Memorandum for the Record

Event: Interview of 
Type of Event: On-the-Record Interview
Date of interview: 12/16/03
Date memo prepared: 12/17/03
Special Access Issues: None
Prepared by: John Roth
Team Number: 4
Location: SIOC, FBI headquarters
Classification: Secret
Present, non-Commission: Bob Sinton, Esq.
Participants-Commission: John Roth and Douglas Greenburg

This memorandum provides a summary of the most important points covered in the above-entitled interview, but is not a verbatim account. The memorandum is organized by subject and does not necessarily follow the order of the interview. The witness provided all of the information in this memorandum during the interview, except where noted by square brackets. (U)

Background

9/11 Classified Information

ALEC Station

9/11 Classified Information
stated that even today, we are not sure who is funding al Qaeda. He stated that the theory that rich arabs are funding it, in his view is "an easy, cop-out answer." He stated that but it never really amounts to anything actionable. (S)
Pre 9/11 disruption

[redacted] stated that taking out hawaladars is not the best tactic to disrupt terrorist financiers. They are easy to replace and are really the small guys. Because they are everywhere, they would be hard to stamp out. [redacted] that the problem is that they simply move the money, with out knowing the purpose of the money transfer or even the true identity of the participants.

Post 9/11 activities
Observations regarding terrorist finance

The best approach is the one that they have taken: terrorist financing is merely a tool in the box, not a means by itself. It should be a satellite around the main intelligence investigative groups imbedded within the operators, and not a stand alone operation. Following the money without more is a waste of time.

An FBI legat, while good, can only do so much.

9/11 Law Enforcement Privacy