

[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
Gh2 = Ghassan (LNU)
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
Ni = Nihad (LNU)
Os = Osama (NFI)

Audio file: MTGB_19931002_16.WAV

UM3: ...two mosques. If any of the brothers spoke and asked "What is your position?", you tell him "I don't know. This is your own position. We are here, we are Muslims in America we have to take care..., take care of our own people". You told me that people are over-scared in Washington. If we retreat and didn't insist on own initial position people won't have someone as a role model. Therefore, we must remain steadfast on our Islamic position and work under pressure in order to strengthen the Islamic voice for Palestine and also to emerge as a entity which is capable of withstanding pressures and maintaining the initial position. Thus, we will be able to demonstrate our position in a practical way, not just in newspapers and magazine, but we will demonstrate our position in a practical way. We shouldn't retreat from our position even if we come under attack by the media

and their allies. In this manner, we will gain credibility with people. This will also be a motive and an incentive for Muslims to support us in this position. As for the last issue..., the issue before last which is the issue of public activism. I believe that it is an outcome of the work we perform, media activism and others namely, mobilizing the Palestinian and the Muslim community to support the Islamic project in Palestine. Not only here but also in Palestine and also Islamic activism in North America. This will be done..., I mean, we must bring to the surface speakers, leaders and writers in America who tour the different Palestinian and the Islamic gatherings to propagate our position and to encourage people to support it. It is not enough that we issue statements and we send them via faxes and stuff. We must visit the communities at the mosques, at their gathering spots, debate them and explain this position to them. We must bring speakers and leaders to the surface so that they can say "My name is so and so. I represent this specific name", in the same manner when Aboul..., Aboul..., brother Aboul Hasan was speaking. We should bring leaders from America to the surface instead of continuing to rely on people from abroad. The second thing is winning the Islamic centers and the imams of the mosques and those who are in charge at these mosques. I believe that this is a very important issue because our work location is the Islamic centers. If we are unable to win them and we lost them... And this Gaza-Jericho agreement showed us that we didn't gain much from these centers, neither from the imams nor from those in charge. I mean, a brother in Chicago is saying that Palestine is being sold while the speaker keeps talking about moon-sighting. What did you gain from them? Another brother tells you "I'm afraid" and another says "I am supportive". You didn't win them and they are not going to listen to you and they will tell you that this is your position. Ayman in Canada is complaining and all of us have the same complaint. Therefore, we must win these centers and encourage them to adopt the revival of the issue of Palestine as an Islamic issue and to hold different activities at the centers. It is not enough to make requests over the phone when something happens. No, he must revive the issue by, for instance, forming blocs, having Ramadan gatherings and stuff. He must continuously revive this issue in the minds of the Muslims, on the occasion of the Night Journey and the Ascension, for instance. The third issue relating to mobilization is winning the Muslim and Palestinian youths to attract them to Islamic activism as they are the ones who can..., I mean, deal with the surroundings better than us. The other issue regarding popular activism is reaching the Palestinian and the Muslim community in their common places. This can be achieved by participating in their activities and clubs by holding general Islamic activities. I will give you an example; I participated in San Francisco in a program called "Palestine Day". This was held by..., they invite 50% Muslims and 50% Christians. So, it was attended by about 2,000 people. We were present over there and, when we are there, you find that Muslims come to our table on their own. They start asking us questions, what do you have, they buy Qurans and stuff like that. Last year, they were visited by Al Sakhra Band. We didn't put too much effort in this thing. But, if we create these activities

in some of the large cities the whole community will come even those who don't fast and don't pray. It is a door for ministry and a pillar of Islam. We win them for the Afterlife and it is also a win for the Islamic position of Palestine in America. We must also establish organizations and support them to educate their children and preserve their Arab and Muslim identity. I mean, you go to Islamic schools and you find many of the people who bring their kids there are non-observants; unveiled women, the father might not pray. But, it is just so that he learns Arabic and stuff. These communities..., there are large Palestinian communities and we should attempt to open schools near them to secure these services for them. In this manner, we will win them. The form of the address to the community must be determined according to its different Islamic levels. For instance, Muslim beginners or deep-rooted Muslims...UI, they should have people to cater to them while keeping in mind not to retreat from the fact that all of Palestine is Islamic...etc. The last issue is strengthening the organizations. Our goal from that is to strengthen the organizations from the financial aspect. Also, when you examine this aspect from the angle of investment in small projects and taking advantage from governmental grants if possible. There are governmental grants which are given to the organizations which conduct research and stuff like that. We can take advantage of it. The other issue is administrative stability through hiring dedicated and qualified personnel for these organizations and not relying on volunteers only. The presence of the informed leadership which directs work and holds people accountable for dereliction. This means that it is not enough to have dedicated people, but that there must be an informed leadership knowing what is going on, is directing work and also holds people accountable for dereliction. The other issue is providing the legal cover. The brothers spoke about this issue. The last issue is forming alliance with Arab and American organizations which are sympathetic to us such as the ADC and others. This will protect our organizations with the official circles. I believe that..., I mean..., by looking at what is happening right now with the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine], I believe and God knows best that the future of the Islamic activism for Palestine, the near and the far future, must serve these goals through these means. And also the issues brother Nihad spoke about which is media activism and brother Akram spoke about which is the issue of the form of the address the positions..., all of these complete the issue we spoke about. Thanks to God, there was no redundancy in what was said but rather a completion to it. May God reward you well.

UM1: May God reward you well. Akram, do you have something?

Ak: What?

Ga: ...UI. May God reward you well. We will have an opportunity for discuss...

Ni: It is 10:15 now. So, we will give you five minutes.

Ga: Five minutes.

Om: Five minutes...

[*UI brief group talk*].

Ga: What do you think? Should we begin...UI.

UM1: Go ahead, go ahead.

Ga: In the name of God, the Beneficent, the Merciful...

Sh: ...UI. We honestly cannot focus. [*UI brief group talk*].

UM2: We will give you 7 minutes and no more.

UM1: Five minutes.

Ga: Of course, in light of what the brothers said, there are several...UI there are five axes. What are the axes of activism? In light of the ramifications the brothers spoke about now and in the past, I saw that it is possible to achieve the goals we spoke about, direct the project and achieve the goals of the Movement through six axes. The first axis is the planning axis. This focuses on connecting the children of the cause, and the Palestinians in particular, to it and to Jerusalem based on Islamic grounds. This is the basis in addition to the Islamic and the Arab community living in America as well. Booklets and things for children like that in a style you deem fit. The second axis is the missionary one. This includes paying attention to the community and establishing an Islamic entity for missionary and Islamic call. I have a small suggestion which was suggested in Washington during a discussion; we will not be able to reach the majority of the...UI through the mosque. I mean, they are not going to come to the mosque to listen to your words. I mean, you can reach the community in their homes and stuff but, I call for the formation of cultural clubs under the name of "The Palestinian Cultural-Social Club". It is your footstep to attract the community in general terms for those who pray and those who don't and he can go to the mosque in the next stage.

UM1: Give us a tangible example for that.

Ga: ...UI, my brother. The community has 100,000 people.

Sh: ...UI.

Ga: Ok, our brothers. Let's stay together. This is a cultural-social club and not..., not anything else. The third axis is the political axis which is the most sensitive issue and which opens many venues for discussions. I see that we must be the one through which we explain the rights of the Palestinian people and defending them, forming a public opinion which adopts and supports programs for these rights, political support for the Islamic-Palestinian political current and the national stand. This is a national issue which is the Palestinian cause and its different developments. Based on that, I approve brother Omar's and brother Ghassan's idea who said different but close ideas to form a general committee or council made up of 15, 18 or 20 persons, an honorary council...UI. It would have a...UI and another person as an assistant and no more. Its composition should include Arab-Americans, Palestinians and Muslims. Its composition should be compound. It should be the political front for Palestinian activism in America. It is ...UI and the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine] is a fundamental part of it. I mean, the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine] will be represented in it by two or three people...UI. This council is to become the political authority for the community itself and the U.S. media and the gateway in America for dealing with the Palestinian cause. This is the suggestion and God knows best. The fourth axis is the media axis and the brothers said good and positive things to a big extent in that regards. But, it is very important to note the positions of the Islamic Movement. ...UI, everyone has his style but you must propagate the positions of the Movement and justify the positions of the Movement. If you want to maintain a solid position, it is your business as a member of this council to justify, ...UI and to psychologically convince people with it. How? This is your own issue. You get creative with it and you work on it. Ok. This [council] will, of course, adopt certain causes which serve the people and prove the lack of credibility of the enemy and those who deal with it from the self-rule in regards to this cause. This is the position of the Movement in addition to [providing] a detailed presentation for the reality of the occupation and its violations against the Palestinians and the Israeli democracy will be exposed in front of the U.S. media as well. Also, we must prepare for the future which will bring a new movement of complete change which includes a confrontation with the Zionist entity as a whole. Like brother Akram said that the conflict is not about self-rule or an independent state or not or two states. It is a conflict ...UI. You talk about this idea, this philosophy with the community at the least and then with the entire society. It is a preparation for the change we expect will happen in few years so that the...UI is more inclusive...UI. Then, the fifth axis is the financial axis and we spoke about it in the morning which is enough. The sixth axis is the human axis. Regarding this axis, I see that the freedom of expression should be a characteristic you enjoy. Our brothers who were banned from the pulpit, from giving speeches or writing in newspapers and so forth. You defend the right to expression. The right to demand the stolen rights by the...UI, the groups's or the individual's right to express...UI. The right to form opposition gatherings and newspapers...etc. I don't...UI while it is important to have them included in the sixth axis,

the human axis. This will include, of course, rights groups and things like that which operate on this basis. I believe that the biggest problem which will face the cause in the West will be redefining what they work for which is the Palestinian cause. What is the Palestinian cause? Is it...UI, a struggle or a fighting? Is it the stronghold of the Islamists and the Jews...UI. What will the approach of the cause be? I truly believe that this will be the biggest problem. It is my hope, God's willing, that we march towards bringing the self-rule or the arrangement which will take place to failure. But, we might not succeed in making it fail. Therefore, there is going to be a...UI during which activism will suffer some problems relating to media and the media circles. Therefore, I caution against being over-mindful to the U.S. logic in activism as the main target is the Arab and the Palestinian communities in particular. Therefore, we must not be gobbled up by the language of the U.S. media which talks about peace, negotiations, concessions, compromise and so forth. Your problem is that the mentality you're dealing with is...UI. We must not deal with it unless to the extent which facilitates activism and does not affect the fundamentals. This is everything in that regards. The relationship between the different active organizations must be re-examined in light of the new directions in order to be truly organized, effective, wholesome, complete and in a legal form as they...UI. They must remain separate and don't bear responsibility for each other. In addition to the direction in place, the following should be noted: determining organizations which can contribute to dealing with the new reality based on the previous approaches such as the Fund, the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine] or a large organization in one of the forms which were mentioned, determining the role assigned to each organization and its relationships with the other organizations, both formal and informal relationships, the available capabilities for activism ...UI for each organization. What are its capabilities and can it continue working in the long or the short term, to what extent. The challenges which face each organization and how to counter them from the practical aspect. An internal challenge, a challenge with the community, a challenge with the Movement, a challenge with the...UI, a challenge with the media. The programs of the organizations overall should be in complete harmony with the general directions of the Movement. I say that once again because this is very important. By "harmony" I mean that they ought to serve it in a direct or an indirect manner. But, the format is the flexible part. The...UI in the West should be taken into consideration and the available capabilities. But, what is important is that all the programs and the lines are serving the general direction on the short and the long term. This requires reviewing the general directions...UI. God's willing, they will be available for review. It must be noted that it is important that the organizations provide opinion and information the Islamic Movement. I tell you simply, how many brothers are here? Twenty-five brothers. All of you, praised be God, speak very fluently. Which one among you wrote a paper and gave it to brother Omar or to another one, Abou Ibrahim, saying that this is my opinion in the so and so issue. Deliver it to our brothers.

Gh: I always do that.

Ga: Nothing was received according to my humble information. *[Laughter]*.

Ni: We always write and...UI.

Ga: According to my humble information, in truth, nothing *[was received]*. The truth is that...UI and this is not convincing. Everyone must..., I heard opinions here now which were not mentioned during very long discussions about this issue. They were not mentioned before. And they deserve...UI. One shouldn't be frugal with his opinion and think that our brothers are experts, praised be God. Our brothers are...UI, praised be God.

As: This is an assumption, my brother.

Ga: My brother, nothing was received over there. We don't get any news, we don't get an article, I don't hear anything...UI. You are a Movement, my brother. You're not an employee...UI. I want you to write a page, half a page or a page and a half and give it to brother Omar or brother Abou Ibrahim and he will deliver it to the brothers in charge. They are always in contact. How do you think the world operates? *[UI brief group talk]*. Anyway, the comprehensive approach when working for the cause is a basis...UI. May God reward you well.

UM1: May God reward you well.

Ni: Problems came anew and, at the end, everybody approves.

[UI brief group talk].

Om: ...UI. For instance, people, we didn't count our money, how much money there is in our pockets.

UM1: This is not our business, Sheik.

Om: He who makes a plan or provides a concept must know the reality. Must be standing on the reality he lives in. For instance, I remember one thing. I could have been asleep and woke up while someone was saying that brother Abdel...UI is building schools...*[Laughter]*. So, I said "Ok, so the people are in situation where they can build schools". I mean, people who can't... Are we going to build schools? And *[someone said]* "You should open clubs". I said "We are working on the newspaper and...UI.

Ni: And you want to form....., you want to form a new organization in Washington.

Om: Osama..., Osama, how much is our budget? Fifty-five, sixty or seventy thousands. That's it.

Ga: And how much will the club cost?

Om: What?

Ga: How about the club?

Om: The club..., you have ten clubs...UI.

Ga: It is [*financed by*] the community and not by you.

Om: Fine, fine. The community, my brother... One of the problems of the Palestinian community and the Arab community in general here is that they are overlapping each other. This is the reason behind the failure of the existing Arab organizations. The community is not committed, it is divided and they are in disagreement. Each one is claiming to be a leader. You gather them together and you find 20 leaders out of 19 people. Twenty leaders. That's it and it is known. They don't agree with each other in Washington everyday because they are all leaders. So, you're coming to build the club at their expense?

Ni: They will open an orphanage for you.

Om: ...UI. If there was something good in them, it would have been apparent in the eighties and the seventies when they were in their glory. This is not how things are.

UM2: My brother, they are Muslims. They need a leader...UI.

Om: What I believe is that... Let's be realistic. Let's know our reality and know where to go. We leave from here, before we leave from here tomorrow, let's leave with suggestions which are within reach.

UM1: For three months?

Om: Oh, yeah. Suggestions, of course. Not everything Abdel Rahman said is not realistic. No, there are some things...

Ni: Yeah. But, a lot of the things we call long-term suggestions are...UI. If you are going to tell yourself that everything you have is for the long-range, you will keep postponing it. If it is for the long-range you will not work for it from now. These are things you must think about beginning today. Otherwise, when are you going to start thinking about them. I mean, you say that you want to establish an organization in Washington. How long have you been thinking about it? It is not since July. You have been thinking about it over a year ago.

Om: Yes, right.

Ni: It is the same thing for these matters. When you think about the future of activism, it is in two parts; one deals with the current reality and another pertains to what you want to be in the future. You don't...

Om: Yes. But, what I mean that you shouldn't..., that we shouldn't take on the educational role, the awareness role, the role of forming a generation. I mean, we keep telling the community that...UI.

Ni: No. We didn't say that. You're saying that because you were sleeping. What I said is that wherever there are community concentrations... [laughter].

UM2: What are you saying, Omar?

Om: ...UI.

Ni: What I said is that wherever there are gatherings for the Palestinian community..., they are looking for people to teach Arabic to their children. They look for people to teach their children something about culture and heritage. We don't have to open a school for them. Why should I open schools for them. I just tell them "Here is the school", you know. I tell them "Try. Bring your kids". I send someone to them, for instance. That's what I'm saying. I'm not saying that I will open schools and open universities for them. But, if you don't provide services for them, how are you going to bring them over? You're just going to tell them come and visit me?

Om: I believe..., I believe that there is an important step which we must take now. Let's say it clearly, we have 300-400 people from the countries of Syria, Lebanon and Palestine and you don't see 50 people out of them. Where are the 350 people? We need at least 200 people who are sympathetic to the cause and who interact with the news as soon as they hear it. As for those who remain asleep, we alone will not be able to perform these duties. We need those 200 people. We should make a target to get those 200 people to work in

the same manner on this cause, for instance. No matter what happens even if the Group gets agitated we must achieve our goals.

Ni: You see, this is not the job of the executive committee for the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine]. It is the job of the Palestine Committee.

[UI brief group talk].

Om: My opinion is that this is the duty of all of us because it is not... Because there are brothers who...UI. They must be convinced. My brothers, we should come to a brother and we tell him "Come here. What is your duty? What do you do?". Each one of us should convince 3, 4 or five people. Each one in his region can influence 3 or 4 people. It is not possible unless we influence 5 or 6 people. If we exert our effort and energy and tried to increase the number of the observant activist..., just to try to increase their number. If we increase their number, we increase our gateway to the communities. If we specify the goal we will be able to spread more. This is a step. The second step is very necessary which is the issue of ...UI. For instance, we spoke about money and stuff. It is important to do even if from our personal investments. We should allocate a sum of money and invest it in order to bring us [revenue] for a project. For instance, projects...UI half of which is from us and the other half should go, for instance, to the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine] or to this activism on which we agree even if it is a small amount; 40,000, 50,000, 100,000 or 70,000 no matter what. We must start because he who starts now will reach the goal in ten years. He who thinks about the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine] and other things must... I mean, this [Islamic] Association [for Palestine] and other things... I will give you an example. When we started Al Zaytouna, we started it with 4 pages and now it is 16 pages. Had we started with 16 pages we would not have been able to finish it within a week. Impossible. Because we were not used to that. Things can happen gradually. Hadn't we started with 4 pages two years ago we wouldn't have reached 16 pages. If we start with a 10,000 investment it will become 100,000, for instance, in five years. But, if we start with a zero and waited for the million to come, neither the million or anything else will come after five years. All of our work must start this way. We must start small and then grow. I believe that there is an influence on us from the Group, a negative influence, as there is a state of laxity and stuff. This has influenced us as we lost hope that this method will work. On the contrary, I believe that it is a strong method and it is also the best one but the circumstances surrounding us are bad. So, you think that this Movement or this thing has stopped to function. Therefore, we must restore its power to it again as it is the origin to restore power to us. Think that we meet some people and we might be seeing them for the first time and we talk honestly and with all confidence. But, if this Group that binds us does not exist you will find one person suspicious of another and God knows where he is from. One person speaks while

looking around him. So, this is a blessing, a big blessing for us which we shouldn't forget.

UM2: There is a question.

Om: Go ahead.

UM2: Have you tried one day to invite representatives of the Islamic centers who are in leadership positions, whether they are with us or not, and make a conference for them. Some of the ideas mentioned by Gawad and others are good. I mean, we at the center in...UI, Abou Mohamed knows, we have a project to work with the youths. A committee stemming from the executive committee is formed to work with the youths to create the atmosphere mentioned by brother Gawad and others at the level of sports, entertainment, swimming...etc.

Om: Activities.

UM2: Yes. I say that there is no doubt, based on all that happened from beginning to end, that the Group is in a state which is... We thank God for the good and the bad.

Om: We are...UI.

UM2: Yes. I'm telling you. We keep trying to fill vacuums which are..., or are keen to fill vacuums which are not really our jobs, really.

Om: We must be dedicated to do our job.

UM2: It is not the job of the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine]. But, due to the vacuum left by others, brother Gawad comes and tells you that we should open clubs and then comes another brother and tells him what are you talking about [Laughter]. I say that... I don't like too much theorization. I mean, I heard a lot of theories, theories...etc. Let's..., I mean, it is not practical stuff to do. Dreams... No, not even dreams because some dreams come true [Laughter and UI talk]. Anyway... The practical side is... I really speak through my practice. Have we tried to...

Om: Call for a conference...

UM2: ...call the imams or the representatives of the centers and those who have the ability and leverage. Let 50 of them attend if the need arises. Make a practical presentation in which we participate, you see? And present a lot of ideas. By God the Almighty this would be one of the most blessed deeds we can do to the work field in America. I mean...

Om: By God, the idea is good. The problem is the money.

UM2: What?

Om: The main problem is the money.

UM2: The money will be borne by the centers, my brother. You just..., you just formulate the idea and ask the centers...

Ni: It serves their ideas. I mean, when the imams are convinced with...

Sh: If you can't get money for that...UI.

Ni: No, no. We can get it.

UM2: My brother, the centers..., my brother... You..., you...

Sh: No, each center takes care of itself.

UM2: Don't you have..., don't you have...UI who are cooperating with you?

Om: Yes, there are. There are centers which would pitch in. There are centers which are community centers and there are centers which cooperate with us not through the person in charge of the center but a young man from that center who donates money to the center.

UM2: My friend, I want the element with influence.

Sh: Meaning board member and people like that.

UM2: Board members. If the imam..., if the imam... In some centers, the imam is the main... In other centers, members of the Shura or... If we hold such meetings and these presentations were debated...

Om: Yes.

UM2: You see, by God it will bring a lot of fruit.

Om: This is a good idea.

[UI brief group talk].

UM2: These ideas... You keep suggesting things but these are things which are a little bit outside the Palestine cause.

Om: Not just "a little".

UM2: This...UI will get us where? [Laughter]

Om: To paradise, God's willing.

UM2: Not to hell, I don't think. [group laughter].

As: There are a couple of things...

UM1: Go ahead, go ahead.

As: There are two or three points...

UM2: Or four or five.

As: As for the 1st point, we need to write a strong-worded letter of protest...

UM2: God is great!

As: And send it. It is the absence of the two from the Islamic organizations..., the organizations working for Palestine. Particularly to Ahmad Yousef and Yasser Saleh even though he called..., I called them and Dr. Issam called them...

UM1: He is coming.

As: What?

UM1: Yasser is coming tomorrow night.

Sh: There is no time for that...UI. Seriously, by God. I'm being serious.

UM1: No, he said he is coming tomorrow.

Sh: No. Call him and told him not to bother...UI. [UI group talk].

Om: Let him talk, Abou Mohamed.

UM2: Go ahead. Go ahead.

As: I really ask the people of Washington, Virginia, to pass along our protest on my behalf..

Ni: On behalf of myself and...UI. [*UI brief group talk*].

As: Really, there is not a... Unless there is an excuse.

Om: I believe these should be handled individually.

Ni: It is a volunteer basis. It is on volunteer basis.

Om: Individually. He who wants to pass along his protest should go ahead.

UM2: No. Ahmad has an excuse. His wife just had a baby and had a surgery and her condition is not good.

As: I spoke with him, my brother. I spoke with him and he agreed to come. Abou Ammar said I have an appointment but I will make a compromise.

UM2: What is the problem?

As: What?

UM2: ...UI.

As: So that criticism is constructive...UI. [*UI brief group talk*]. The second point..., the second point, my brothers, which I really want to point out is the issue of personal relationships. I mean, we might be able to get acquainted with people. But, is there a follow-up to the relationship we start? You would really notice that what is known about Abou Ammar is...UI. This is didn't come from a vacuum as we are creating an atmosphere which enables him to...UI. I mean, every time someone with a grudge against him comes, they arrest him and...UI. [*UI brief group talk*].

UM3: Peace be with you.

Group: Peace be with you, God's mercy and blessings.

UM1: A revolution, a revolution against the occupier, right? [*laughter and UI group talk*].

UM1: Go ahead, Aboul Hasan.

As: Let me finish my point.

UM1: Yes, go Ahead, go ahead.

UM3: Yes. March on your hands and your wills. March with the blessing of God [*laughter and UI group talk*].

Sh: Looks like the festival has really impacted you...UI.

UM3: We really scored in it. [*Laughter*].

UM1: Aboul Hasan.

As: Yes. The point I was speaking about is the issue of the personal relationship. I mean, if we start or engage in a relationship we should follow-up on it. We should cast a personal touch to it. We gave an example when Arafat when you see Arafat is holding someone, tugging him behind him and is kissing him. We don't...

UM1: ...UI [*group laughter*]. Let's not hold him by the hand.

As: I mean, let me quote a saying from our end; He who wants to be a camel herder...

UM1: Must enlarge the door to his house.

As: He who wants to be a camel herder must enlarge the door to his house. I mean, the issue is not personal. I mean, to give you an example, I might be going to the brother's city and all I say is "Welcome" and "Ok, bye. See you". Really, I believe that this is a prudent thing to do in regards to a relationship [*UI brief group talk*]. I say that you must keep the relationship between you and him strong and not like "Ok. See you, bye". It is true that ...UI deals with this in this manner. So, how can we handle this? The matter remains personal but I believe that there should be a minimum level of follow-up and he who works in the public activism field and everyone who works in the public activism must bear this expense if he wants to perform his role as a trustee the best way possible. The last point is about our brothers in Canada. We heard about Jerusalem for Human Services but we didn't hear from our brothers at the [*Islamic*] Association [*for Palestine*] about what they do. So, I hope that media and public activism in Canada is mentioned if there is

something prepared. It might be first opportunity for some of the brothers to meet people from Canada.

Ni: No doubt that...UI.

As: We are now members in the NAFTA *[laughter]*.

UM1: May God reward you well. Are we going to listen to the brothers from Canada... *[UI brief group talk]*. Are there any questions so that we...

Sh: Are you going to talk about the activity in Canada or...

Om: If you can prepare a 10-minute speech it will be good. *[UI brief group talk]*.

Ni: You can talk about the status of the *[Islamic]* Association *[for Palestine]* in Canada.

UM3: No, tomorrow. Tomorrow is better.

Ni: We will leave it until tomorrow.

UM2: I have a suggestion, man...

[UI group talk and laughter].

Ni: A suggestion to the brothers who are in charge of the sessions; give us resolutions as we spoke about many things and some of us...UI. They should pass the resolutions on to us. The things they should pass on to us are: the resolutions...

Om: Stay with us, brothers.

Ni: The resolutions, the execution party, the means for execution and the follow-up party in order to... I have a suggestion...UI.

Om: I suggest that they meet tonight for an hour after we leave or tomorrow morning before 8:00 o'clock. The three of them should get together and put down what they have in the form of a proposal. I mean, in a form that "By God, there was an agreement on the so and so subject".

Ni: There was an inclination to do this and that.

Om: There was an inclination and then you provide it to us for voting and reaching a resolution in it. Later on, we will determine all that is going to be executed if it was agreed on.

Ni: The most important thing is that there should be a schedule.

Om: Yes, right.

Ni: So, in the next session...UI.

Om: We should then put the proposal with a schedule. I mean it should be carried on this and that date. It is favorable if it is...UI.

Sh: This should come from the executive entities.

Om: No, this will be in the bigger matters.

Ni: Only for the important issues in which we discussed our inclination, i.e. the issue of shape of the political address, establishing an alternative organization. These fundamental issues.

Om: Yes, right.

Ni: As for an issue of inclination...UI. And execution will be done by all the organizations.

Om: Yes, right.

Ni: Go ahead.

Ga: I wrote a full paper here regarding the topic of discussion which will be presented tomorrow. Its schedule and what its format ought to be.

Om: Give it to... [UI brief group talk].

Ga: First, there are the ramifications..., the impact of the ramifications on activism in America...UI which is I believe what brother Akram mentioned lately...UI. And also the addendum I wrote in the morning...UI. Goals of activism in America, brother Abdel Rahman mentioned it in details and brother Ghassan mentioned some details and brother Nihad. So, now we are finished with this topic...UI. Attempting to...[UI group talk].

Om: I just want to pass quickly on the day and see how it was.

Ni: An evaluation, that is.

Om: An evaluation of the day. Are you satisfied?

UM1: Brother,...UI.

Om: It is not a plan of his. That's why I'm saying it is better done at the end of the talk. It is better at the end of the talk. And we will have a prayer at the end, God's willing.

Om: What do you have, Abou Mohamed? What do you think? What is your evaluation of the day?

UM1: By God, I believe that it was good. We discussed most of the issues at hand. We expanded the discussion and what is important is tomorrow, what kind of resolutions, recommendations and inclinations we will reach. Of course, we got tired because of the long duration and some of us fell asleep and stuff. This is normal because it was a long time. But, God's willing, we will find good in all that, God's willing.

UM2: ...UI good and those who made presentations should have more control.

UM3: There is a remark which might be negative which is the numerous time when people deviated from the main points for which sake the sessions were held. Like what Abou Ayoub said, some of the sessions which were discussed need additional sessions and, of course, there was a certain idea but there was a deviation from what we wanted to discuss which is what relates to America. A lot of issues were presented which were out of the question, I mean.

UM4: God's willing, I will say my remarks later. Let's leave it until later.

Sh: I believe the meeting was unique and was enriching. We need more of that but I believe that, in the future, the papers need screening, centralized screening a while before and...

Ni: To have them distributed to people.

Sh: This should happen because there are two incompatible types of people. There are people who adhered to the subject and there are people who wrote work plans and very precise details and stuff. Therefore, it is good to have a certain standard so that all benefit. You see? Also, I saw that some of the brothers didn't speak at all at this meeting. I'm hoping

that, tomorrow, they will make up for this silence with their feedback, God's willing.

UM2: With a prayer, you mean?

Sh: ...UI. *[Laughter]*.

UM3: In the name of God, the Beneficent, the Merciful. Of course, the meeting was good and fruitful. But, I was hoping that... There were some of the specialized issues which were discussed. We should have assigned them to some of the brothers who have a bigger experience and should have been given more time. For instance, in the topic of brother Aboul Hasan, he just mentioned the issues and there was no chance for us to discuss it more than that. Also, some of the issues mentioned by brother Gawad were the same thing. So, what is supposed to happen, and God's knows best, is that the issues which have a bigger impact on the success of activism and which might bear a bigger fruit should have a certain presentation or a specific person to discuss them and should be expanded upon in the future so that it benefits us in a better way other than just mentioning points without even the time to discuss them and stuff like that. But, generally speaking, it was good and what is more important than that is execution because we always fall short in. I mean, we always...UI good but, when it comes to the execution state...UI. No, this is our nature. So, we hope that, God's willing, we really carry out what we say.

Gh: I believe that it was a good and a fruitful meeting. I probably didn't say much...

Om: Didn't talk at all *[Laughter and UI group talk]*.

Gh: I believe..., I believe that the brothers discussed many points, a lot of points and they were beneficial and I believe that a meeting like that is necessary.

As: I see that the meeting was good even though it was a short notice. People didn't have enough time to write the papers and some people got news a week ago and didn't have time to write. Despite that, thanks be to God, I believe that we benefitted from it. It wasn't a loss, that is.

UM4: I truly agree with the brothers about its success and it really achieved a lot of the goals for which the meeting was held. But, I have some administrative and technical remarks. The two lectures or the two sections in the first and the second session were somewhat concentrated. But, the third session was somewhat lacking concentration with most people and I'm among them as there was some sort of...UI. If the program had some kind of confusion. Had it started...UI today and the afternoon was left for lunch, rest or a walk,

it would have been better so that one would have some sort of concentration. God's willing, we will benefit from that in the future. The second remark is that the arrangements for a meeting like that include many security loopholes. I noticed that. I didn't expect that things will happen in that manner even though I'm just one of those people who were invited to this meeting. But, If I had known that this is how the issue is going to be, had I known that it has this magnitude, I would have had remarks about its arrangements. So, I hope that in future that no meeting is held in this manner because you are speaking about strategies and you gathered all the people from the entire continent. The phone has been...UI several times. Some of the brothers knew about it and some didn't. Some were clear and some were not clear about the matter. The matter is very important and two things ought to be taken into consideration when preparing for it. The first thing is that it should be held in a place that is known because it is easy to have..., something like that. The second thing is that preparations for it should be done in a manner which gives a brother the impression of seriousness towards the topic. I am taking the topic seriously because it is important to us and is a part of us. But, I noticed that with other people - without mentioning names - that they were not taking the topic seriously and some of them didn't even come, for instance. If this person were taking the topic seriously in light of this stage, there would have been some sort of attention given to it. Therefore, the communication and follow-up method gives a person the impression on how to deal with this topic. So, I hope that these two points are taken into consideration in the future, God's willing, for more success, more seriousness and more attention.

Om: May God reward you well.

UM5: The issue of preparation in regards to the presentations is a mistake we always commit. That is notifying the brothers in the last minute about the agenda. The papers which are presented to them directly are...UI. There should be a prepared agenda that is clear and obvious stating the goal of the meeting, what are we going to discuss, the papers which have been prepared a while back should have been made available to every brother who attended and they should include a concept, a practical concept more than just talk the brother is saying or words repeated by someone else and so on. So, I hope that the brothers pay attention to this point in other meetings even though we commit the same mistake. Preparation for the meeting before we meet. A brother should come knowing what is being presented and the papers, the program and goal behind it are all clear.

As: This is generally speaking. In reality, the picture is not complete in my head. I mean, we...UI several goals. What brother Shukri said is correct that this [meeting] created convictions, concern and joint zeal more than with those working directly on...UI. We open new horizons, new views...

Om: Shukri, go ahead.

Sh: I have donated my name to you, my brother...UI [laughter]. May God reward you....

END OF RECORDING.