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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Gale A. Norton
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FROM: Douglas S. Wamsley
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RE: Overview of the Fuqra organization

The following memorandum is meant to be a general overview of the organization known as Fuqra. It should not be viewed as a substitute for detailed reports of any aspect of the organization's operation or situation.

The organization now known to us as the Fuqra first came to the attention of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the early 1980's in the eastern United States. Several instances occurred which eventually focused attention on this group. These events included a robbery and hostage taking incident in which a New York City police officer was killed, a murder and fire bombing in a Moslem temple in Detroit during which the murder/arson team burned to death in the fire and similar incidents which took place in Brooklyn, New York and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. After an analysis of all these incidents, the Federal Bureau of Investigation still did not know very much about this organization. Its membership, its goals, origin and leadership were still something of a mystery. There were indications that many but not all of the members were American born black citizens who had converted to the Islamic religion. There were further indications that the motives behind the acts of violence that occurred were related to the perpetrator's religious beliefs. There were further indications that the violence would be directed against other Muslims and Hindus. There were sufficient indications of a campaign of terrorist type violence for the FBI to initiate a domestic terrorism investigation. This investigation however was on two different occasions prior to 1984 suspended for lack of any investigative leads.

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In 1985, a federal fugitive by the name of Steven Paster was arrested in Englewood, Colorado. Paster was wanted for the bombing of a Hindu owned hotel in Portland, Oregon in 1983. During this bombing a premature explosion on one of the devices cost Paster several fingers on each hand. Paster, who is caucasian, was arrested while in the company of his wife and several black females, males, and children, all of whom seemed to be residing at Paster's rented house in Englewood, Colorado. A subsequent search of this house produced a number of firearms, components for explosive devices, significant amount of literature concerning an organization called Fuqra, and a great deal of literature concerning firearms, explosives, and military training. State and federal investigators in Colorado at that time suspected that they had uncovered a Colorado cell of the Fuqra sect. Several members of the group who were with Paster at the time of his arrest were questioned, but they were extremely uncooperative and very evasive in their answers. Paster was returned to Oregon where he subsequently pled guilty to charges arising out of the hotel arson, was sentenced, served time, and eventually was released on parole in early 1990. The Colorado investigation produced very little additional information which gave any leads to the group's activities in Colorado or their future plans.

The group next came to the attention of Colorado authorities in the fall of 1989 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Colorado Springs Police detectives investigating a series of burglaries were contacted by the owner of a storage locker site and told about a locker of what appeared to be abandoned property. The history of rental payments on this locker had been sporadic and no payments had been made on the locker for 29 days prior to the police entry. The owner of the storage locker considered the property to be abandoned, had sent registered letters to the renters demanding payment, and had published notice of intent to sell the goods in the locker to cover outstanding storage charges.

The storage locker was searched three times by Colorado Springs police officers and FBI agents. These searches revealed, among other things, thousands of pages of documents relating to the Fuqra organization and some of its plans, a number of firearms, thousands of blank birth certificates which later proved to have been stolen from several southern states, and approximately 40 pounds of assembled and partially assembled explosive devices. The explosive devices ranged from simple pipe bomb assemblies to devices capable of being remotely detonated through the use of paging devices. The storage locker had been rented in the name of Raymond D. Williams, a Colorado Springs resident. At that time Raymond D. Williams was thought to be an alias for James D. Williams who was arrested by Colorado Springs authorities. No charges were filed when the district attorney in Colorado Springs felt that there was insufficient evidence to connect Mr. Williams

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to the explosive devices found in the locker. Raymond D. Williams is now known to be an alias used by another member of the group, James L. Upshur, Jr.

Other packets of documents were found in the locker which turned out to have great significance to Colorado investigators. The first was what appeared to be a plan for surveillance of a Hare Krishna temple in Denver, Colorado. The written plan included comments on the frequency of police patrols, location of police stations, traffic patterns around the temple, and notes on possible points of entry. The packet also included photos of the temple and notes on how to get to the temple when arriving from outside of Denver as well as notes on leaving Denver on one of the principle highways going southwest. Some of the notes seemed to be describing the actual firebombing of a structure.

Investigators conferred with Denver authorities and learned that the Hare Krishna temple located at 14th and Cherry Streets in Denver had in fact been fire bombed on August 1, 1984, and that the bombing had been investigated by the Denver Fire Department's arson squad. The statute of limitations concerning arson charges had run in 1987, and much of the physical evidence collected had been destroyed by the fire department, but pictures of all items collected had been taken and saved. The pictures found in the packets in the storage locker in Colorado Springs were clearly pictures taken of the building before its fire bombing. Since the fire bombing, repairs to the building resulted in very noticeable structural changes. The notes which described a firebombing fit exactly with what the arson investigators determined had happened on August 1.

A second packet of documents was found which appeared to be a "targeting" package for a Hare Krishna temple located in Los Angeles, California. We have no indication that the attack on this temple ever took place.

A third packet found in the storage locker related to the surveillance of what seemed to be a Moslem mosque in Tucson, Arizona. The documents discuss in great detail the various methods that should be employed in murdering an occupant of this mosque.

Colorado Springs police investigators checked with the Tucson, Arizona police department and found that no attack on the mosque or any of its members had at that point taken place. Tucson police did visit the mosque and interviewed the Imman (the leader of the Tucson congregation), a man by the name of Rashad Khalifa. Mr. Khalifa acknowledged that he had written several documents concerning the Koran, and that the views he expressed in these articles were not very popular with many other Muslims. Mr. Khalifa said that as a result of his research and publication, he felt that he had enemies from Saudi Arabia to Arizona, but that

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he had never heard of an organization called Fuqra. He did say that he had received threatening telephone calls "from Colorado".

Approximately two weeks after his interview by the Tucson police, Mr. Khalifa was murdered at the mosque by an as yet unidentified intruder who stabbed him to death. The use of a knife to accomplish the murder was one of the methods discussed in the targeting package found in Colorado Springs.

State and local investigators continued to examine the thousands of documents taken in the storage locker search. Eventually of the evidence including the documentation was turned over to the Denver office of the FBI. One of the FBI agents noted that among the documents were several claim forms for Colorado Worker's Compensation Insurance. He turned all of this information and all of the names of known and suspected Fuqra members over to the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and asked them to determine if any of the suspected Fuqra members had claimed Colorado Worker's Compensation Insurance.

This information was turned over to the chief of investigations for the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and she began what turned out to be an two year investigation into a scheme to defraud the Colorado Compensation Insurance Authority, a state owned compensation insurance fund. This investigation revealed that five men identified as members of the Fuqra organization in the Colorado Springs area had between 1984 and 1992 fraudulently collected \$355,000 in worker's compensation insurance benefits. The investigation further revealed that some of the money had been sent to Lahore, Pakistan, and that some of the money had been used to purchase a 101 acre plot of land in a remote area of the mountains near Buena Vista, Colorado. State and federal investigators had long suspected that the Fuqra sect in the United States was controlled by an individual using the identity of Sheikh Jilani, who is believed to reside in Lahore, Pakistan.

The Colorado investigation resulted in the indictment of five individuals for violation of the Colorado Organized Crime Control Act (COCCA) September 4, 1992. On October 8, 1992, a series of searches was conducted by state and federal authorities in three locations in Colorado Springs, Colorado, believed to be residences of those indicted, as well as the mountain property near Buena Vista, Colorado. These searches produced thousands more documents and lead to the discovery of approximately 30 firearms which were found in a concealed cave on the mountain property. Most of these firearms were military or military copies, including a number of AK-47 rifles and approximately 9,000 rounds of AK-47 ammunition. All of these weapons turned out to be semi-automatic and none was illegal under Colorado or federal law. They accordingly were not seized but were taken into custody by

the local sheriff for safe keeping purposes. Four of the five indicted individuals were taken into custody in Colorado Springs, a fifth individual, Chris Childs, apparently escaped and is at this time a fugitive.

As a result of the evidence found during this search and other document searches, the indictment was replaced by our information filed in the District Court - El Paso County, Colorado charging seven defendants with violations of COCCA as well as theft, forgery theft of rental property, and conspiracy to commit first degree murder. As of October 1993, two defendants, James L. Upshur Jr. and James D. Williams have been convicted of COCCA violations. Upshur was also convicted of theft and Williams was convicted of conspiracy to commit murder. A third defendant Vincente R. Pierre had previously entered a guilty plea to felony theft charges (June 1993) and was sentenced to probation.

A fourth defendant Edward Ivan McGhee was convicted of three COCCA violations as well as theft and forgery counts in January, 1994. Chris Childs and Edward Nicolas Laurent Flinton remain fugitives. James D. Williams was released on bail following his October 1993 conviction and failed to appear for sentencing on February 23, 1994. State and federal warrants have been issued for all three of these men.

In October 1991 U.S. Customs officers conducted a border search of a vehicle attempting to enter the United States from Canada. The search was conducted near Buffalo, New York. A set of written plans indicating a plot to fire bomb a Hindu owned theater and a Hindu temple in Toronto, Canada was discovered and the black male passengers of the car were turned over to Canadian police. The Canadian authorities requested additional searches be conducted at locations in Pontiac, Michigan and Brooklyn, New York. These searches produced additional evidence to support the fire bomb conspiracy and in Brooklyn produced a large cache of firearms.

The Toronto Metropolitan Police have five men in custody all of whom they believe to be Fuqra members. Their trial for fire bomb conspiracy began in the summer of 1993. In December 1993, the Canadian jury convicted three defendants of conspiracy to commit mischief endangering life (felony) and acquitted the other two.

The Canadian authorities also believe that there are close ties between these four men and the leader of a 1990 attempted coup in the island nation of Trinidad - Tobago. This coup attempt lasted nearly a week and resulted in rioting, looting, and approximately thirty deaths. The Prime Minister and several legislators were held hostage and the Prime Minister was shot but survived. The coup ended when the one hundred and ten participants were granted amnesty by the government. The appellate courts later (late

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1992) upheld this amnesty and ordered all one hundred and ten released from jail. This group does not claim to be an arm of the Fugra but their objectives and methods are alarmingly similar.

This memorandum is a very condensed and brief overview of what is known about the Fugra organization. Additional details concerning this can be obtained by law enforcement authorities by contacting Special Agent William H. Matens, Denver Field Office, Federal Bureau of Investigation, or Assistant Attorney General Douglas Wamsley, Colorado Attorney General's Office.

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