, men.

Sh: Who is going to be the hosting agency in America? ..

UM2: Samah. Samah.

Sh: The invitations, then, are going out in Samah's name. They will say that they came to America in order to...

[UI brief group talk and laughter].

Sh: That's it. For instance. This is the thing. These are the Americans. If you want the Americans, I see that you're hurting the cause instead of helping it because the Americans..., they are people who don't really realize the dimension we're speaking about. If you want the Islamic community, the weight of the Islamic community is not in America but in the Orient. Therefore, if this conference was held in the Orient, its psychological and Islamic impact will much deeper than its impact at the community's level in America. This is what I see. If you want to go through the expenses the trouble anyway, do it in the Orient...

[UI group talk].

UM: A conference will be held in Malaysia. I believe that if the important part was played on video during the [Muslim Arab Youth] Association's conference, it will be... I mean, according to what you mentioned, 250 scholars from Pakistan, Malaysia and all over the world will attend.

Sh: But, I believe that the Americans are not going to be impressed. This is something about the Americans...UI in the Movement are more objective. But, the American people is not an objective people at all when it comes to...

UM2: Unless there are a number of rabbis in the picture. They reached accords, they made deals

and what is the result? I mean, you will come out with the same picture as what you have now. There is not going to be more than getting a group of sheiks together and this is the end of it. What's after that?

UM3: All of this should be handled by the Islamic community...

[UI brief group talk].

UM: Our brothers... Group, that is enough. Group, enough discussion now. He who thinks that the idea is reasonable and applicable should raise his hand.

Gh2: An Islamic conference abroad, right?

UM: Yes, abroad.

Gh2: And not Aboul Muthana's idea which is...

UM: No, no.

Gh2: The one you mentioned.

UM: No, no, no. A different one. He who sees that the idea is reasonable and can be implemented should raise his hand.

UM2: It can be applied at the community level.

Gh2: Specially in New Jersey.

UM: But, by God, the Malaysia conference is not like any other conference and should be covered by the media. Some of its portions should be taped or we should send a brother American reporter or a Muslim or so who goes to tape it and come back to us here.

UM2: What I understood, my brother, what I understood is that the media committee of Samih, Samah or whatever you call it, are very interested in that subject.