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MFR04019824

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Event: Interview of Sibel Edmonds, former translator, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Type of Event: Interview

Date: February 11, 2004

Special Access Issues: Law Enforcement Sensitive Investigative Matter

Prepared by: Christine Healey

Team number: 6

Location: GSA SCIF

Participants Non-Commission: Sibel Edmonds

Participants Commission: Christine Healey, Lance Cole

NOTE: Sibel Edmonds is a former FBI contract translator. Many of her allegations concerning the FBI are under investigation by the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Justice. (In addition, the audit staff of the OIG is looking at systemic problems in the Language Services Division of the FBI. This review may be finished in June 2004.) Edmonds also brought a lawsuit against the Department of Justice which has been dismissed in whole or in part on state secret privilege grounds. Christine Healey spoke to Edmonds's attorney Eric Sieff of Seiff, Kretz and Abercombie, 645 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10022, 212-371-6883, prior to the interview. He assured her he was fine with Edmonds attending the Commission interview. Edmonds first came to the Commission with members of the Family Steering Committee. Gail Sheehy wrote a lengthy profile of her that appeared in The New York Observer earlier this year and she was the subject of a 60 Minutes story on July 13, 2003. Edmonds sent packages of material to the Commission on 5/30/03 and 1/6/04.

The Commission interview was at least three hours long and was recorded. Not every detail of Edmonds's background or of the way she was treated by FBI is included in this MFR.

Background. Ms. Edmonds lived 7 or 8 years in Iran. Her father was Iranian, a surgeon in Tehran, and her mother Turkish. They left in 1982 as if going on vacation but moved to Turkey. Edmonds came to the United States in 1988. She married a U.S. citizen in 1992 and became a citizen in 1996. While attending George Washington University, where she obtained a B.A. in criminal justice and psychology, she sought an internship with the FBI (early 1998 or late 1997). A few weeks later the FBI contacted her and asked her to take a language proficiency test. She qualified as a language monitor in

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Farsi (her second language) and she went through the application process for employment. At some point, she also was tested for Turkish. She was told the background investigation could take 6 – 15 months. By the beginning of 2001 she was curious about what had happened to her application. She contacted the FBI headquarters and a woman named Christine Primes looked into the matter and reported that the application had been lost. The application was reactivated and Edmonds took a polygraph in May 2001.

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