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Folder Title: Terrorism Groups: PFLP [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine]

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Collection Name MCNAMARA, THOMAS E.: FILES

Counterterrorism and Narcotics

Withdrawer

SMF 3/20/2009

File Folder

TERRORISM GROUPS: PFLP [POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE

FOIA

Box Number

92283 RAC BOX 7

F05-109/1 **MIZRAHI**

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ID Doc Type	Document Description	No of Doc Date Res Pages			strictions	
67399 MEMO	RE PFLP	3	2/26/1987	B1	B7(A)	
67400 CABLE	655546	3	9/15/1987	B1	B3	
67401 CABLE	678324	3	9/28/1987	B1	В3	
67402 CABLE	689386	1	10/5/1987	B1	В3	
67403 CABLE	262773	2	9/20/1988	B1	В3	
67404 CABLE	FRANKFURT 16715	2	10/27/1988	B1		
67405 REPORT	RE PFLP	1	10/30/1988	B1	B3	
67406 REPORT	RE PFLP	1	10/30/1988	B1	B3	
67407 CABLE	330298	6	10/31/1988	B1	B3	

The above documents were not referred for declassification review at time of processing

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

B-1 National security classified Information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

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B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]

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B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA] B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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TERRORISM GROUPS: PFLP [POPULAR FRONT FOR THE

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LIBERATION OF PALESTINE]

MIZRAHI

Box Number

92283

28

ID	Document Type	No of Doc Date	Restric-
	Document Description	pages	tions

67399 MEMO

3 2

2/26/1987

B1

RE PFLP

B7(A)

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<ORIG> UPI
<TOR> 870512053346

<TEXT>R A PM-PALESTINIANS SKED 5-12 0793 (HCP051103 IS HORIZONTAL OF DEFENDANTS)@ JUDGE DISMISSES CHARGES IN PLO CASE@ @BY CATHERINE GEWERTZ=

LOS ANGELES (UPI) THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO REFILE CHARGES THAT WERE ABRUPTLY DISMISSED BY A FURIOUS IMMIGRATION JUDGE AGAINST EIGHT FOREIGN NATIONALS ACCUSED OF BELONGING TO A PALESTINIAN TERRORIST GROUP, OFFICIALS SAID.

JUDGE INGRID HRYCENKO SAID SHE DISMISSED THE CHARGES MONDAY BECAUSE GILBERT REEVES, WHO WAS ACTING LOS ANGELES DISTRICT DIRECTOR OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE WHEN THE DEFENDANTS WERE CHARGED IN DECEMBER, FAILED TO APPEAR AT THE HEARING AS SHE HAD ORDERED.

HRYCENKO, SHAKING WITH ANGER, SAID THAT WITHOUT REEVES AS A WITNESS, THE GOVERNMENT COULD NOT PROVE THE CHARGES WERE APPROVED BY SOMEONE WITH PROPER AUTHORITY.

''I WILL TERMINATE ALL PROCEEDINGS BECAUSE OF THE DEFECTIVE ISSUANCE OF AN ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE,'' HRYCENKO SAID.

THE JUDGE THEN STRODE FROM THE BENCH, BUT RETURNED MOMENTS LATER TO TELL INS ATTORNEYS, ''I WILL NO LONGER TOLERATE ANY OF THESE TACTICS. YOU HAVE 10 DAYS IN WHICH TO DECIDE WHETHER TO FILE AN APPEAL.''

ESMERALDA CABRERA, THE GOVERNMENT ATTORNEY IN CHARGE OF THE CASE, SAID AFTER THE DECISION THE GOVERNMENT WOULD REFILE THE CHARGES AGAINST THE DEFENDANTS, SEVEN JORDANIANS AND ONE KENYAN.

'THE CASES ARE VERY MUCH ALIVE,'' CABRERA SAID.

IT WAS UNCLEAR EXACTLY WHAT HRYCENKO MEANT BY ''TACTICS,'' AND SHE DECLINED TO COMMENT ON HER DECISION AFTER THE PRECEDING.

BUT A JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SOURCE TOLD THE LOS ANGELES TIMES THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD WELCOMED THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING A NEW JUDGE ASSIGNED TO THE COMPLEX AND CONTROVERSIAL CASE.

HRYCENKO, A FORMER FEDERAL PROSECUTOR, HAS OVERRIDDEN GOVERNMENT OBJECTIONS THAT SHE DID NOT HAVE AUTHORITY TO HOLD A DUE-PROCESS HEARING AND RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT REEVES' AUTHORITY TO SIGN THE ORIGINAL DEPORTATION ORDERS.

'WAS THAT A SLICK MOVE OR WAS THAT A SLICK MOVE?'' AN UNIDENTIFIED GOVERMENT OFFICIAL TOLD THE TIMES, REFERRING TO THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO NOT PRODUCE REEVES, LEADING HRYCENKO TO DISMISS THE CHARGES AND LIKELY SETTING THE SCENE FOR A NEW JUDGE TO HEAR THE CASE.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY DAN STORMER SAID THE GOVERNMENT FACED SERIOUS LEGAL PROBLEMS IF IT WAS MANEUVERING TO ABORT MONDAY'S HEARING.

''IT'S MISCONDUCT TO ENGAGE IN A PROCESS OF MANIPULATING CHARGES AND JUDGES,'' STORMER SAID.

BUT OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TOLD THE TIMES THEY DID NOT WITHHOLD REEVES FROM THE COURTROOM TO FORCE THE SELECTION OF A NEW JUDGE. ONE TOP OFFICIAL, WHO ASKED NOT TO BE NAMED, SAID HE BELIEVED HRYCENKO 'WAS LOOKING FOR A WAY TO DISMISS THE CASE,'' WHICH WAS SCHEDULED TO RUN THROUGH THE SUMMER.

THE ARRESTS OF THE EIGHT DEFENDANTS IN JANUARY, AFTER A 3 -YEAR INVESTIGATION BY THE FBI AND THE INS, SPARKED OUTRAGE AMONG ARAB-AMERICANS AND CIVIL LIBERTARIANS, WHO ACCUSED THE GOVERNMENT OF TRYING TO MUZZLE DEBATE ON THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE.

THE INS CHARGED THAT THE EIGHT WERE MEMBERS OF THE POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE, A MARXIST OFFSHOOT OF THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION, AND FIRST SOUGHT TO DEPORT THEM UNDER A MCCARTHY-ERA LAW MAKING ADVOCACY OF WORLD COMMUNISM A DEPORTABLE OFFENSE.

ALTHOUGH IT STILL INSISTS ALL EIGHT ARE MEMBERS OF THE PFLP, THE GOVERNMENT LATER DROPPED THE SUBVERSION CHARGES AGAINST SIX, SEEKING

of PPLP case

INSTEAD TO HAVE THEM DEPORTED FOR ALLEGED VISA VIOLATIONS.

THE INS REVISED CHARGES AGAINST THE OTHER TWO, KHADER HAMIDE, 33, AND MICHEL SHEHADEH, 30, WHO ARE PERMANENT RESIDENT ALIENS, CLAIMING THEIR ALLEGED MEMBERSHIP IN THE PFLP MADE THEM PART OF A GROUP THAT ADVOCATED THE DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY.

ALL EIGHT DEFENDANTS, NONE OF WHOM WERE CHARGED WITH CRIMINAL ACTS, HAVE DENIED ANY ASSOCIATION WITH THE PFLP.

THE OTHER DEFENDANTS WERE HAMIDE'S WIFE, JULIE MUNGAI, 28, A CITIZEN OF KENYA; AMJAD OBEID, 23, AND HIS BROTHER, AYMAN OBEID, 24; AIAD BARAKAT, 26, OF GLENDALE; NAIM SHARIF, 26, OF NORTHRIDGE, AND BASHAR AMER, 24, OF ALTA LOMA.

''I'M SO HAPPY,'' SAID SHEHADEH, WHO ALONG WITH THE OBEID BROTHERS AND BARAKAT IS A STUDENT AT LONG BEACH STATE UNIVERSITY. ''IT PROVES WHAT WE'VE BEEN SAYING ALL ALONG, THAT WE'RE GOOD, LAWFUL RESIDENTS OF THIS COUNTRY.''

''THE REAL SEDITIONISTS, THE REAL SUBVERSIVES IN THIS CASE ARE THE INS,'' DEFENSE LAWYER MARK ROSENBAUM SAID OUTSIDE COURT. ''THESE CHARGES WERE NATIONALITY-BASED CHARGES ... AND IT TURNED OUT THE GOVERNMENT TERRORIZED THE CONSTITUTION.''

UPI 05-12-87 05:35 AED

J. PPLF

UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION COURT

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Matters of

Khader Musa Hamid

(A-19262560)

and

Michele Ibrahim Shihadeh.

(A-30660528),

Respondents

AFFIDAVIT OF CHARLES E. ALLEN

Charles E. Allen, under penalty of perjury, deposes and says:

- 1. I am a career staff employee of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), duly appointed according to law and acting as such.
- 2. As the National Intelligence Officer for Counterterrorism, I serve as the principal advisor to the Director of Central Intelligence on substantive matters relating to the assessment of foreign terrorist threats and developments worldwide.

- 3. In the performance of its lawful mission, CIA collects intelligence worldwide, by technical and other means, on the subject of international terrorism.
- 4. The results of the aforesaid intelligence collection efforts are both classified and unclassified, depending upon method of collection, source, and content.
- 5. The following observations and conclusions regarding the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) are based upon intelligence collected by CIA. They have been prepared for use in a public hearing and are therefore unclassified. They are, however, consistent with the classified information in CIA's possession.
- 6. The PFLP, led by George Habbash, is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist organization committed to the destruction of Israel and conservative Arab governments. Although it has used diplomacy and propaganda to promote its radical anti-Western agenda, cold-blooded terror is an integral part of the PFLP arsenal. The PFLP fanatically opposes political settlement of the Palestinian question. The Popular Front has an estimated strength of 1,500 to 2,000. Among Palestinian groups represented under the umbrella of the Palestine Liberation Organization, only Arafat's Fatah is larger.
- 7. U.S. personnel and interests have been targeted by the PFLP in the past and the possiblity of a revival of anti-U.S. operations by the group cannot be ruled out. In a statement made following a PFLP attack against London's Marks and Spencer department store in 1969, George Habbash forecast: "We shall expand our operations everywhere, in all parts of the world. The enemy camp includes not only Israel but also...world imperialism led by the United States and reactionary powers bound to imperialism." In the 1970's American citizens frequently were the victims of PFLP attacks deliberately or inadvertently in the Middle East and in Europe. Since the late 1970's, the PFLP has

focused attention on Israeli targets in Israel and Lebanon and moderate Palestinian leaders in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

- 8. In addition to the attacks for which it has claimed responsibility, the PFLP is at least indirectly responsible for some of the most vicious terrorist operations on record. The PFLP spawned a number of splinter groups in the 1970's that ostensibly have acted independently and have distinct leaders and activities. Most notorious of these offshoots was the PFLP-Special Operations Group (PFLP-SOG). The SOG split from the PFLP in 1974 and was headed by terrorist mastermind Wadi Haddad, now deceased. The SOG disintegrated upon Haddad's death in 1978 and its members reorganized into a number of independent terrorist groups, including Abu Ibrahim's 15 May Organization and the PFLP-Special Command.
- 9. The PFLP conducted some of the most spectacular, deadly terrorist operations of the 1970's. PFLP operatives garnered world headlines when they staged a massive hijacking of five aircraft involving American, Israeli, Swiss, and Bahraini civilian carriers in 1970. Three of the aircraft a TWA Boeing 707, a Swissair DC-8, and a Bahraini BOAC VC-10 were diverted to the Jordanian dessert, evacuated and later destroyed by PFLP demolition experts. On 6 September 1970, a Beirut spokesman for the PFLP explained that the U.S. planes were seized "to give the Americans a lesson after they supported Israel all these years" and to retaliate for U.S. peace initiatives in the Middle East. The PFLP's barbaric massacre at Israel's Lod Airport in May 1972 conducted by three members of the Japanese Revolutionary Army working on behalf of the PFLP stands out as one of the most appalling terrorist operations on record. The Popular Front's operatives directed machinegun fire and hurled grenades into the airport's

crowded terminal, killing 28 -- including 16 Puerto Rican Catholics on pilgrimmage to the Holy Land -- and wounding 76.

- 10. Since the late 1970's, the PFLP has generally complied with PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat's public ban on "international terrorism", focusing on operations against targets in Israel and the West Bank. The PFLP almost certainly has established a terrorist infrastructure on the West Bank capable of staging attacks on Israeli and Palestinian targets, despite stringent Israeli internal security. Through its campaign of terror against moderate West Bank leaders the PFLP has been one factor in detering the development of moderate Palestinian leadership in the occupied territories. The PFLP's 1986 assassination of Israeli-appointed and PLO approved Nablus mayor al-Masri underscored the group's intolerance of Palestinian cooperation with Israeli authorities. On 7 June, PFLP spokesmen bitterly condemned the announcement by a leading West Bank Palestinian figure that he would be a candidate in Israel's municipal elections for Jerusalem suggesting that the Popular Front may mete out the same fate to this "sympathizer" as it had to al-Masri barely a year before.
- 11. The PFLP long has been in contact with many of the world's most lethal terrorist organizations, including the the Japanese Red Army (JRA), the Spanish Basque ETA, the West German Red Army Faction, the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA) and the Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Faction (LARF). The noted international terrorist Carlos is also a member of the PFLP. The PFLP's extensive connections with these terrorist groups dates from the late 1960's when terrorists from virtually every corner of the globe received training in PFLP camps.

- 12. Syria currently is the PFLP's primary supporter, although additional financial, material and logistical support for the faction probably comes from Libya. Senior PFLP leaders frequently travel to the Soviet Union and East Europe for meetings with ranking government officials. The PFLP is headquartered in Damascus and the bulk of its apparatus is located in Syria or on Syrian-controlled territory in Lebanon.
- 13. Syria and the PFLP have long standing close ties, but the relationship has cooled in recent months. The PFLP may be contemplating a relocation of some of its assets in order to increase its flexibility. PFLP involvement in the fighting against Syrian-backed Shia militia units in the Lebanese camp wars and participation in the 18th Palestine National Council has angered the Assad regime. However, the group's reliance on Syrian support and the logistical superiority of an operational base in Syria will militate against a complete voluntary withdrawal.
- 14. Israeli interests, as well as moderate Palestinians leaders, particularly in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, remain the PFLP's principal targets. The intensity of the group's terrorist threat against these targets is likely to increase substantially if the PFLP leadership believes any progress is being made on a political resolution of the Palestinian problem. PFLP attacks against U.S. personnel or interests are unlikely, but cannot be ruled out at the present time. American casualties, however, could result from PFLP attacks against Israeli or Arab targets, as has happened in the past. Operational cooperation between the PFLP and terrorist organizations operating in Western Europe remains a particlarly troubling future possibility.
 - 15. The following is a chronological list of 7 PFLP attacks on U.S. persons:

20 June 1969

Three bombs exploded on a narrow street leading to the Western Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem, killing one and wounding five others, including two American tourists. In a statement issued the following day, the PFLP claimed the attack had been devised "to remind the world and tourists of the Zionists' barbaric and Nazi-like acts."

28-29 March 1970

PFLP operatives bombed five U.S. facilities in Lebanon

-- including the U.S. Embassy -- heavily damaging the

USIS Kennedy Center in Beirut. There were no injuries.

Morris Draper, Chief of the Political Section of the U.S.

Embassy in Amman, Jordan, was kidnapped by PFLP

gunmen demanding the release of 40 prisoners held by

the Jordanian government. Amman refused to give in to

the terrorists' demands and Draper was released 22

hours later.

7 June 1970

10 June 1970

16 June 1976

PFLP terrorists assassinated U.S. Assistant Army
Attache Major Robert Perry in Amman, Jordan by firing
automatic weapons through a locked door as they
attempted to forcibly enter his home.
U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Francis E. Meloy, Jr.,

Economic Couselor Robert O. Waring, and the

Ambassador's driver/bodyguard, were assassinated by

PFLP terrorists. The three were grabbed at a roadblock as they traveled. They were taken to a nearby PFLP cell headquarters. Their bodies were discovered in a garbage dump near Beirut's beach where all had been killed by bullets fired into their heads.

11 August 1976

Four persons, including one U.S. citizen, were killed and 17 injured when two PFLP terrorists attacked passengers preparing to board an El Al flight from Istanbul, Turkey to Israel.

16. The following is a chronology of PFLP terrorist incidents since 1984:

1 April 1984

Two Katyusha rockets exploded in southern Lebanon just north of the Israeli border. The intended target was an Israeli settlement in the Galilee panhandle.

12 April 1984

Israeli bus hijacked while enroute from Tel Aviv to Ashkelon. The hijackers, armed with grenades and molotov cocktails, commandeered the bus, directing it through several roadblocks before the tires were shot out and the bus overturned in the Gaza Strip. After unsuccessful negotiations, Israeli soldiers stormed the disabled bus, freeing over 30 hostages, eight of whom were wounded and one killed.

6 May 1985

Israeli bus bombed on the West Bank, no casualties reported. A pipe bomb triggered by a remote controlled electrical detonator caused the explosion.

12 January 1986

Israeli policeman brutally murdered in the Galilee. The PFLP claimed reponsibility for the attack.

2 March 1986

Palestinian mayor Zafer al-Masri assassinated in Nablus, West Bank. The moderate Palestinian was shot three times at close range while getting out of his car at the town hall. The PFLP claimed al-Masri was killed for cooperating with the "Zionist-Jordanian plan aimed at liquidating the Palestinian cause."

10 July 1986

Joint PFLP-Syrian Social Nationalist Party (SSNP) squad attempted raid on Israeli resort town. In off-shore clash between the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) and the terrorist unit, two IDF soldiers were killed and nine were injured. All four terrorists, identified as Palestinians, were killed. Large quantities of weapons and sabotage materials reportedly were discovered at the landing site. Israeli Yeshiva student stabbed to death in the Old City of Jerusalem by three admitted PFLP members. This attacked sparked a month of retaliatory attacks and counterattacks between Arabs and Israelis in the occupied territories.

15 November 1986

17. Pursuant to 28 USC 1746 and under penalty of perjury, I swear that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on 22 July 1987.

Charles Callen

Ronald Reagan Library

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9/15/1987

B1 B3

The above documents were not referred for declassification review at time of processing Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

67400 CABLE

655546

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9/28/1987

B1 B3

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67401 CABLE

678324

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67402	2 CABLE	1	10/5/1987	B1		
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262773

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67404 CABLE 2 10/27/1988 B1

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67406 REPORT RE PFLP

92283

10/30/1988 **B**1

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B3

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MIZRAHI

Box Number

330298

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6740′	7 CABLE	6	10/31/1988	B1
	220200			B 3

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