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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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b7cDate of transcription 01/11/1999

[redacted] North Hollywood, CA, was advised of the identity of the interviewing agents as well as the purpose of the interview. He provided the following information:

[redacted] asked him if he knew of anyone who could cash a \$3,000,000 cashier's check. He told his wife that he would find out.

After he spoke with [redacted] and told him that he needed to talk with SARKIS SOGHANALIAN regarding a business proposition. [redacted] that SOGHANALIAN was in his office everyday and that [redacted] could stop by anytime. SOGHANALIAN and [redacted] were very close. In the past, [redacted] used to travel with SOGHANALIAN. [redacted] went to SOGHANALIAN to cash the check, because SOGHANALIAN had a reputation for being very wealthy. SOGHANALIAN claimed that SADDAM HUSSEIN owed him \$95,000,000 for weapons he sold to Iraq.

[redacted] believes that it was the next day or within the next couple of days that he went to [redacted] office. He believes it was [redacted] office in Pasadena. [redacted] met with SOGHANALIAN and [redacted] office. [redacted] asked SOGHANALIAN if SOGHANALIAN could cash a \$3,000,000 check. SOGHANALIAN said that he could do it with no problem but that he would have to do it in Europe. SOGHANALIAN went on to explain that he had tax problems in the U.S., so he kept all of his money in Europe. He said that it would be no problem for him to cash the check in France because the banks in France knew him. SOGHANALIAN told [redacted] that he would get back with him with the name of the payee for the check. SOGHANALIAN said that the payee should be his name or one of his business names. SOGHANALIAN asked what his percentage would be for cashing the check and [redacted] provided a percentage to which SOGHANALIAN agreed. [redacted] was hesitant to discuss the percentages and requested the percentages be discussed at a later date. SOGHANALIAN and [redacted] agreed to split the percentage 50/50. [redacted] does not know the agreement between [redacted] and SOGHANALIAN, but he believed that SOGHANALIAN was going to give [redacted] a portion of his share since they were very close and worked together like partners.

After his meeting with SOGHANALIAN, [redacted] contacted [redacted] and told her that SOGHANALIAN agreed to cash the checks.

Following the meeting in [redacted] office, SOGHANALIAN returned to Paris to wait for the check. SOGHANALIAN called [redacted] from Paris and provided

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File # 281H-LA-199755-30 Date dictated 1/8/99

by SA [redacted]
SA [redacted]

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[REDACTED] with the name of the corporation to put on the check. [REDACTED] cannot remember the name, but he remembers that it was four initials.

SOGHANALIAN called [REDACTED] several times from Paris from a cabaret at approximately 5:00 A.M. He wanted to know when the check would be ready.

Approximately 4-5 days after SOGHANALIAN agreed to cash the check, [REDACTED] delivered the check to [REDACTED]. They met in a parking lot. The check was in an envelope. [REDACTED] never opened the envelope.

After receiving the check from [REDACTED] at ALECO and told him that he had something for [REDACTED] to send to SOGHANALIAN. [REDACTED] took the envelope containing the check to ALECO and gave it to [REDACTED] had SOGHANALIAN'S telephone number in Paris, but he did not have his address, so he had to mail the check to SOGHANALIAN through [REDACTED].

A couple of days after [REDACTED] delivered the check to [REDACTED] talked to SOGHANALIAN by telephone. SOGHANALIAN said "I received checks and I made a deposit. It takes 6 or 7 days for clearance."

A few days later, [REDACTED] talked to SOGHANALIAN on the telephone, and SOGHANALIAN told him that everything was okay and that [REDACTED] could come over and get his money. SOGHANALIAN was very happy. [REDACTED] told SOGHANALIAN that he could wire the money to him. SOGHANALIAN told him that he would give him French money, but [REDACTED] did not want French money.

[REDACTED] made either two or three airplane reservations to fly to France on the following morning. He was planning to fly with [REDACTED] and possibly [REDACTED]. He believes that they made the reservations on Air France and they were first class tickets because only first class was available.

SOGHANALIAN called very early the next morning and told [REDACTED] that the check was a fake check and that Interpol was all over his house. SOGHANALIAN claimed "You guys put me in trouble." [REDACTED] was shocked and he told SOGHANALIAN that he would find out about the check.

[REDACTED] called [REDACTED] at approximately 10:00 A.M. [REDACTED] told [REDACTED] that SOGHANALIAN was playing with him. [REDACTED] believed that SOGHANALIAN was making an attempt to keep all of the money. [REDACTED] told [REDACTED] that SOGHANALIAN owed him money and that he was "hungry" for money.

[REDACTED] canceled their trip to France to get the money because after thinking about it, they became afraid that the French authorities might be waiting for them when they got there.

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On one occasion [REDACTED] called SOGHANALIAN in Paris, and he was not home. [REDACTED] answered the telephone. [REDACTED] was at a cabaret and gave [REDACTED] the number for the cabaret. [REDACTED] called SOGHANALIAN at the cabaret. [REDACTED] told SOGHANALIAN not to play games with him or [REDACTED] was going to get people to come after him. SOGHANALIAN asked [REDACTED] if he was threatening him.

[REDACTED] did not have any contact with SOGHANALIAN for a long time.

After [REDACTED] was arrested, [REDACTED] left a message with SOGHANALIAN'S wife at his house in Palm Springs for SOGHANALIAN to call him when he got into the country. [REDACTED] wanted to find out if SOGHANALIAN could help him with [REDACTED] believed that SOGHANALIAN had connections in the government.

SOGHANALIAN telephoned [REDACTED] from Palm Springs. SOGHANALIAN told [REDACTED] was a bad man. He wanted to know why they sent the phony checks to him. SOGHANALIAN seemed to be primarily angry at [REDACTED] asked SOGHANALIAN if he would help him with his brothers case. SOGHANALIAN told him that he would try and help because he considered [REDACTED]

A couple of days later, [REDACTED] went to Palm Springs to meet with him. SOGHANALIAN told [REDACTED] that Federal agents had visited him at his house in Palm Springs. SOGHANALIAN told [REDACTED] that he was working with an FBI agent named [REDACTED] and he showed [REDACTED] SA [REDACTED] business card. SOGHANALIAN told [REDACTED] that the local officials in Los Angeles were too small for him to deal with. [REDACTED] with Janet Reno and others in Washington D.C. He told [REDACTED] from the US Attorneys office had kissed the back of his hand.

On one occasion SOGHANALIAN approached [REDACTED] On another occasion, SOGHANALIAN asked [REDACTED] if SOGHANALIAN were able to get [REDACTED] out of jail, would [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ran into [REDACTED] at a "7-Eleven." [REDACTED] casually knows [REDACTED] and he knows that [REDACTED] is a criminal. [REDACTED] had a tenant in his apartment building named [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] eventually threw [REDACTED] out of the complex for dealing drugs from his apartment. [REDACTED] asked [REDACTED] if he knew that [REDACTED] money. [REDACTED] informed [REDACTED] that the [REDACTED] explained how [REDACTED] went with [REDACTED] to Las Vegas to help them cash a \$300,000 cashier's check. [REDACTED] said that he was going [REDACTED] percentage. [REDACTED] did not tell [REDACTED]

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After [REDACTED] he paged his wife to find out if what [REDACTED] said was true. [REDACTED] said that she took some people to Vegas because they had money and she had contacts in Vegas. She told him that she did not know the check was bad until later.

[REDACTED] and wanted to know why he involved his wife in the check scheme. They agreed to meet. They met at the Denny's at Burbank and Lankersham. [REDACTED] was very afraid. He was shaking and he told [REDACTED]

On one occasion, at the end of 1995, [REDACTED] was standing outside the apartment building he owns, while some remodeling work was being done. [REDACTED] was driving by and stopped when he saw [REDACTED] asked [REDACTED] if he knew anyone who wanted some counterfeit \$20's. He told [REDACTED] who could get stolen merchandise such as clothing, cigarettes, and bullet proof vests. [REDACTED] said that the merchandise came from containers stored at a large distribution center. [REDACTED] apparently knew someone with a contact inside the distribution center who would allow a truck to enter the distribution center and leave with a container. The owner of the distribution center would then collect the insurance on the stolen container. [REDACTED] also claimed to have a connection that would "take care of someone" if [REDACTED] had the need.



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