Muhammad Ali-Salaam
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February 5, 2003

Charles S. Prouty
Executive Assistant Director
Law Enforcement Services
Room 7110
J. Edgar Hoover Building
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Mr. Executive Assistant Director:

The purpose of the letter is to solicit your help and comments, to whatever degree you can provide, in setting up a **Know Your Donor Program** for the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center.

As your office is aware, with the assistance of the City of Boston the Islamic Society of Boston is in the process of building a significant facility that has become generally known as the "Cultural Center". The Project encompasses a Community Center, an Elementary School, and space to facilitate Congregational Prayer. The projected cost for this facility is in the range of $20 million.

Due to Islamic law, financing predicated on interest is forbidden and given the nature of this Project, its financing cannot be compromised. The process of raising such a sum has proven to be challenging, but with the help of kind individuals the task has not proven to be impossible.

To date, a significant sum has been raised and therein lies the problem. Since 9/11/01, the country has seen extraordinary precautions taken on the part of the government and financial institutions to enforce policies whose principal aim seems to be to identify, isolate and prosecute individuals and/or organizations who associate with, support, and/or offer financial assistance for terrorist activities. While I believe that neither the religion of Islam, nor the collective loyalties of the sponsors of the Cultural Center to the Constitution of the United States are being called into question, I must acknowledge the existence of individuals [both internal and external] who may be determined to undermine the public's confidence in the Project.

With this in mind, the concerns of the Cultural Center are as follows:

1. To ensure that every dollar raised goes into the building fund;

2. To protect the integrity of all those who supported this endeavor over the years by making sure that their reputations are not compromised by indirect association with undesirable individuals [paramount among these supporters being the residents of the City of Boston];
3. To address the lack of experience on the part of the Cultural Center administration in matters of "due diligence"; and finally,
4. To develop a **Know Your Donor Program** that establishes reasonable benchmarks for proper "due diligence".

Given the context of the situation, as stated above, the response of the Cultural Center must be proactive and scrupulous in every respect. Accordingly, I have taken the liberty of introducing the Director and Assistant Director of the Cultural Center to Mr. James A. Ring, Director of Business Information Services for Choate Hall Stewart – Boston.

Choate Hall Stewart has agreed to provide pro-bono assistance to the Cultural Center and expedite the development a proper "due diligence" program. Given the nature of the Cultural Center, it is expected that the source materials to be consulted will be limited to information available within the public domain.

The Cultural Center has drafted a policy document that describes how it intends to implement its **Know Your Donor Program** and I am attaching it and soliciting your review and comment.

In conclusion, I understand that your own policies may restrict the frequency and manner in which you communicate relative to sensitive matters and I only presume to ask for your guidance because of my continuing involvement with your office since 9/11/01.

Sincerely,

Muhammad Ali-Salaam

CC: W. Chase, Acting SAC-Boston
Y. Abou Allaban, MD-ISBCC
S. Kazmi-ISBCC