



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

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In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Newark, New Jersey 07101

September 23, 2001

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~~(S)~~ [REDACTED] TWIN TOWERS

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On September 14, 2001, the Newark Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI-NK) initiated a Full Field Investigation predicated upon circumstances indicating that five (5) Israeli nationals, detained in conjunction with the PENTTBOMB investigation, had reportedly videotaped the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center (WTC) and may have possessed foreknowledge of the same. The following summarizes the investigation to-date.

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On September 11, 2001, numerous complaints received by FBI-NK revealed that several individuals had been observed celebrating following the initial crash of an aircraft into the WTC. T-1, a resident of Union City, NJ, advised that at approximately 9:00 am, T-1's neighbor, T-2, called T-1 on the telephone to tell T-1 that T-2 saw smoke coming from the WTC. In order to see the WTC more closely, T-1 used 7x33mm (likely 7x35mm) power binoculars to view the scene from the rear window of T-1's apartment. While looking in the direction of the WTC, T-1 observed three (3) males kneeling on the roof of a white van located in the rear parking lot of T-1's apartment complex. It appeared as though they had noticed T-1 as well. (S/OC/NF)

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T-1 described the males as white, mid-twenties, no facial hair, no glasses, "clean-cut," no hats, all wearing short sleeves, with lean builds. Other identifying data was also provided. T-1 described the white van as a "box"-style van which had no windows on the side; it reminded T-1 of a telephone company van. (S/OC/NF)

According to T-1, one of the males appeared to be taking still photographs and video of the other males with the WTC in the background. All of the males appeared to be jovial in

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(S) [REDACTED] that they smiled, hugged one another, and gave "high fives."
(See attached photos). As the vehicle later left that area, T-1 recorded the New Jersey State license plate as JRJ-13Y. Later that day when T-1's spouse returned home, T-1 provided the police with the information pertaining to the males. ~~(S/OC/NF)~~ (u)

Another complaint received by FBI-NK revealed a second eyewitness who reported having observed a white van in the same parking lot as described by T-1. This eyewitness, however, observed the van in the parking lot as early as 8:00 am on the morning of the explosions at WTC. ~~(S/OC/NF)~~ (u)

A third complainant later reported having seen, on September 11, 2001 (time not noted), a "big, white, model 2000 Chevrolet van, or possibly panel truck or U-Haul truck, bearing the words "Urban Movers" in black lettering along the side. The vehicle was observed in the Liberty State Park's Marine Terminal in Jersey City, NJ, located across the Hudson River from WTC. ~~(S/OC/NF)~~ (u)

Pursuant to this information, East Rutherford, New Jersey police authorities stopped an Urban Moving Systems van at a pre-positioned roadblock. The van, occupied by males similar to those described by witnesses, was traveling eastbound along State Route 3 in New Jersey. Following the stop, the police detained the five (5) occupants, all believed to be Israeli nationals, on the grounds that they may have possessed information pertaining to the WTC explosions. The matter was later forwarded to FBI-NK for further investigation. The five occupants were detained for further questioning and later held for violations of their immigration status. ~~(S/OC/NF)~~ (u)

A search of the van and the vehicle's occupants was conducted at the time of the vehicle stop. The vehicle was also searched by a trained bomb-sniffing dog which yielded a positive result for the presence of explosive traces. Swabs of the vehicle's interior were taken, and those samples were sent to the FBI laboratory for further analysis. Final results are still pending. ~~(S/OC/NF)~~ (u)

Seizure of the individuals' property yielded the following: a 35mm camera, several personal telephone-style notebooks, back packs, airline tickets with immediate travel dates for destinations world-wide, Israeli passports (in some case, expired), a German passport, \$4,700 in cash belonging to [REDACTED] and \$1,022 in cash belonging to [REDACTED] (u)

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Student identification cards later believed to be false were also found. Oddly, equipment typically used in a moving company's daily duties was not found, including work gloves, blankets, straps, ropes, boxes, dollies, rollers, etc. Also not found was the video camera that T-1 observed at least one of the males using to film the explosion at WTC. (~~S~~/OC/NF) (u)

The five (5) detained Israeli nationals, identified as [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were interviewed subject to the limited scope of determining whether a video camera had been used, and, if so, where the video camera is to be located now. The results of the individual interviews yielded a wide array of discrepancies with respect to the whereabouts of each of the individuals as it applied to the precise time of the attack on the WTC. (~~S~~/OC/NF) (u)

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[REDACTED] advised interviewing agents that after having arrived at his workplace, Urban Moving Systems, located at 3 West 18th Street, Weehawken, NJ, around 8:00 am on September 11, 2001, he received a telephone call informing him that the first explosion had occurred. [Note: The first explosion actually occurred at 8:45am that morning.] [REDACTED] and his roommates (NFI) got into a company van and departed the workplace for a Gulf gasoline service station. Then, [REDACTED] in the company of his friends, traveled to another location in order to take photographs of the WTC. (~~S~~/OC/NF) (u)

[REDACTED] also stated that he arrived at work (Urban Moving Systems) around 8:00 am. Later, after [REDACTED] told [REDACTED] about the explosion at WTC, [REDACTED] looked on the Internet and went to the roof of the building to observe the WTC and take photographs. Then, [REDACTED] and friends (NFI) left the office and were caught in heavy traffic. Sometime between 10:00 am and Noon, and while attempting to return to their office, [REDACTED] and his friends (NFI) stopped at a parking lot (adjacent to an apartment building) to take more photographs. (~~S~~/OC/NF) (u)

[REDACTED] stated to one of the police officers after his arrest that the initial explosion occurred while he and the others were on the West Side Highway (Route 9A in New York City) traveling northbound toward the entrance of the Lincoln Tunnel. [REDACTED] later informed FBI-NK that he had arrived at work around 8:20 am, and only learned of the crash into the WTC from a co-worker. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] got into a company van (the one they had used to travel from their residences in Brooklyn, NY to Weehawken, NJ) and traveled to a (u)

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nearby parking lot to observe the WTC and take photographs. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were at the parking lot for approximately 10 minutes, sometime between 8:30 am and 9:00 am, but returned to Urban Moving Systems before 9:00 am. ~~(S/OC/NF)~~ (u)

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Film obtained from the 35mm camera of one of the detainees was later developed and processed by FBI-NK. The photos depict [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] located at an observation point later determined to be the parking lot adjacent to the Doric Tower apartments located at 100 Manhattan Avenue in Union City, NJ. The three (3) Israelis, sitting together on top of a white van, are visibly smiling on at least three (3) of the photographs. ~~(S/OC/NF)~~ (u)

The photographs also revealed that all five (5) Israelis later observed the WTC burning from a location on top of the roof of an Urban Moving Systems warehouse located adjacent to the Urban Moving Systems office location described herein.

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At this point, more interviews were conducted to verify the accuracy of their statements, as well as to obtain any additional information concerning the video camera that was allegedly used by the Israelis. One such interviewee, T-3, claimed to have seen [REDACTED] in the Doric Towers on the afternoon of September 10, 2001. According to T-3, [REDACTED] rode the elevator with T-3 and another, unidentified, Spanish-speaking male whom T-3 observed exiting the elevator on Floor 3. T-3 observed [REDACTED] exiting the elevator on Floor 9. Oddly, [REDACTED] identified himself to the Spanish-speaking male as a "construction worker" working in the building until 7:00 pm that night. [Note: T-3 identified [REDACTED] from a photo lineup comprised only of the photographs of the five detained Israelis.] (u)

T-1, the source of the original information pertaining to the Israeli males, was re-interviewed at a later date. T-1 confirmed for interviewing agents that it was a video recording device, rather than a still camera, that the Israelis had used in filming the WTC from atop the van. In fact, T-1 recalled quite clearly that the camera was a small, hand-held unit, with a Liquid Crystal Display (LCD) screen which folded out and could be used in "panning." ~~(S/OC/NF)~~ (u)

In the early phases of the investigation, several other complaints surfaced concerning trucks and/or vans belonging to Urban Moving Systems that had been sighted in locations of (u)

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significance with respect to the overall investigation of the hijacked flights on September 11, 2001. For instance, two (2) complaints were received which indicated that Urban Moving Systems vehicles had been spotted in the greater Boston, MA metropolitan area, one in Plymouth, MA and one in Nashua, NH. Additionally, an Urban Moving Systems truck (traveling westbound) had been stopped on September 10, 2001, near Montoursville, PA. At the time of the vehicle stop, the driver and passenger, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were identified as Israeli nationals. Later, the same truck was stopped on September 12, 2001 while traveling eastbound toward New Jersey. ~~(S/OC/NF)~~ (u)

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Based primarily on the inconsistencies found in the statements of the five (5) detained Israelis, and the interviews conducted of T-1 and other tenants of the Doric Towers apartments, FBI-NK conducted polygraphs of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on September 13, 2001 concerning the issue of whether a video camera had been used to film the crash of an aircraft into the WTC. Both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] denied that a video camera had been used. [REDACTED] ~~(S/OC/NF)~~ (u)

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Based upon the aforementioned facts, FBI-NK then obtained a search warrant to search the offices of Urban Moving Systems in Weehawken, NJ. The search, conducted on September 13, 2001, met with negative results concerning a video camera. Nevertheless, fifteen (15) computers and a network server were seized from the Urban Moving Systems office. FBI-NK noted the unusually large number of computers relative to the number of employees for such a fairly small business. Further investigation identified several pseudo-names or aliases associated with Urban Moving Systems and its operations. ~~(S/OC/NF)~~ (u)

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At this point in the investigation, Agents of FBI-NK's Foreign Counterintelligence (FCI) squad were consulted concerning the Israelis. Based upon the odd circumstances surrounding [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] reaction to the explosions at WTC, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] ~~(S/OC/NF)~~

1. Did the Israeli nationals have foreknowledge of the events at WTC and were they filming the events prior to and in anticipation of the explosion? ~~(S/OC/NF)~~

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[REDACTED] provided the initial basis for a possible connection between the five (5) detainees and [REDACTED] admitted to an FBI-NYO polygrapher that he had been employed as a [REDACTED] in Israel with responsibility for [REDACTED] in Israel. He would [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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Referral/Consult

[REDACTED]

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Appearing in the personal notebooks of [REDACTED] (as recovered by FBI-NK's Evidence Response Team) was telephone

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[REDACTED]

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Inside one of [REDACTED] personal notebooks was a business card for NIS, a business dealing in "General Services" and "Drivers Licenses," telephone number [REDACTED]. According to FBI records, that telephone number is referenced in a Miami investigation as subscribed [REDACTED]

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Finally, a personal notebook (unknown owner) in a leather case also contained telephone numbers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] previously identified as belonging to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] respectively. (~~S/OC/NF~~)

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A search of FBI records for any references to [REDACTED] (Urban Moving employee detained and questioned in Pennsylvania) revealed two (2) references to a [REDACTED] born [REDACTED] which further identified [REDACTED] as an [REDACTED]

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Based on information provided by the Miami Division, Newark initially detained and interviewed four (4) employees of Classic International Movers (CIM), a New Jersey-based moving company which was believed by Miami to have been utilized as a mover by one of the nineteen (19) alleged hijackers involved in the terrorist attacks. All four detained employees were identified as Israeli nationals who had [REDACTED] and recently entered the U.S. from various locations in South America. ~~(S/OC/NF)~~

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One of the CIM detainees, [REDACTED] born [REDACTED] was visibly disturbed by the Agents questioning regarding his personal E-mail account. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Of note is that CIM's telephone number also appeared in one of the aforementioned notebooks seized from the five (5) Israelis already held in detention by FBI-NK. ~~(S/OC/NF)~~

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On September 14, 2001, FBI-NK conducted polygraph examinations of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to determine whether either possessed prior knowledge of the attack on the WTC. Not surprisingly, [REDACTED] who was not even present when the initial photographs were taken from the apartment parking lot, [REDACTED] who was present in the parking lot, [REDACTED]

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The [REDACTED] then attempted to determine, based upon witness interview statements, the statements made by the detainees themselves, and by other independent investigation, whether [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] could have been at the apartment parking lot vantage point prior to the first explosion at the WTC. ~~(S/OC/NF)~~ (u)

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FBI-NK obtained witness statements and a gasoline receipt from the Gulf service station where the Israelis had purchased gasoline on September 11, 2001. Investigation determined that the Israelis purchased gasoline at approximately 2:14 pm, which was subsequently corroborated by reviewing the photographs taken by the Israelis that day. One such photograph depicts [REDACTED] using a squeegee to clean the windows of an Urban Moving Systems vehicle. Because the picture is chronologically one of the last taken that day, the gasoline had to have been purchased after the attack on the WTC. ~~(S/OC/NF)~~ (u)

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A review of EZ-Pass records provided little by way of determining the exact location of the Israelis' vehicle (white van) during the actual time of the attack. According to EZ-Pass, the Urban Moving Systems van used by the Israelis to travel from Brooklyn, NY (location of their residences) to Weehawken, NJ on the morning of September 11, 2001 passed through the Brooklyn, NY entrance to the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel at 7:48 am. (~~S~~/OC/NF) (u)

FBI-NK obtained the videotape of a local news helicopter crew which provided footage of the explosion beginning just minutes after the initial impact of the aircraft into the North Tower (Tower #1) of the WTC. A comparison of this videotape with the still photographs taken by the Israelis implied that the Israelis photographs were taken closer in time to the explosion of Tower #2 (South Tower) than to the initial impact into Tower #1. This comparison, albeit non-scientific, corroborated the three Israelis' claim that they departed Urban Moving Systems for the parking lot observation point after hearing of the initial explosion.

Liaison with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) resulted in FBI-NK obtaining a duplicate record of the metropolitan New York Air Traffic Control radar traffic records for the morning of September 11, 2001. By way of background, one of the earliest photographs taken by the Israelis from the parking lot observation point shows what is believed to be a local news helicopter hovering over the Hudson River between the parking lot and the WTC (this helicopter appeared in the foreground of the third photograph taken). The FAA's radar traffic records identify a helicopter, belonging to a local radio station AM 880, slowly traveling in a southerly direction down the Hudson River and then hovering from 8:50 am until 9:03 am, (the time of the crash into Tower #2), at a position between Union City and the WTC on the morning of September 11, 2001. Although the results of this analysis verified that the Israelis were at the parking lot observation point between 8:50 am and 9:03 am, it did not provide a precise time. (~~S~~/OC/NF) (u)

According to T-1, it was the call from T-2, who is a neighbor and close friend, which initially prompted T-1 to look out of the window towards the WTC. It was at that time that T-1 had also observed the Israelis atop the white van. Since T-1 believed that T-2's call came immediately after the first explosion at the WTC, FBI-NK attempted to obtain the toll records of T-2's residential telephone for the purpose of determining the exact time of T-2's call. Unfortunately, electronic records of (u)

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local calls are not maintained by the local telephone service provider; thus, no electronic "time stamp" verifying T-1's observation of the Israelis could be obtained. (S/OC/NF) (u)

An interview of T-5, one of the [REDACTED] at Urban Moving Systems, revealed that T-5 had observed [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] in the local dispatch area of the company upon "clocking in" at work at 8:58 am on the morning of September 11, 2001. [REDACTED] was on the Internet, [REDACTED] was also present. Unfortunately, the second interview of T-5 was not conducted for the purpose of verifying T-5's earlier statements. Instead, the interview produced only additional background on Urban Moving Systems. (S/OC/NF) (u)

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The cellular telephone, bearing telephone number [REDACTED] and seized at the time of the vehicle stop, is opined to belong to [REDACTED] since the electronic display shows the name [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] advised FBI-NK in a follow-up interview that he had called [REDACTED] of Urban Moving Systems, while enroute to the parking lot observation point (100 Manhattan Avenue, Doric Towers) from the office. [REDACTED] wanted to inform [REDACTED] of their having left the office. [REDACTED] authorized their departure, and noted that he himself was on his way to the office and expected to arrive there within a minute. [REDACTED] may, thus, corroborate [REDACTED] statements with respect to the approximate time when they were at the parking lot. (S/OC/NF) (u)

On Wednesday, September 21, 2001, all five (5) of the Israelis were re-interviewed by FBI-NK and FBI-NYO agents

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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Two (2) of the five (5) Israelis were polygraphed [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Four (4) of the five (5) Israelis (excluding [REDACTED] were given [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] advised that in past conversations with [REDACTED] had informed him of having been the [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] had also advised [REDACTED] that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is the only one of the five (5) Israelis who has not been subjected to a polygraph examination on issues

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[REDACTED] [The Polygraph Examiners' reports for three (3) of the polygraph subjects are still outstanding.] ~~(S/OC/NF)~~

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