

[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)

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Ak: ...over night. In the near future, he might surprise you with something new which leaves unable to determine what to do. That would happen if you adopt a point of view which is hostile to the agreement only because it didn't bring about a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza...UI in the [West] Bank and Gaza. And what are you going to say? We stick to the fundamentals of our cause which is our complete rights in the entire land of Palestine. How are we going to present them is something different but, we don't have to abandon them and sell out in the same way as the [*Palestinian Liberation*] Organization was thinking a while back, for instance. Let's remain..., we know that they are not going to give up anything. We just keep saying the West Bank and Gaza and we will win the media war because they are not going to give us anything. Let them give you something.

You had to make concessions after concessions until you got the minimum. We shouldn't commit mistake and say that they won't give us a state. Ok, what if they did? Are we going to look for a different justification why we oppose the agreement? No. We should be clear in our position regarding Palestine, either with an American person, a Palestinian person, an Arab person or a Muslim person. We might give one of them more details than the other but, we shouldn't abandon our right in '48 Palestine because, by God, America won't accept it. On the contrary, the Americans respect someone who has a point of view which he holds on to and don't respect someone who wears a different color everyday and who doesn't take a position. The second thing is that we must know the future media strategy of the Jews in regards to the media campaign they will launch against us in America and even in Palestine itself. It is clear that the main enemy of the agreement right now is the Islamists. The other people don't have a public..., a weight like the Islamists and it is clear that the attack will be on the Islamists. In their minds, they have no one else to focus on other than the Islamists. Not only do they want a Jew to attack the Islamists, but also the entire world to march behind them to attack the Islamists as well. This will reflect on us here in America because, at the end, we will see that the American media - with the Jewish media in America and Palestine implied in it - discuss these issues and we will be forced to respond to an issue whenever one is raised. All of our positions will be reactions and they won't have...UI what are we expecting to happen, how to prepare for it so that we are not surprised with the unexpected every time. For example, there was a seminar at George Washington University a week ago about the Middle East process and terrorism, this was its title. They brought experts from...er, from the Center of Strategic International Studies, from the Near East Policies, from the Israeli embassy, the military attache and his deputy. I mean there were some people who were trying to present the Israeli point of view, mostly, about how the coming stage will be like. I just wanted to mention some of the points which they unanimously agreed on as these will be the points we will work on in the future. For example, instead of saying that terrorism now is... So that all of you are in the picture, they defined terrorism as anyone who is opposed to the agreement. You are against peace and a terrorist if you oppose the agreement. The issue of being opposed to the agreement as a point of view is no longer there with them. You are against peace. If you are opposed to peace, it means that it is Ok to slaughter you in any suitable manner they deem fit. They're trying to discuss this issue and how they are going to present it to the media in the future in order to discredit those who are opposed to peace. And the most important party they talk about is..., they didn't mask it like us and say Hossam and stuff. They were saying Hamas is our main goal in the next stage. [laughter]. So,...

UM1: You're quoting them.

Ak: Yes, that is what they said.

Sh: Quote unquote. He is quoting them. Don't you hear him?

Ak: They came up with some points some of which is that the near future will witness terrorism against the Palestinians. There was almost a complete accord that, in the next stage, the Jews are used to terrorism. It is not something strange to them. And the Americans are...UI and they deal with it. But, the Palestinian people..., the new arriving government is not used to terrorism and doesn't know how to deal with terrorism. It still doesn't have the experiences to deal with terrorism. [UI brief group talk]... against the agreement in Palestine. Therefore, this is something we ought to be ready for from now. There is always...UI how to address even the Americans and tell them that those who oppose the agreement do not oppose peace, for instance. We should address the American mentality which is one of their convictions they always preach saying that, for instance, the people who accepted the agreement and signed the agreement didn't get an authorization from the people, nor did they get an authorization from its organizations. I mean, some things like that in order to give credibility to people who oppose the agreement from now. You don't wait until the self-rule takes place and then you say, "By God, we are against the self-rule because it is not legal and stuff". No, you work on it from now in your media so that you give..., so that you prepare for the future opposition of the self rule which is about to take effect. You have to defend it as the real target is the Islamic Movement over there. This is the first thing. The second thing which must be focused on is that we must attempt to improve the living conditions of the Palestinians. This was unanimously agreed on by the Jews and the Americans. They're concerned with...UI over there. This is the only solution which might make the self rule successful. Therefore, we must focus on our rights in Palestine. Not only our economic rights. The people of Palestine don't have to sign an agreement so that their living conditions improve. Why is the entire infrastructure of the Palestinian people in tatters and its condition is that bad? Why don't we tie this condition..., why don't we tie this to the occupation? Why don't we say that this is a normal thing and that now because there is peace the living conditions of the Palestinians must improve. We try to bring to the surface not only the economic rights of the Palestinians. This is one thing. The...

UM1: Now, brothers...

Ak: Go ahead.

UM1: So, now the Algerian who is fighting in Algeria, the Egyptian who is fighting in Egypt, the Tunisian who is fighting in Tunisia, the Iraqi in Iraq and the Syrian in Syria and everywhere..., the legal status of their fighting is..., What? What I really want to say is that if we don't focus on the doctrinal and the Sharia issue we are not really presenting any new legitimacy for our work. If I clothe or feed a Palestinian or stuff this will not

silence the people of Islam and the people of faith from pursuing the cause.

Ak: This is what I mentioned at the beginning. Our undisputable rights.

UM1: I mean....,

Ak: I said that at the beginning. Our rights in Palestine don't have anything to do with any living conditions. We have undisputable rights in Palestine as Islamists. They don't change with the changing of the events.

UM1: But, our issue now is..., it is even a fundamental issue that blocking the Sharia of God, fighting Islam and confronting God the Almighty..., this is a grand issue. May it be good, God's willing.

Om: We are confronting the biggest enemy for Islam.

UM1: What?

Om: We in Palestine are confronting the biggest enemy of Islam. It is..., it is a two-sided enemy, an enemy of Islam and an enemy of...UI.

UM1: I'm not denying the partial rights. But, the grand issue we must focus on and the one we must teach people its aspects is the issue of belief and disbelief.

Om: Yes.

Sh: But, please allow me...

UM1: You taught us interruptions and objections. Why did you teach us that? *[laughter]*.

Ak: There remains two points, two or three points. We must take advantage of the current situation. The media sees that we adopt the point of view of the Islamic Movement as I mentioned in the beginning. Therefore, we should try to publish some articles by representatives of the Islamic Movement in the U.S. papers. This is not something simple. Some believe that this is a marginal thing to do. Maybe so in the Orient. But, if we manage to reach the Western media, you reach a large audience through it even in the Orient itself. For example, Prince Hassan can publish an article as Prince Hassan, for instance. I believe that there is big desire in the American media, the famous outlets in America, to understand a point of view representing the Islamic Movement, or to read an article representing the Islamic Movement. Something about your opinion regarding the

agreement, for instance, or regarding any new developments which might occur. Why do we wait for people to ask us for an article in English when we know what they think? Why can't we write this article, show it to them, for instance, and if they approve it we send it in the person's name, in this person's name. We have the deportees, for instance, some of them are key figures and they..., for instance, ...UI in establishing the Movement here. Why can't we have them - being doctors and stuff - write the articles they want somehow and give them to the media to publish and say that this article represents the point of view of people who represent the Movement and not a personal point of view. This is just like when a researcher in American sends an article which they might or might not publish. This is what I'm thinking. The second thing is that we are approaching events we must be ready for like I mentioned. For instance, a little later Arafat will supposedly go back to the [West] Bank and take over. We are approaching events which will..., the media is interested in the issue and it will make new contacts and find out the opinion of those who are opposed. So, a day later or later on we will be thinking what are we supposed to do. I mean,...UI the agreement. We need to be ready for the day the media is interested again in the cause..., we must be ready to contact people in the media today, who...UI, who represents us, what are the organizations the media might contact in case...UI so that we are ready for these events. The other thing; there are preparations under way to compensate the refugees of '48 or '67 for their rights meaning, to forsake their land, sell their land in compensation for money. This is a decision which might be reached. So, why are we waiting for this decision to be made before we publish legal edicts, before we warn people that it is not permissible? Why can't we issue a statement now that any resolution reached by the United Nations or a joint Israeli-Palestinian committee to compensate the Palestinians for their rights is legally not permissible, that selling the land is a treason. Why are waiting for...UI before we take action. By then, those who want to consent will have consented and those who want to fill out applications will have filled out applications. Right now, you have time to mobilize the public and manage your affairs in anticipation of what is going to happen in the future. Therefore, I believe there are a lot of expectations. We can expect two or three options to happen in the future; ...UI at the media level at least if not at the public level. Like our brother Shukri mentioned, I would like to stress that we should discredit Arafat in the eyes of the Palestinian people and in the eyes of the American people and we have a good case. We must know that. We should ...UI about him; about his management of the [Palestinian Liberation] Organization during the time it was an organization, about political assassinations which they used to commit. Of course, these things are not going to result in people changing their view of him but, they will give you some credit in the future as an opposing party to the agreement. We don't oppose the person who is democratic. We don't oppose a person who is peace-loving, we oppose a person who is a criminal. This is what I have...[UI brief group talk]. Opposition can also be done by writing about some of its figures, by writing about their personal biographies and

educational levels so that people get an idea about the opposition that it is not a primitive movement. It is a sophisticated thing. This issue is important not only to...UI, but also to the Palestinian people and public activism and media activism.

Sh: May God reward you well. May God reward you well. May God reward you well. Regarding the media doctrinal address, I believe that it requires caution. What is the shape and the form of the address. Our address in the doctrinal aspect might be a rock. We climb atop the rock and say "Save Jerusalem". Jerusalem in particular appeals to the Muslims and I don't think it appeals to the Muslims as much as it appeals to an infidel. When there is a..., allow me,... When there is a reference regarding..., regarding a mosque..., I mean, how much does the Kaaba's pulpit appeal to you? As a pulpit? Too much focus on Jerusalem and overlooking the sanctity of the rest of Palestine brings about, in my opinion, a negative result with people [*thinking that*] it is Ok that the remainder of Palestine is lost as long as Jerusalem has a special status. We must focus on the sanctity of all of Palestine, all of Palestine including Jerusalem. I believe that Muslims generally are not going to feel the credibility..., the Islamic aspect of the cause of Palestine until we see an Pakistani brother raising the Palestinian banner and defending it, or the Algerian, the Libyan or the non-Palestinian. This thing must come to the surface of the earth. We must find non-Palestinians spearheading Palestinian activism. Otherwise, it won't materialize meaning that it will not be convincing. People will still see us within a certain nationalistic circle. I believe that the role of the [*Islamic*] Association [*for Palestine*] is that we must try to make Islamic leaders who adopt the cause of Palestine with the same force we adopted it with. They adopt it from a very clear Islamic aspect as their countrymen would believe this talk. I believe a segment of Muslims believe that we are commercialize the Islamic aspect of the Palestinian cause for our nationalist interest. We tell them that Jerusalem is lost and stuff and they tell you lost it..., who lost it? You lost Palestine. And you want me to bring it back to you? This is one. The second thing is: why do we want to discuss the Islamic aspect of the cause in a very narrow sense. I fear that if we keep saying that our struggle is Islamic, our struggle Islamic, our struggle is doctrinal we void the... There is a nationalistic aspect for the Palestinian cause. There is a certain characteristic. There is a land that is lost, rights that are lost. Even if it weren't Jews who violated them, even if they were Barbarians, if they were Arabs and Muslims, certain rights still remain outside the scope of the religious conflict. Let me be clear. In this manner you are showing - as Israel claims- that your conflict with Israel is no different from the conflict of the Islamists in Algeria, in Tunisia or in Egypt. It is the same conflict. It is an attempt to impose fundamentalism in the region and that there are no nationalistic rights there. It is just a conflict of Islamists trying to impose the Islamic state by force and among those [*countries*] is Israel. Of course, this no different from Egypt, Libya and Algeria. I say, no. We must defend nationalistic rights as nationalistic rights, as any human who has a right to live in the shadow of a homeland and it is true

there is an Islamic aspect to this cause but, too much talking about an Islamic aspect is not going to do us good as long as we are unable to recruit the children of the Islamic community for our cause, for instance. As long you find yourself in a certain situation where a Pakistani brother tells you "O brother, yesterday you collected money for Palestine. Why didn't you collect money for the Indians?". This means that he doesn't understand the dimension at all. He doesn't understand why do I focus on the Palestinian cause. He will tell you "Yes, you're taking advantage of the religion just for what...". Like they sometimes say..., these guys take advantage of the Palestinian brothers, sometimes they say that, when they want something, they go up to the pulpit and talk about Islam and stuff just because they want money or something. This means that the Islamic dimension hasn't taken its scope on the field and he doesn't believe that... *[break in recording]*... that the Palestinians speak... *[break in recording]*... and that I live for him. But, he must carry the same religious aspect with the same zeal I do otherwise, it will remain words on paper.

UM1: Allow me a question *[break in recording]*...

Om: Are you going to discuss the subject...

UM1: No, by God. *[Break in recording]*... I don't want to talk. *[Break in recording]*... I'm amazed, amazed... The issue of Palestine is..., Jerusalem is an issue, the issue of Palestine as a holy land I don't believe this thing. I speak as one of us, a Muslim.

UM2: What is that talk, Sheik?

UM1: I will explain this to you and...UI. The Quran also spoke about Mecca *[saying]* "And warn the Mother of Villages and its surroundings", meaning that the call of prophet, God's prayers and peace be upon him, reached where? "Its surroundings" is where the call of Islam is the surroundings.

Sh: Fine.

UM1: So, the issue then is not an issue of land. The issue is where the call reaches.

Ni: It is still a holy land because...UI.

UM1: Yes, I say it is known where the holy land is, "The one God has assigned to you..."

Ni: Palestine.

UM1: No. It is not true. The holy land is Jerusalem.

Ni: Only?

UM1: Yes, my brother. And also the word "holy"..., there is another point, the word "holy" means holy in regards to revelations, messengers and the call. I don't have..., this is not the issue but, when someone comes to me and tells me "All of the land of Palestine is a holy land and all Muslims must go out to fight for it". I say that this slogan is not clear. I agree with you that all Muslims are responsible for any injustice befalls Muslims. Therefore, I tell the Indian, the Pakistani and so forth "You must support me in my cause just like he supports any Muslim brother in a Muslim cause". This is one issue. The second issue is that..., that if we stand up to address people in a way which they perceive as a nationalistic or stuff..., this is not correct. We must stress that our problem..., our problem will be there if we discuss the cause from pure political angles. As long as we focus on the Islamic aspect of the cause, the Indian, the Pakistani, the Malaysian and others will react to it.

Ni: How do you point out the Islamic aspect of the cause.

UM1: What?

Ni: How do you point out the Islamic aspect of the cause if you say that the holy land is not all of Palestine but just Jerusalem and that this cause is not a cause of land and that people will say that this is a nationalistic cause...

UM1: I really believe..., I really think..., by God my belief is that...

Ni: It is a question. I'm asking how could you explain the...

UM1: I'm answering you. My brother, my creed is..., the cause of Palestine, the cause of Palestine with its dimension and status is a central cause for the entire Islamic nation. Study history and you will see that the Ottoman empire collapsed and then the Palestinian cause began. Now, the solution to the Palestinian cause won't happen unless the other countries surrounding it are liberated. As long as these regimes are existing and lying heavily, there won't be a solution to the cause of Palestine. By God, this is my creed. Therefore, we must adopt the Islamic cause in its collective dimension and stress this issue by saying that it pertains to Jerusalem and that it pertains to an injustice for the nation. There is no doubt. Other than that, I have nothing. The cause of..., I never discussed the cause of Palestine one day from the land angle alone. Land is a part of the injustice and man fights in defense of his property and etc. But, the grand issue is the

issue of a nation. Yes. And I went to Pakistan in '67 and I found that people were crying when whatever part of Palestine fell including Jerusalem. Also, the issue of Jerusalem is not an issue the Jews will not abandon by any means as long as they have existence and entity on the land of Palestine. That's it.

Om: There is a quick word.

UM2: Go ahead.

Om: Senator Patrick Leahy..., Moyenham said on the day the agreement was signed..., he said "Now, World War I has ended". He said "Now, World War I has ended..."

UM1: Moyenham?

Om: Patrick Moyenham.

UM1: Patrick what? Moyenham, this is New York.

Om: New York. He is a Senator from New York.

UM1: Oh, yeah. He is Jewish.

Om: I don't know if he is Jewish. I don't think so.

UM1: I think he is gay [laughter].

Om: He says, "Now, after we signed the agreement...", he says "Now, World War I has ended". By "now" he is referring to the Ottoman empire and stuff'.

Ni: Because it carried out the Belfore's Pledge.

[UI group talk].

Ga: I have two things. First, I hope we don't start discussing issues which lead us to other points [laughter]... because...UI and I believe we need to finish. I mean I don't believe there is a...UI we don't agree on and the path of the Movement is one and there is no other. Just to be in the picture.

Ni: The path of the Movement...UI.

Ga: It is a different path from what he talked about. This is just the issue is bright as the sun.

UM2: What Movement?

Ga: Hamas..., the Samah Movement [*laughter*]. I mean Samah. Anyway, the path is really somewhat different. There is no disagreement over the fundamentals but, as far as the second thing, the nationalistic aspect, there is no doubt that the system of the Movement is very...UI. Therefore, from the latest events, it was proven very clearly to us that the effective circle in world politics as far as the Palestinian cause is concerned is the Palestinian circle. The truth is now final. Work on the Palestinian front. Hold on to the Palestinian front and they will deal with you even if he doesn't want to. It is not his choice. It is yours.

Om: What is the goal from the war? Isn't it the liberation of Palestine? Come on. How are you going to liberate Palestine?

UM2: Through Jihad.

Om: Who is going to carry out Jihad? The Palestinians only are the ones who will go to Jihad against a national occupation. Do you think that...UI

Ga: Yes, it is possible that...UI. Nothing is taken for granted. The issue of impossible and impossible factors is...

Sh: This is political talk.

Ga: Anyway, this is what I meant. This way we won't go into many side issues.

UM2: Yes, yes. Fine.

Ga: But to talk about impossibilities and absolute assumptions..., I used to speak in this manner and the experience taught me that I was wrong. Politics taught me that it is not right to say such stuff. These are absolutes we learned just from books but, in reality, things are different on the ground...

UM1: I will talk the political talk.

Ga: They were proven..., they were proven wrong. Therefore, these things are subject to discussion. That's it.

Om: Is what you say really the point of view of the Movement?

Ga: No. The Sheik is saying that the Movement...

UM1: Let's stay on our point because things are drifting away.

Om: The point of view of the Movement mentioned by brother Abou Ayoub is not accurate. The Movement still talks about the Islamic aspect of the cause and we must...

Ga: No, this is not the issue...UI. The Sheik is saying that all of Palestine is holy, the Movement is saying that the entire land is holy. On the contrary, we say that it is an endowment and not just holy. There is a Saying that goes...[UI followed by UI comment and laughter]. This is...UI and the Movement is going on that direction. The other direction which is saying that we can liberate Palestine by the Islamic nations only is not agreed upon....UI.

Om: But, the Movement has not made a decision that the nationalistic current is the one which will liberate Palestine and that the Islamic current is not...UI.

[Brief UI group talk].

Sh: This is not the topic, our brothers.

[Brief UI group talk].

Ga: ...I say that establishing the Islamic state is not...UI its current shape. This is just so that we are clear...UI.

UM2: Is this the last point?

Ga: I mean, on condition that the Islamic leadership...UI in order to liberate Palestine...UI neither internal or external.

Ni: The matters needs clarification. This is his opinion. Yes, right.

[Brief UI group talk].

Gh: You have a presentation to make.

Ga: Something other than the presentation. Other than the presentation.

UM2: There is just a remark about what our brother Abou Ratib said. Go ahead.

Ni: This is in regards to remaining steadfast to the principles and...UI in regards to remaining steadfast on the principles and the fact that people always look... I mean, the reason the situation changed is that, during the first part of the year when the incident of the World Trade Center happened and people were looking at..., looking at the Islamic organizations. We were holding onto principles, Islamic principles as an Islamic organization. After the signing of the agreement we remained steadfast to the principles in the statements and the releases we made. This gave credibility to the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine], it gave popularity to the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine]. I mean, the ADC..., I will give you an example. The ADC..., one of the things which increased its [Membership] numbers is during the Gulf war because it sided with the Arab community against the FBI and...UI. During the Gulf war, no one was able to open his mouth. Everyone was worried about himself. Then the ADC was mobilized because this was an issue for it as an organization to handle. It was then that Zoghby stood up very proudly and said "We came a long way, baby" as it appeared on all the networks. That was because they adopted an issue and moved with it even though they were the only ones on the front. The same thing applies to the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine]; remaining steadfast to the doctrinal principles we follow is the one thing which gives it credibility with the public.

UM2: Are there any other remarks? Ok, we will listen to the second presentation by... Is it by Abdel Rahman or Nihad?

Om: In the name of God, the Beneficent, the Merciful. Thanks be to God, prayers and peace be upon God's messenger and upon all of his family and supporters. To proceed, I was..., this is not the first meeting to take place to study the future of Islamic activism for Palestine in North America. A meeting was held before in August...

Ni: In July.

Om: In July?

Ni: July 14.

Om: July 14, before all of these problems happened. I had prepared a paper I didn't submit. I was supposed to discuss it. I had two things in my mind; in order to strengthen the Islamic activism for Palestine in North America we must do the two things; widening the Muslims' circle of influence and reducing the Jews' circle of influence. Based on that, I placed a lot of..., a lot of... I said that in order to strengthen Islamic activism for Palestine

in North America we must do the two things. They are, first of all, widening the Muslims' circle of influence and reducing the Jews' circle of influence. I assumed that Islamic activism for Palestine in North America won't get stronger unless Muslims are strong. The nature of this country is that you cannot work unless you are strong; have money, relationships and certain tools for pressure. If you know how to talk but don't have tools for pressure your words are futile. Based on this study I concluded three things and they were almost discussed. They are: having organizations which include media and research department, another for politics and public relations and the third department is concerned with money and law. Each one of these [departments] has certain goals. But, after what happened, we changed the title to "The future of Islamic activism for Palestine in North America in light of the peace developments". I repeat here that any organization which seeks to do activism here in America must be very strong. Its main goal should to become strong. This is the... The goals sought by the Islamic activism for Palestine are six goals, I believe. First, making the Islamic position regarding Palestine the strongest position and the most supported between Muslims in general and Palestinians in particular. I mean, for Muslims in general and Palestinian the Islamic position should be the one they adopt and stick to. The second thing is to have the position of the Islamic Association for Palestine in regards to anything that has to do with Palestine the position which is adopted by Muslims and Islamic organizations. It should also be the position heard by non-Muslims. I mean, when a Muslim person or an Islamic organization adopt a position regarding the Gaza-Jericho agreement, for instance, the position of the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine] should be the adopted one. Here is the organization which represents the point of view of Muslims in regards to Palestine. The other thing is that should the outside media or any foreign organization want to find out the point of view of Muslims, they would ask us and not any other entity. This is my second goal. The third goal is mobilizing the Palestinian and the Islamic community to support the Islamic project in Palestine and Islamic activism for Palestine in North America. This means that it is not enough that we provide awareness to the community. We must mobilize it to support the Islamic project in Palestine over there and then support Islamic activism for Palestine also in North America. These are the ones which we..., which we must pay a lot of attention to. This is one of the results of awareness of media activism. The fourth issue is increasing financial support for the kinsmen in the Occupied Territories in Palestine in general or even as we said today for Palestinians living elsewhere such as Lebanon, Syria and Jordan or wherever. I am not going to speak about this issue in this presentation because I believe it was discussed extensively. There were special sessions dedicated for it. The fifth goal is to form a lobby to pressure the Palestinian decision-makers abroad. This is a long-term goal. I mean, we must really be strong and have a large base but I believe it is a reasonable goal for us to adopt for the long-run. The last goal is enhancing and developing methods of activism. This one relates to the organizations. These are six goals. How are we going to carry them out? There are five fields; the first way is the

media. The second field is the field of politics and public relations, public activism, our financial strength and strengthening our organizations. God's willing, I will be talking briefly about each one of these fields. In regards to the media field...er, this form of activism seeks to make the tools of the Islamic Association for Palestine such as Al Zaytouna and the Muslim World Monitor or other researches which we make and public the main and the popular source of information about Palestine among the Palestinian and the Muslim community. I mean, we don't want us to be the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine] while we see Muslims read papers from other people. It is possible that there will be [other papers] but they are not going to be the dominant or the ones which are widespread between the people. The main reason for that is to wipe illiteracy among Muslims in regards to the political reality and the conspiracies against Palestine. The biggest catastrophe we learned from this agreement is that Muslims totally ignore what happened. They didn't read the agreement or listened to news. They saw some headlines and they cheered and celebrated like other people did. So, if we don't reach them, this deeply-rooted ignorance will rule them and they will become our enemies and we start working on them instead of us working on the Americans and others. This will happen by enhancing both newspapers, boosting their distribution and propagating them, and by making sure our researchers and news reach the audience and the influential people like people who are the imams of mosques and those in charge of mosque, those who can receive the news and distribute it. We have to make sure that he received our research and our news. I believe this is on going on now but we must make it stronger. The second goal for media activism is broadcasting the Islamic point of view in U.S. media. The first goal was relating to activism among Muslims and Palestinians but we must broadcast our point of view in U.S. media. There is a very good reason for that which is bringing the voice of the Islamists to the surface, keeping them informed and explaining their positions in order to ease the severity of allegations of radicalism and other things. This will also make our position known to Muslims and sympathizers whom we cannot reach via our media tools. So, the first thing is that if we don't go out and talk about our position people like Thomas Friedman and others will rise to attack the Islamists. This will happen if we don't stand up and speak about our positions. So, we must take this initiative and express our position. This will limit the allegations of radicalism. I mean, when Nihad appeared on CNN and talked in the way he spoke, this greatly reduces the severity of allegations of radicalism. The other thing which is the same thing brother Akram said is that when Muslims see these things they will be encouraged. For instance, we were conducting interviews for local TV in our locality, these were not for the Americans but for the Muslims in or locality who don't understand. When they see that there are Muslims like you who stand up you become a sort of a supporter for them and a motive for them to stand up. This can be achieved by being open to the various media outlets..., media outlets, and broadcasting news such as INN organization which is already part of the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine], the Islamic News Network...er.

We can also use the people who agree with our opinion. I mean, if you have someone like Edward Said and someone like that... We have a brother in our region whose name Sabri Kaoush, a member of the National Assembly. He is very light Islamist. But he is a man who has a lot of information; he is retired and understands. Bring him on and let him demonstrate and explain things. There is no problem with that. He will assist you, help you out. So, we must not be shy and timid. Any newspaper or any radio which seek your opinion you should stand up and talk but learn how to talk. And I believe if you stand up and talk is what benefits you. But if you kept silent in this country they will toss you any way they want. The third goal of the media is producing researches, collecting information and providing them to those concerned and publishing them in order to make scholarly research and information which support our position available to those concerned with our cause. Also, preparing studies which define a method for dealing and address which suits the American political and media atmosphere. We now have a research organization which is UASR, for instance. But UASR organization does not help us in Palestinian activism in America unless with very little. We don't have an organization which conducts research for us on how to address the American society, how to deal with the U.S. organizations. So, I believe research is a very important thing. Also, people in the studies and research centers don't benefit a lot from a newspaper alone. He wants to see if you wrote an analysis or something like that for him. And I believe that the brothers..., the existing organizations, Dr. Yousef, do not negate the need for a research or a research center which we direct for activism in America. The fourth and the last goal of media activism is strengthening our influence in the educational organizations and particularly universities and studies centers. This is also a long-term goal but a plan must be put in place by the concerned brothers to specify the means through which we have a heard voice in these universities. This might begin by holding seminars to which we invite teachers in... Most prominent universities have teachers and have college for political science, Middle Eastern studies. You have research centers specialized in Palestine. You can invite them and hold a seminar or a conference for them and engage them, at least, through your opinion and show them that you really adopt an opinion based on a scientific things, that you are not a radical, that you are balanced and have research and stuff like that. The problem and the catastrophe here in America is that the majority of the people who go to work for the U.S. government graduate from these universities from under professors who are under very strong Jewish influence. I mean you won't find one professor speaking in a classroom in a way which might harm Israel or praise the Palestinians unless the Jewish students in the university make an issue of him and bring a person from the Consulate or a Jewish person to respond. Therefore, our goal is to be... But this is a..., a long-term goal. Regarding the second issue which is political activism and public relations, the goal of this activism is to make the position of the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine] in regards of issues relating to Palestine the adopted position. This is one of the general goals... LI the Muslims and the Islamic organizations.

There is a very good reason for that. It is in order to unify the forces..., the position of the Islamic forces in a unified activism program for Palestine. If the positions of the Islamic organizations started to contradict, which is what is currently happening as the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine] is saying one thing, the AMC is saying one thing, MAS is saying another thing and they say that the Pakistanis are talking about moon sighting and everyone is saying something different, when there is such a contradiction in the positions of the different Islamic organizations it will weaken the Islamic position in regards to Palestine a great deal. Then we as the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine], as people who are responsible for Islamic activism for Palestine that there is a state of great weakness and acute frailty in our position because we then...UI our position with Muslims. Therefore, we must be careful that the positions of Muslims remain the same. This unified program should mobilize Muslims for the Islamic project through the unity of logic and direction. If the thinking of Muslims is unified with you their mobilization will be easy. You tell them "Coordinate with me. All of Palestine is for Muslims. You coordinate with me that our position regarding Gaza-Jericho is so and so. How about you and me hold this seminar, this conference, this donation". This can be done through notifying the organizations of our position in a continuous and clear manner and establishing official and personal with them and giving them a role in determining the Islamic position in regards to Palestine and the appropriate method of address in America. This is the outcome of experience. You must first tell them what is our position. It is not enough that we wait for someone to call us and ask us "By God, what is your position in the issue", or wait for us. No, we go to him, make the initiative and tell him "Our position is like that; one, two, three, four". And we should make sure, make sure that he got the message and understands it so that when he stands up to talk he wouldn't say stuff we didn't mean by our statements. There should also be personal and official relationships between us and them. This means that we should a personal relationship between us and the guy who is in charge of that organization. And also an official relationship in our capacity as the [Islamic] Association [for Palestine], we should have mutual positions where we supported him in positions. This is America all over; organizations with interests. They should also be partners in determining the Islamic position for Palestine. It is not enough that we say "By God, my position is so and so. Go ahead, adopt this position and go on". You must make him a partner in the decision, present to him and discuss it. You then stay with them to write the final wording of the position. And I believe that this work must be done. This might not be a fast way to do it but, in the future, there could be certain mechanism to unify the Islamic position in all of America. As for the organizations which want to dissent from the Islamic position for personal interests or out of fear... I mean, there are Islamic organizations such as the AMC and others which want to dissent from the Islamic position, either for personal interests, to promote itself, or for fear. We must pressure them and embarrass them by various means until they adhere to our position or, at least, remain neutral. This is something..., Maher

Hathout said that thing when we were at the...UI. He said "If the Palestinians say this and that we are with them". If the Palestinians abandoned Palestine you must speak up as an Islamist. He said "But you Palestinians say this and that and there are pressures on us and stuff". I told him "If you are under pressure then stay silent. You don't have to say yes or no. Just stay silent and remain neutral". We shouldn't let these people..., these people splinter the unity of the Islamic Palestinian front. Thus, we should pressure them by various means until they either adhere to our position or remain neutral. Also, forming a lobby for the decision-makers abroad. This is also a very important thing. It is a long-term goal. This can be achieved through our popular, political, financial and media strength in America. I mean, when we are strong like I said in the beginning, I can be a means for pressure on them but if we are weak and we don't have an Islamic community, we don't have influence over the Congress or the organizations such as the ADC, ...UI and others people won't pay attention to us. This will also bolster our position in America with the U.S. Administration and other media and political organizations. If we are strong we can influence what they decide over there, for instance. If Yasser Arafat were to think twice before he does something in America because he worries about the Islamic community in America it would give us some sort of credit with the U.S. Administration or media outlets...UI in addition to the fact that it reinforces the position of the pro-Islamic solution for Palestine abroad and lessens the danger those who surrendered. When we are strong, people who are against surrender will see that they have a large community in America which supports them financially and stands with them. It pressures the other people which reinforces their position. This is the thing..., the thing brother Gawad spoke about. He said that it won't be achieved unless we are strong in this country. The other thing is in regards to political activism is lessening the animosity of America and the West to Muslims and to Palestinians, in particular because pressure now is not only on Muslims but they focus on the term Palestinian-Islamic such as Mohamed Salam and others. I mean they focus on the fact that this guy is Palestinian and an Islamist because the Jews' target is the Palestinian individual. Also, strengthening the influence with Congress or other than the Congress. This is also one of the long-term goals but we have started to do some things about it. This can be achieved by infiltrating the American media outlets, universities and research centers as we previously said. It is also achieved by working with Islamic political organizations and the sympathetic ones such as..., you have now many emerging Islamic organizations, such as the American Muslim Alliance, such as the United Muslims of America, MPAC and AIPAC and others. All of those try to...UI and recruit Muslims to engage in political activism in America and I think that it is our mission to assist them because if Muslims engage in political activism in America and started to be concerned with Congress and public relations we will have an entry point to use them to pressure Congress and the decision-makers in America.

END OF RECORDING.