MUJAHEDIN-E KHALQ (MEK)
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

The following is a detailed summary of information learned during criminal investigations of the Mujahedin-E Khalq (MEK), aka Mohjahedin Khalq Organization (MKO), aka Peoples Mujahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI), aka National Council of Resistance (NCR), a designated foreign terrorist organization (FTO).

A. MEK/MKO BACKGROUND

1. Abbreviations and Definitions:

(MEK) Mujahedin-E Khalq
(MKO) Mohjahedin Khalq Organization
(PMOI) Peoples Mujahedin Organization of Iran
(NCR) National Council of Resistance
(NLA) National Liberation Army
(Ozv) MEK term for member, also referred to as "O"
(S1) MEK abbreviation for supporter
(S) MEK abbreviation for sympathizer
(ME) MEK abbreviation "Mali Ejtemaie"
(FTO) Foreign Terrorist Organization
(MLAT) Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty

2. History: The MEK was designated by the United States Department of State as an FTO on October 8, 1997. The MEK is a FTO currently headquartered in Iraq, advocating the violent overthrow of the current Iranian government. The MEK engages in acts of terrorism as a means of reaching that goal. On October 8, 1999, the NCR was added to the MEK's designation as a FTO by the U.S. Department of State. The NCR was added as an alias for the MEK.

The MEK was founded in Iran in 1963 by dissatisfied members of the Liberation Movement of Iran. At the time the organization was founded, the goal was to overthrow the
monarchist rule of the Shah of Iran, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. During this struggle to overthrow the Shah of Iran the MEK publicly claimed responsibility for acts of terrorism against U.S. citizens and U.S. interests.

The mission and goal of the MEK in their words from their public statements and web pages is the overthrow of the current Iranian government through armed struggle and violence.

3. Past Terrorist Activity:

a. June 1973, the MEK claimed responsibility for the assassination of Lieutenant Colonel Lewis Hawkins a U.S. citizen assigned to defense projects in Iran.


d. August 1976, MEK assassins ambushed and killed U.S. citizens William C. Cottrell, Robert R. Krongrad, and Donald G. Smith as they were driving to work in Doshen Tappeh in Southeastern Tehran. All three were employed by Rockwell International.

e. December 1978, MEK assassins shot and killed U.S. citizen Paul Grimm, a Texaco executive who served as managing director of Oil Service Company of Iran, as he was driving to work.

f. February 1979, the MEK participated in the seizure of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. This event ended after the MEK vandalized the interior of the U.S. Embassy.

g. November 1979, the MEK again participated in the seizure of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, which resulted in numerous U.S. citizens being taken hostage and held over fourteen (14) months.

h. June 1981, the MEK began large scale protests against Khomeini, and after they suffered heavy losses, the MEK, was banned from Iran.

i. August 1981, the MEK seized the Iranian Interest Section in Washington D.C. Nine (9) people were taken hostage and over $500,000 in damage was done to the facility. Twenty-
four(24) MEK members were arrested in connection with the incident.

j. April 1992, the MEK carried out attacks on twelve(12) diplomatic establishments in ten(10) countries, including the Iranian Mission to the United Nations in New York City.

k. August 1992, the MEK claimed responsibility for the grenade attack on the home of the deputy of the legislature of Iran's Lorestan province.

l. November 1992, members of the MEK and pro-Iranian individuals assaulted one another at Dulles Airport, near Washington, D.C.

m. June 1993, the MEK claimed responsibility for the bombings at eight(8) oil pipeline and refinery sites in western Iran.

n. November 1994, members of the MEK attacked the car of an Iranian diplomat in Denmark.

o. April 1995, members of the MEK were involved in an assault with pro-Iranian individuals at LAX. MEK members were charged with assault, and failed to appear in court. Warrants were issued for multiple MEK members.

p. June 1998, MEK claimed responsibility for multiple bombings in Iran, which were reported to have killed at least three people and wounded several others.

q. June 1998, MEK members assaulted U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Diplomatic Security special agents and the Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi in New York City. Four MEK members were arrested. They later failed to appear in court and federal warrants were issued.

r. August 1998, MEK assassins shot and killed Assadollah Lajavardi the former head of Evin prison, in Iran. Two innocent bystanders were also shot and killed along side Lajevardi in the attack which took place at Lajevardi's private business located in the Tehran Bazaar.

s. February 1999, MEK attempted to assassinate Mohsen Rafiqdoust, the head of Iran's largest state-affiliated economic conglomerate, Bonyad-E Mostazafan Va Janbazan.
t. April 1999, the MEK spokesman SHAHIN GOBADI in Paris, France claimed responsibility for the assassination of Brigadier General Ali Sayyad Shirazi, Deputy Chief of the Iranian Joint Staff Command of Armed Forces.

4. Current Terrorist Activity:

Los Angeles investigation has determined that the MEK is currently actively involved in planning and executing acts of terrorism. The planning takes place at MEK bases in Iraq and at the Auver Sur Oise location in Paris, France. Los Angeles has consensually recorded numerous telephone calls in which the MEK leaders at this French location discuss specific acts of terrorism to include bombings. Joint investigation with the French DST and the German Cologne Police Department has revealed similar findings from French and German wire taps.

Additionally, investigation has determined that the MEK is very active in fund raising. In the past the most money being generated was from the Los Angeles and Washington D.C. cell of the MEK. This money is then transferred overseas through a complex international money laundering operation that uses accounts in Turkey, Germany, France, Belgium, Norway, Sweden, Jordan, and the United Arab Emirates. MEK fund raising was stopped by the February 2001 arrests in Los Angeles, however Los Angeles investigation has revealed that the MEK as of February 2003, again is attempting to start up their Los Angeles fund raising operation.

5. Organization: The MEK is made up of at least three primary branches:

a. The National Liberation Army (NLA), which is the military and operational branch of the MEK. The NLA is headquartered in Iraq where they receive most of their military equipment and support from Saddam Hussain. The MEK conducts most or all of their terrorist training and operations with the NLA under the protective umbrella of Iraq. Numerous witnesses who are former NLA soldiers have reported that Saddam Hussein has hidden chemical and biological weapons on NLA bases to avoid UN inspectors. An open source investigation by a journalist named Aaron Sands of the Ottawa Citizen produced hidden camera footage of chemical weapons being stored at NLA bases. Previous reporting regarding Masoud Tayebi who was the director of security of the MEK's Ashraf base in Iraq reported that Tayebi was responsible for storing chemical weapons at this base prior to his defection and escape from Iraq. This same information has been corroborated by numerous witnesses in Europe and Canada.
b. A support network that operates in the United States and other foreign countries. This support network in organized into cells that are lead by a MEK leadership cadre that are sent to the U.S. and abroad from Iraq and France. This support network is responsible for propaganda, demonstrations, fund raising, and surveillance and intimidation of Iranian government sympathizers and agents. This network is headquartered at the Auver Sur Oise location in Paris, France. Joint investigation between Los Angeles and the Cologne Police Department revealed that the MEK cell in Cologne, Germany was obtaining large quantities of Night Vision Goggles from a sporting good store in Cologne. The funds for this were obtained through a complex social benefit fraud scheme that used children with multiple identities to claim multiple benefit checks. In Los Angeles evidence from one of the search sites revealed that money obtained in Los Angeles was used to purchase GPS systems that specifically were purchased to increase accuracy of terrorist mortar attacks in the city of Tehran. In Los Angeles the section responsible for fund raising was referred to as the ME or "Mali Ejtemaie".

c. The political branch is referred to as the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCR). This group was recently unsuccessful in challenging their designation as a foreign terrorist organization in U.S. Federal court. The NCR is very active in Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles. The NCR is primarily involved in political lobbying, propaganda, demonstrations, and legal issues associated with the MEK. This highly litigious organization has an office in Washington D.C. and commingles it's headquarters at the MEK's Washington D.C. cell location in Falls Church, Virginia. This organization routinely lobbies unwitting members of Congress under the pretext of human rights issues in Iran.

From investigation, it has been determined that the MEK operatives in the U.S. are highly organized and take direction directly from MASOUD and MARYAM RAJAVI, the leaders of the MEK, who are based in Iraq. In the U.S., these operatives fall into the MEK's support network branch and in the NCR. In Los Angeles the support branch is the primary MEK operation and the NCR plays a minimal role. Most, if not all, of the MEK leaders are former NLA fighters who have been promoted to leadership ranks and then are transferred to various support branches, such as the cell in Los Angeles.

The current overall leader of the MEK is MASOUD RAJAVI. His wife, MARYAM RAJAVI, is also involved in the leadership of the MEK. MEK members, supporters, and sympathizers, have a fanatical almost "cult-like" loyalty to the RAJAVI's. In many
U.S. cities, including Los Angeles, the MEK operates from a main office or base known as a "kanoon". This base is run by an MEK cell leader. In Los Angeles, the last cell leader was ROYA RAHMANI, aka SISTER TAHMINEH. She was arrested along with the 6 other leaders of the Los Angeles MEK cell in February 2001.

B. LOS ANGELES ACTIVITY

6. Past Subjects: Los Angeles has conducted numerous criminal investigations against the MEK. The following subjects have been arrested in the past:

BAHRAM TABATABAI, aka BEN TABATABAI, convicted of providing material support to the MEK. Recently released from Federal custody after serving three years and is currently on probation. No current known association with the MEK.

SHOLEH FARDANESH, Assistant to Tabatabai currently in INS deportation proceedings. No current known association with the MEK.

TABISOME GABIZADEH, Assistant to Tabatabai signed a cooperation/plea agreement to avoid jail time. No current known association with the MEK.

ELHAM MIRAHMED, Assistant to Tabatabai currently in INS deportation proceedings. No current known association with the MEK.

LIDA SALEHI, Assistant to Tabatabai, was deported in 2000 to Sweden. No current known association with the MEK.

PATRICIA REES, Assistant to Tabatabai. Was released from Federal custody after her case was dismissed. No current known association with the MEK.

MERCEDEH MOHABBER, Assistant to Tabatabai currently in INS deportation proceedings. No current known association with the MEK.

SORYA KARIMIAN, Assistant to Tabatabai currently in INS deportation proceedings. No current known association with the MEK.


MOHAMMAD MIRMEHDI, MEK member/supporter currently in INS custody. Ordered deported to Iran, but filed a torture convention motion in order to prevent this deportation.

MOHSEN MIRMEHDI, MEK member/supporter currently in INS custody. Ordered deported to Iran, but filed a torture convention motion in order to prevent this deportation.

MOJTABA MIRMEHDI, MEK member/supporter currently in INS custody. Ordered deported to Iran, but filed a torture convention motion in order to prevent this deportation.
MUSTAFA MIRMEHDI, MEK member/supporter currently in INS custody. Ordered deported to Iran, but filed a torture convention motion in order to prevent this deportation.

Yousef hammidy, MEK member/supporter currently in INS custody. Ordered deported to Iran, but filed a torture convention motion in order to prevent this deportation. Admitted membership in the MEK and is currently part of an important 4th amendment legal challenge that may result in a precedent setting DOJ decision.

Masoud Hosseini, MEK member/supporter currently in INS custody. Ordered deported to Iran, but filed a torture convention motion in order to prevent this deportation.

Zafarollah Mohsenzadeh, MEK member recently released from Federal custody and is currently on probation. Currently in INS deportation proceedings.


Sanaz Muctagfar, Arrested by INS while trying to interfere with OPERATION EASTERN APPROACH takedown. Was deported to unknown country in 1999.


Ali Sina, Arrested in Turkey, disposition unknown. Reporting from various surrcses indicates that he may still be in custody.

Rafi Tamtami, Arrested in Cypress, disposition unknown.

Payman Pourgolami, Arrested in Netherlands, disposition unknown.

Nasser Esfahani, Arrested by DEA and FBI on a drug warrant. Currently still in Federal Custody. Was a Tabatabai client thought to be MEK. No current known association with the MEK.

Mohsen Kamalabad, Arrested by DEA on a drug warrant. Currently still in Federal Custody. Was a Tabatabai client thought to be MEK. No current known association with the MEK.
HASHEM SHOKRZADE, Arrested by FBI on a false identity fraud charge. Admitted MEK supporter. Currently in INS deportation proceedings.

KAZI WAHIDUL ISLAM, aka Mohammad Hossan, Arrested by FBI on a false identity fraud charge. Was a Tabatabai client. Information found during a search of his residence remotely linked him to Al-Qaeda. Currently in Federal Custody. About to be transferred to INS custody for deportation proceedings. Currently wanted in Bangladesh on a fugitive warrant.

7. Current Subjects: The following are current MEK subjects that are being investigated under OPEARTION EASTERN MONEY and OPERATION LION HUNTER in Los Angeles:

ROYA RAHMANI, aka SISTER TAHMINEH, Arrested in February 2001, by the FBI, was the cell leader in Los Angeles. Known MEK member. Currently, under control of a Pretrial Service Officer under stringent bond conditions. Currently living in Virginia as part of a court ordered bond condition.

ALIREZA MOHAMMADMORADI, aka ALIREZA MORADI, Arrested in February 2001, by the FBI. Known MEK member. Currently, under control of a Pretrial Service Officer under stringent bond conditions. Living in Los Angeles.

HASSAN REZAIE, aka HASSAN REZAI, Arrested in February 2001, by the FBI. Known MEK member. Currently, under control of a Pretrial Service Officer under stringent bond conditions. Living in Los Angeles.

HOSSEIN AFSHARI, aka HOSSEIN DEKLAMI, Arrested in February 2001, by the FBI. Known MEK supporter. Currently, under control of a Pretrial Service Officer under stringent bond conditions. Living in Los Angeles.

MUSTAFA AHMADY, aka AHMADI, Arrested in February 2001, by the FBI. Known MEK member. Currently, under control of a Pretrial Service Officer under stringent bond conditions. Living in Los Angeles.

MOHAMMAD OMIDVAR, aka MIKE OMIDVAR, Arrested in February 2001, by the FBI. Known MEK supporter. Currently, under control of a Pretrial Service Officer under stringent bond conditions. Living in Orange County, CA.

NAJAF ESHKOFTEGI, aka NAVID TAJ, Arrested in February 2001, by the FBI. Known MEK supporter. Currently, under control of a
Pretrial Service Officer under stringent bond conditions. Living in Los Angeles.

GOLNAZ JAVEHERISAATCHI, aka GOLNAZ JAVAHERISAATCHI, aka JAVEHERISAATCHI, aka JAVAHERI, aka JAVEHERI, aka SISTER GOLNAZ, a MEK member and former leader of the Los Angeles cell of the MEK in Los Angeles from 1994 to 1999. She was transferred out of Los Angeles immediately following the OPERATION EASTERN APPROACH arrests. Source reporting indicated that she was the cell leader for the MEK's Amsterdam cell. In December 2001, joint FBI/Cologne Police investigation determined from German wire tapes that she was to become the cell leader for Cologne, Germany. She was due to be arrested by Cologne Police in December 2001, however she was in Iraq at the time of the arrests. Her current position in the MEK is unknown.

MAHNAZ SAMADI, MEK member arrested in Canada and then turned over to INS and the FBI Buffalo division. She was living in Los Angeles and was believed to be the Los Angeles cell leader for a short time after GOLNAZ JAVEHERISAATCHI. She was ordered deported from the U.S. but granted withholding from Iran. She was last seen at the Washington D.C./Falls Church Virginia location in 2000. Unconfirmed reports placed her at the Auver Sur Oise location in 2001 and 2002. Los Angeles attempted to indict her in 2000 for a false INS asylum application, but the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Central District of California, admitting that she clearly violated the law, declined the prosecution based on a "selective prosecution" argument. SAMADI was investigated under OPERATION EASTERN APPROACH.

SHOKHUB MOUSAVINASAB, current subject. An MEK supporter involved in immigration smuggling ring similar to Tabatabai.

MOHTEZA GHASHANI, current subject. An MEK supporter involved in immigration smuggling ring similar to Tabatabai.

MANSOUR LAVAIE, current subject. An MEK supporter involved in a new MEK initiative to resume fund raising in Los Angeles.

DAVood FARHANI, current subject. An MEK supporter who has admitted during interviews to providing material support to the MEK. Also admitted to providing lodging to known MEK member MAHNAZ SAMADI.
ALI PARSA, current subject. An MEK supporter involved in fund raising and organization.

BABAK DADVAND, current subject. An MEK supporter involved in fund raising and organization.

AKBAR ZIAD, current member/supporter. Runs a company known as COMPUTECH located at 1851 North Gaffee, San Pedro, California. Hosts MEK meetings in the large auditorium at this location. Has been observed under numerous surveillances at this location at MEK meetings.

HAMID SAMANI, current supporter. Leader of a MEK breakaway organization known as the ALAMOOT SOCIETY. Has threatened to place explosives at Los Angeles locations and even tried to get the Cooperating Witness from OPERATION EASTERN MONEY to help him. Is a suspect in the hoax bomb devices placed at the Googosh concert in 2001.

MAJID LASHKARI, a MEK supporter or member. He was on of the original creators of the MEK front organization known as COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS(CHR). Source reporting indicated that in 2000 he had a falling out with MEK leadership and has left the organization. He has been approached by the FBI and has refused to cooperate with the ongoing investigation. He may be indicted in the second round of OPERATION EASTERN MONEY indictments after the upcoming 9th Circuit Appeals ruling.

FAHIMEH AZARANI, a MEK member who was living with MAJID LASHKARI in Ventura, California. She was on of the original creators of the MEK front organization known as COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS(CHR).

MANOCHER SAKHAIE, a MEK member who lives in Los Angeles and routinely travels to Iraq for MEK meetings. Source reporting has placed him as a member of the MEK's "SHORA". Evidence found in Los Angeles and developed jointly with the French DST has uncovered additional fund raising activity perpetrated by SAKHAIE that was not yet indicted in OPERATION EASTERN MONEY.

ABOULGHASSEM REZAEE, aka BROTHER HABIB, High ranking MEK member. Current joint FBI/French DST subject. Based at the Auver Sur Oise location in Paris, France. Frequently travels within Europe and Iraq. Leads large conference calls directing MEK cells around the world including Los Angeles and Washington D.C. OPERATION LION HUNTER subject.

MOHAMMAD MOHADESSINE, aka BROTHER BEHNAAM, High ranking MEK member. Current joint FBI/French DST subject. Based at the Auver
Sur Oise location in Paris, France. Frequently travels within Europe and Iraq. OPERATION LION HUNTER subject.

EBRAHIM ZAKERI, High ranking MEK member. Current joint FBI/French DST subject. Based at the Auver Sur Oise location in Paris, France. Frequently travels within Europe and Iraq. OPERATION LION HUNTER subject. (now deceased)

SISTER ZOREH (possibly ZOREH SHAFAEI), High ranking MEK member. Current joint FBI/French DST subject. Based at the Auver Sur Oise location in Paris, France. Frequently travels within Europe and Iraq. OPERATION LION HUNTER subject.

ALI AKBART HAGHIGHI, aka SEYED, aka BROTHER MOSLEM, High ranking MEK member. Current joint FBI/French DST subject. Based at the Auver Sur Oise location in Paris, France. Frequently travels within Europe and Iraq. OPERATION LION HUNTER subject.

MAHMOOD KELMOOR, aka AHMAD MAHMOODI, aka JAMSHID, MEK member. Current joint FBI/French DST subject. Based in Cologne, Germany. Frequently travels within Europe and Iraq. OPERATION LION HUNTER subject.

MEHDI LNU aka HOUSHANG, MEK member. Current joint FBI/French DST subject. Based at the Auver Sur Oise location in Paris, France. Frequently travels within Europe and Iraq. OPERATION LION HUNTER subject.


SUSON AZDANLOO, MEK member. Current joint FBI/Cologne Police Department subject. Sister of MARYAM RAJAVI. was arrested in December 2001 in Cologne Germany in a joint FBI/Cologne Police Department operation. Involved in a complex fraud scheme involving children and social benefits.


MOHAMMAD EBRAHIM MOSHIRI, MEK member. Current joint FBI/Cologne Police Department subject. Fugitive from December 2001 joint FBI/Cologne Police Department operation. Involved in a complex fraud scheme involving children and social benefits. Was the MEK procurement officer for military equipment. Joint investigation showed that MOSHIRI used money from this fraud scheme to purchase equipment including night vision in Cologne Germany and then shipped it to United Arab Emirates where it was sent to MEK bases in Iraq.

SEPID MAJID SALEM, MEK supporter/member. Arrested in Cologne Germany during the December 2001 joint FBI/Cologne Police Department operation. A U.S. citizen, claimed no affiliation with the MEK even though he was arrested in one of their bases in Cologne. Claimed to be a Virginia resident. Provided 4300 Evergreen Lane #302, Annandale, VA 22003, as his last address in the U.S.

BITA MAHMOUDI, MEK member/supporter. Current joint FBI/Cologne Police Department subject. Was arrested in December 2001 in Cologne Germany in a joint FBI/Cologne Police Department operation. Involved in a complex fraud scheme involving children and social benefits. Recently applied for citizenship in the U.S.

8. Past Los Angeles Locations:

3721 Oceanview, Los Angeles, California. Location of "kanoon" or MEK cell base from 1992 to 1998.

12656 Marco Place, Los Angeles, California. Location of "kanoon" or MEK cell base from 1998 to the February 2001 OPERATION EASTERN MONEY takedown.

2450 Louella Avenue, Los Angeles, California. Location of safe house where MEK leaders and visitors were housed from up until 1999.

16661 Ventura Blvd., Encino, California. Tabatabai's office. This location was shut down after the March 1999 arrests in OPERATION EASTERN APPROACH.


5312 West 99th Place, Los Angeles, California. Past safe house used for housing MEK members and supporters involved in fund raising at LAX.
8703 La Tijera #204, Los Angeles, California. Past Covert MEK office. Operated as a front under the name Committee for Human Rights (CHR). Was closed immediately after the February 2001 arrests of the MEK leaders in Los Angeles. Was searched and voluminous evidence was found at this location.

9. Current Los Angeles Locations:

1320 Coronet, Pasadena, California. This is the home of MANSOUR LAVAIE. LAVAIE is involved in the current effort to resume fund raising in Los Angeles on behalf of the MEK. In February 2003, LAVAIE hosted a MEK meeting at his home in which a conference call was conducted over an Internet connection to multiple MEK cells including the Washington D.C. cell. The call was lead by ABOULGHASSEM REZAEE, aka BROTHER HABIB from the Auver Sur Oise location in Paris, France.

1851 North Gaffee, San Pedro, California. This is the location of a company named COMPUTECH that is owned by AKBAR ZIAD. ZIAD allows the MEK to meet in the large auditorium at the center of the business park at this location.

10. Communications:

The MEK currently communicates over the telephone and the Internet. The location at Auvers Sur Oise in Paris, France is in routine contact with MEK members and supporters in the Los Angeles area. Recently the MEK has been using a "Yahoo" Internet group chat service in order to connect to live streaming video conferences. In a recent Los Angeles meeting at the 1320 Coronet location, ABOULGHASSEM REZAEE, aka BROTHER HABIB, directed MEK members and supporters in the Los Angeles area to begin fund raising again. This communication to date has not been encrypted. Los Angeles has yet to initiate Title III's due to Cooperating Witnesses who are in a position to consensually record these conference calls. Los Angeles has initiated court ordered Internet versions of "Pen Register/Trap and Trace" on one of these Internet addresses with mixed results.

MEK supporters are informed of MEK meetings and activity by team leaders or "responsible persons" in a traditional tiered cell structure. The MEK routinely compartmentalizes their meetings and conference calls in order to attempt to minimize infiltration by FBI cooperators. To date the MEK has been unsuccessful in these efforts as Los Angeles Cooperating Witnesses have been able to attend multiple covert MEK meeting dealing with a wide variety of subjects.
In the past the MEK maintained a 24 hour telephone news line that was used to communicate with its members and supporters. The MEK currently maintains a number of web sites. The two main sites used are 1) www.iran-e-azad.org and 2) www.iran.mojahedin.org. Additionally they use the Yahoo Group known as "goor" which is maintained by an MEK member who uses the Email "bahramgoor10@yahoo.com". Los Angeles is currently investigating this site under OPERATION LION HUNTER. AS of January 2004, the MEK began using the website www.hambasteqimeli.com for organization and communication to its members and supporters worldwide in the Farsi language.

The MEK has a number of peculiar communication requirements for its MEK leaders in Los Angeles. These have been documented in OPERATION LION HUNTER in great detail. They include things such as changing cellular telephone and their corresponding numbers on a routine basis, the use of pay telephones, and complex codes that are switched on a regular basis.

11. Organization in Los Angeles:

The Los Angeles cell of the MEK is currently in disarray. Since the arrests in OPERATION EASTERN APPROACH and OPERATION EASTERN MONEY, the MEK has no single leader who is overall responsible for the area. The MEK is attempting to change this as detailed in OPERATION LION HUNTER. As far as investigation has determined, MANSOUR LAVIE and MORTEZA KHASHANI appear to be currently in charge of the MEK cell in Los Angeles. HAMID SAMANI and his ALMOUT SOCIETY are not part of the MEK structure in Los Angeles and source reporting indicates that the MEK views them as a liability that could potentially damage their image if they actually commit an act of terrorism. The joint FBI/French DST Cooperating Witness in OPERATION LION HUNTER also is viewed as a ranking MEK member in the Los Angeles area however he has little interaction with either LAVAIE or KHASHANI.

Thus, most Los Angeles MEK personnel are supporters or sympathizers. The MEK has told the Los Angeles cell that they will not send another high ranking member to Los Angeles because of the past arrests. Most of the Los Angeles cell are made up of "S1" supporters and "S" sympathizers. ALIREZA MOHAMMAD MORADI and ROYA RAHMANI known "Ozy" or members have been keeping a low profile in meetings due to their pasts arrests. MUSTAFA AHMADY and HASSAN REZAIE appear to retain their rank of "Zireh-Ozy" or under member. However REZAIE has not attended meetings recently. MOHAMAD OMOVAR appears to have risen up from a "S1" to a "Zireh-Ozy" despite his arrest and pending case. He seemed to begin
renewed involvement with the MEK after the ruling to dismiss the OPERATION EASTERN MONEY indictments by Judge Takasugi.

HOSSEIN AFSHARI and NAJAF ESHKOFTIGI have dropped out of MEK meetings and have not been seen at MEK activities since their arrests.

C. Current MEK Command and Control

12. Leadership: As explained above, the MEK is split into three branches. These branches are controlled and directed by the MEK's supreme leader MASOUD RAJAVI. RAJAVI continued to operate the MEK out of bases in Iraq up until 2003 when the U.S. invaded Iraq. Currently Rajavi is still leading the MEK from an unknown location. RAJAVI is viewed as a "godlike" cult figurehead by the MEK and seems determined to continue his struggle for power in Iran. This struggle appears futile to the outside observer, however, is viewed with fanatical optimism by the MEK members and supporters. RAJAVI utilizes the Auvers Sur Oise location for contact with the Western World and his supporting cells in various Western countries.

ABOULGHASSEM REZAEE, aka BROTHER HABIB, and MOHAMMAD MOHADESSINE, aka BROTHER BEHINAM appear to be running the location at the Auvers Sur Oise. Whereas, SOONA SAMSAMI and ALIREZA JAFARZADEH appear to be running the MEK cell in Washington D.C. area.

The National Liberation Army is run by an ever changing command structure that ultimately answers to RAJAVI. MARYAM RAJAVI has been referred to as the MEK's "President Elect", however source reporting has indicted that this was done to appease liberal political movements in Europe and the U.S. and has since been diminished due the U.S. and recent European Union designation of the MEK as a terrorist organization and MARYAM Rajavi's arrest in France in June 2003. RAJAVI uses a council known as the "SHORA" to create MEK laws and mandate MEK policy. This group used to hold their meetings in Baghdad in a facility provided by Saddam Hussein. Currently the SHORA is required to meet at the Ashraf base as this is the location that the MEK is currently being held by U.S. and Coalition forces. Source reporting indicates that this "SHORA" is a front for Western governments and that the MEK policy is set my RAJAVI exclusively.

Source reporting and open source reporting has indicated in the past that RAJAVI's MEK was utilized by Saddam Hussein as a surrogate or auxiliary and had been used to smash rebellions among the Iraq Kurdish and Shia populations.
Investigation in Los Angeles has determined that the MEK's command and control is based on a highly centralized structure that is organized into "communist" style cells that must answer directly to their higher commands before taking on any initiative. Thus, independent initiatives from Los Angeles MEK members are slow to gain approval whereas directives from the Auvers Sur Oise or directly from Iraq are implemented immediately. An example of this was uncovered during OPERATION EASTERN MONEY when the MEK leadership was recalled to Iraq and told to close the Los Angeles "kanoon". This order was received by the MEK on a Monday and by Saturday they were packing the "kanoon" and obtaining flights to Europe when the FBI intervened with their arrests. Conversely, the MEK cell in Los Angeles proposed new fund raising methods during a conference call to the Auvers Sur Oise location in October 2000, and as of February 2001 had not yet received a response before the Los Angeles arrests.

13. Cell Locations:

Investigation in Los Angeles has uncovered the following cell locations for the MEK:

- Washington D.C./Falls Church, VA
- San Diego, California
- San Francisco/Berkeley, California
- Tampa, Florida
- Dallas, Texas
- Atlanta, Georgia
- New York City, New York
- Cologne, Germany
- Paris, France
- Malmo, Sweden
- Brisbane, Australia
- London, England
- Stockholm, Sweden
- Amsterdam, Holland
- Italy, possibly Rome

14. MEK Travel

In the past up until the arrests in Paris, France and the U.S. Invasion of Iraq, the MEK was routinely traveling from Europe to Iraq. Leaders such as ABOULGHASSEM REZAEE, aka BROTHER HABIB and MOHAMMAD MOHADESSINE, aka BROTHER BEHNAM traveled back and forth to Iraq from the Auvers Sur Oise location at a minimum on a quarterly basis. Their travel route was typically from Charles De Gaulle International Airport to Amman, Jordan, then overland to Baghdad.
MEK members and supporters often travel under false identities and it is common for MEK supporters to be asked to provide their European or U.S. passport for use by a similar appearing MEK members.

15. Anticipated MEK Plans

Source reporting from Los Angeles has indicated that the U.S. and European designation of the MEK as a terrorist organization is foremost in the discussions of MEK leadership. Additionally the MEK is attempting to align themselves with the West by reporting information about the Iranian Nuclear Weapons program. This information has a two-fold purpose; first, it furthers the MEK's cause by disrupting the current Iranian government, and Second, it is an attempt to paint the MEK in the light of an ally to the U.S. and a potential alternate government or as they refer to a "government in exile". With this reporting the MEK is attempting to gain legitimacy with Western governments and at the same time is attempting to disrupt the government of Iran.

During the first Gulf War in 1991, the MEK "hunkered down" in their bases and barracks and due to their geographic location were unmolested by the advancing U.S. forces. With the 1997 U.S. and the 2001 European Union designation of the MEK as a terrorist organization things are currently different. Source reporting indicated that the MEK feared that they may be targeted in a U.S. led attack on Iraq and their bases may be destroyed and their NLA fighters captured. MASOUD RAJAVI fled in anticipation of the U.S. led invasion and was not captured by U.S. or coalition forces.

It is not believed that the MEK will launch attacks against U.S. interests or European interests based solely on a U.S. led invasion of Iraq, however, the MEK may still attempt to organize terrorist operations in the U.S. and Europe targeting Iranian interests. Based on Los Angeles source penetration, any plans in this direction will be very apparent and steps can be take to neutralize them as they are developing.

Additionally, the MEK continues to practice misinformation operations in the U.S. and Europe. MEK lobbyist routinely hold press conferences and pass information regarding the current Iranian government that is inaccurate and designed to influence Western Iranian Media and governments. Another tactic that the MEK has been employing is disinformation regarding former MEK members and witnesses who have come forward to testify and speak against the MEK. The MEK will brand these former members and witnesses as Iranian government agents. This information is
often picked up by Western Intelligence agencies as factual information and is disseminated as intelligence. This further frustrates criminal investigators as they attempt to interview these former MEK members and potentially use them for testimony.

Source reporting on this particular tactic and joint FBI/DST investigation has shown this to be the case of Masoud Tayebi who had reported on Saddam Hussein's chemical weapons being stored at MEK bases. This same tactic was also used against the Cooperating Witness in OPERATION EASTERN MONEY who is currently in the Federal Witness Security program.

D. Los Angeles Investigation

16. OPERATION EASTERN APPROACH: This investigation resulted in numerous arrests and searches of a complex large scale immigration smuggling ring that smuggled thousands of Iranian nationals into the U.S. utilizing forged and fraudulent identity documents and INS applications. It was shown that some of these Iranian nationals were MEK members. The ringleader of this smuggling ring, BAHRAM TABATABAI, was convicted in October 1999, of Title 18 USC 2339B("providing material support to a designated terrorist organization").

This investigation is in its final phase. A handful of MEK members and supporters are still in INS custody. A number of MEK sympathizers are currently in INS deportation proceedings. Save for MOHAMMAD MOSENI, who is currently at risk of being thrown back into Federal custody, this smuggling ring associated with BAHRAM TABATABAI has been dismantled. SHAHIN and SHOKUH MOUSAVINASAB are being investigated under a separated investigation.

17. OPERATION EASTERN MONEY: Investigation in Los Angeles uncovered a fraud scheme by the MEK in which they utilized a charity known as the COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (CHR) in order to provide a front for their fund raising for the MEK's NATIONAL LIBERATION ARMY. The basis of this fraud was that the MEK members and supporters would represent themselves as a non-profit group of doctors and nurses fund raising for starving Iranian refugee children. They would then send the money to bank accounts in Turkey where it would be laundered through a sophisticated money laundering ring before being sent on to Iraq to fund the MEK's terrorist operation. From these Turkish bank accounts a similar MEK front known as the COUNCIL TO MONITOR HUMAN RIGHTS (CHRI) was discovered in the Washington D.C. area. This resulted in a joint Los Angeles/WFO investigation which led to Cologne, Germany and Paris, France. The Cologne, Germany
portion of this case was taken down in December 2001. The French portion was taken down in June 2003 and resulted in the arrests of 165 MEK members and supporters, 17 of who were charged for terrorism violations.

In Los Angeles the investigation resulted in 7 arrests and 5 searches of the MEK leaders and their respective locations, including the main MEK base or "kanoon" in Los Angeles. This investigation produced a 59 count indictment of violations of Title 18 USC 2339B ("providing material support to a designated terrorist organization"). This indictment was recently dismissed because U.S. Federal Judge Takasugi found that the entire statute was unconstitutional. This decision has been appealed to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals and was argued in September 2003. A decision is pending.

18. OPERATION LION HUNTER: Since 04/26/01, Los Angeles has been investigating efforts by the MEK to re-establish a Los Angeles cell which had been dismantled as the result of a previous Los Angeles investigation. The MEK leadership, from it's European base of operations in France, has tasked a Los Angeles Cooperating Witness to gather intelligence in Los Angeles for use by the MEK in planning their operations worldwide.

The Los Angeles CW has maintained contact with Paris-based ALI AKBAR HAGHIGHI, aka SEYED, aka BROTHER MOSLEM and MAHMOOD KELMOOR, aka JAMSHID, aka BROTHER REZVAN regarding the MEK's operations in Los Angeles. The CW has identified HAGHIGHI as being one of the highest ranking members of the MEK's Intelligence Unit outside of MEK headquarters in Iraq. HAGHIGHI agreed to pay the CW every month for his services. The CW has, to date, received $19,500 from the MEK which the CW has provided to the FBI as evidence.

The CW continued to consensually record the three or more weekly telephone calls with HAGHIGHI and KELMOOR up until the June 2003 French take down of the MEK at the Auvers Sur Oise location. During the conversations, HAGHIGHI and KELMOOR have identified the significant intelligence gathering efforts of the MEK in Los Angeles. HAGHIGHI has also linked the MEK to the ALAMOOT SOCIETY, a radical Los Angeles based Iranian group led by HAMID SAMANI a MEK supporter.

The CW had traveled operationally to Paris for meetings with HAGHIGHI, KELMOOR and IBRAHIM ZAKERI (now deceased), the head of the MEK Intelligence Section. HAGHIGHI and KELMOOR continued to provide the CW with information regarding the MEK's future plans for gathering intelligence and fund-raising in the United States and Europe and contingencies upon the U.S. led invasion of Iraq.
This investigation had also developed information suggesting that in exchange for utilizing bases in Iraq, the MEK was tasked by Iraq to gather intelligence of interest to Iraq via MEK sources located throughout the world.

The CW had also developed valuable information regarding the activities of MOHAMMAD SEYED MOHADESIN, the MEK Secretary of State, and ABOULGHASSEM REZAEI, the head of the MEK Intelligence Section at the Auvers Sur Oise location, the MEK headquarters in France.

Primarily based on this and previous Los Angeles investigations, Los Angeles, WFO, LEGAT Paris, FBHQ and the French DST initiated a joint long-term investigation of the MEK. The DST detailed the goal of their investigation as the complete dismantlement of the MEK base at the Auvers Sur Oise location near Paris. During the meeting, the DST indicated that future travel of the Los Angeles CW to Paris would be of great benefit to the DST investigation and the dismantlement of Auvers Sur Oise.

On June 17, 2003, The French DST conducted a large scale operation which resulted in numerous search warrants to include the "Auvers Sur Oise" Location, 165 investigative detentions, 25 arrests, and 17 international indictments. Joint ongoing investigation is planned to resume in this case after September 2003, as the French have requested time to complete investigation and evaluate results prior to continued joint investigation.

19. Joint Investigation, Australia AFP.

The FBI and the Australian AFP conducted a joint investigation of a known MEK member MOHAMMAD REZA MARSALI-MARKIEH and his associates. MARSALI-MARKIEH was found to have been involved in monetary wire transfers between himself and a Los Angeles subject ALIREZA MOHAMADMORADI. Funds were moved between the two and then on to the complex web of MEK money laundering in Europe.

Los Angeles special agents traveled to Australia in May 2003 and participated in searches at the residence of MARSALI-MARKIEH and his associates. Evidence found at this location directly connected the Los Angeles FBI investigation to that of the Australian AFP investigation of the MEK. The MEK group in Australia was uncovered during OPERATION EASTERN MONEY when they began to appear on conference calls with the Los Angeles MEK cell during planning calls with the MEK's Auvers Sur Oise location. Recently in November 2004, MARSALI-MARKIEH was
denied entry to the U.S. and deported back to Australia upon his arrival in Washington D.C.

20. Planned Joint Investigation, Swedish SAPO/Police.

The Swedish SAPO and National Police have expressed an interest to LEGAT Copenhagen in conducting joint investigation of the MEK with Los Angeles. The FBI has conducted some preliminary joint investigation and has exchanged at least one International Letter Rogatory with Sweden regarding ongoing MEK investigation.

21. Letters Rogatory and MLATS:

Currently Los Angeles is working with the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Central District of California to obtain financial records for the MEK's international money laundering operation from various countries by legal means in accordance with DOJ protocols. These include Letters of Rogatory for Sweden, Norway, Germany, Turkey, and Jordan, and Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLATs) with France.

To date Los Angeles has received information from all of these countries and is in the process of analyzing the data received. The information from Turkey was used directly in the affidavit for the OPERATION EASTERN MONEY arrests. It is anticipated that an MLAT would be generated for Italy to request through official channels any information deemed mutually beneficial during the December 2004 planning conference with Italian Counterterrorism investigators.

E. Iraq Investigation.

22. In April 2004, an FBI team returned from Iraq. In Iraq, the FBI team traveled to Ashraf, Iraq and where they conducted over 175 interviews of MEK members and MEK defectors. FBI interviewers developed a wealth of information during these interviews and developed a number of witnesses. One witness in particular was returned to the U.S. This witness was in a senior position within the MEK and has a wealth of information about MEK ongoing and past activities. The Witness is currently being fully debriefed and is anticipated to testify in the Los Angeles prosecution of MEK leaders and may be in a position to testify in Europe should it be requested through MLAT.

23. Currently, a number of U.S. citizens were found to be MEK members in Iraq. These individuals are currently pending prosecution and may be returned to the U.S. in the near future.
for prosecution. The FBI established a database of all known MEK members at the MEK's Ashraf base in Iraq. This database is available should it be requested through MLAT.
In anticipation of potential interviews of Mujahedin-E Khalq (MEK) members who are detained in Iraq, the following is a guide containing sample questions grouped by detainee category, lessons learned from past interviews, and background material on MEK ideology that may prove helpful in interviews:

BACKGROUND

The Iranian Mujahedin or Mujahedien-E Khalq is a designated foreign terrorist organization. In October 1997, based on the Anti Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 passed into law by the U.S. Congress and signed by President Bill Clinton, the U.S. State Department under Madeline Albright designated the MEK as a foreign terrorist organization.

This designation was made due to the MEK's long and violent history of past terrorist activity directed against U.S. personnel and the U.S. Embassy in Iran during the 1970s, the assassinations of multiple Americans, the MEK's ongoing acts of terrorism in Iran, and the MEK's past terrorist activities in Western Countries to include hostage taking and attacks on Iranian diplomatic establishments and officials. This designation was also made to send the message that the U.S. had taken the high road on terrorism and would designate any foreign group engaged in terrorist activity abroad to include not only groups that target U.S. interests, but terrorists groups that target any sovereign nation.

This designation of the MEK has been renewed every two years in October in the years 1999, 2001, and 2003. This designation has been challenge twice by the MEK in the D.C. Circuit. In both cases the designation has been left legally intact. In Los Angeles an indirect challenge to the designation was attempted by leaders of the MEK cell in Los Angeles after their arrest for violations of Title 18 USC 2339 "providing material support to a designated foreign terrorist organization". They were initially charged for fund raising in Los Angeles to include fraudulently fund raising at LAX under a front charity organization. The MEK members claimed that they were not granted due process to challenge the designation individually and their constitutional rights were violated. A lower court Judge in the Central District of California agreed with them and granted a motion to dismiss and the case and threw out the indictment against these MEK cell leaders. This decision has been appealed in the 9th Circuit of Appeals and a decision, having heard oral arguments in September 2003, is pending. The prosecutors in this case are optimistic of the outcome of the 9th Circuit's decision.
The MEK which is known to their members as the "mujahedin" or "Iranian mujahedin" or "Peoples Mojahedin of Iran (PMOI)" is lead by a Charismatic "cult-like" figure known as Masoud Rajavi. The organization is broken down into three main branches.

**The National Liberation Army (NLA).** This is the main military or terrorist branch of the organization. This group is based in Iraq and was headquartered at the base known as "Ashraf" named for Masoud Rajavi's first wife. The NLA at one time boasted a 30,000 strong fighting force that utilized men and women as combatants. The MEK was in continuous liaison with the Iraqi Mukhabarat secret service. In particular the M-9 division. The NLA was the "focus of main effort" for the MEK and all other groups within the organization were and still are for that matter in support of this group. Currently all that remains of the NLA are the approximate 3800 detainees/protectees at Ashraf and possibly a small group of NLA fighters who got out of the MEK camps prior to the invasion by the U.S. led Coalition.

**The National Council of Resistance (NCR).** This is the main political body of the MEK. It is led by Maryam Rajavi who was recently arrested on June 17, 2003 on terrorism charges in Paris France. The NCR is a large "parliamentary type" organization that conducted regular sessions in Baghdad, Iraq and at the "Ashraf" location. MEK propaganda often claims that the NCR is made up of all Iranian resistance groups fighting to overthrow the current Iranian government. However, 85 to 95 percent of the NCR is composed of current MEK members. The remaining 5 to 15 percent are avid MEK supporters that are heavily involved in the MEK's worldwide support network. Based on this fact and ongoing investigation the NCR was added to the list of designated foreign terrorist organization as an alias or front organization for the MEK by the U.S. State Department.

**Support Network.** The MEK utilized a worldwide support network to control MEK activities outside of Iraq, fund the NLA, and lobby Middle Eastern and Western countries for political support. This Support Network operation was headquartered at the MEK's main base outside of Iraq located in Paris, France at a location known as the "Auvers Sur Oise". This location was infiltrated by joint investigation by the FBI and the French DST and resulted in the arrests of Maryam Rajavi, the current wife of the Masoud Rajavi, along with multiple other MEK subjects. This case was originally predicated on a FBI case that resulted in the arrests of MEK cell leaders in Los Angeles for fund raising in February 2001 and a subsequent joint operation between the FBI and the Cologne Police Department in December 2001. Since these arrests in Los Angeles, Germany, and France, other foreign governments have begun to dismantle this support network in Australia, England, and Sweden.

MEK propaganda claims that the three above groups are
distinct and independent organizations, however FBI and other agency investigation has independently learned that these three groups are interrelated and mutually supportive and are in fact the three branches of the MEK, all of which are controlled directly by Masoud and Maryam Rajavi. During the operation against the Support Network in France and the arrest of Maryam Rajavi, these same fanatical members, that according to their propaganda had nothing to do with the MEK, actually, in some cases, lit themselves on fire in protest in multiple European countries. An attempt at this self immolation was even made in Washington D.C.

MEK IDEOLOGY.

The MEK, in addition to being a foreign terrorist organization, is a "cult". Masoud Rajavi has ultimate power over the members, fighters, and often the supporters of this organization. Masoud Rajavi is viewed as a spiritual leader as well as a commander-in-chief. MEK members and supporters often indicate that Rajavi makes his decision based on input from God who he regularly consults with. The MEK is an Islamic organization and follows the Shi'a sect of Islam.

Individual members, supporters, and fighters have a romantic view of a utopian society in Iran run by the MEK. They have even set up a government made up of NLA and NCR members that will assume power when they, in their minds, ultimately, take control of Iran. Practically, common sense would dictate that this is impossible based on the sheer size of the Iranian military, a society that views the MEK as traitorous terrorists who kill their own people and have sided with Saddam Hussein, and the recent occupation of Iraq. Despite these odds this "cult-like" organization maintains the same rhetoric and believes that they are nearer than ever to assuming power in Iran.

The MEK practices daily "cult-like" activity to include daily confessions in front of their peers (called "Ameleant Jari" in Farsi), dissolution of marriages, and removal of children from their parents. Dissenters are immediately removed from the remaining MEK members/supporters/fighters. It is well documented that MEK members who defect from the organization are hunted down and demonized as Iranian regime agents. The MEK was even known to operate their own prison nicknamed the "hotel" prior to the invasion by Coalition forces. At this location it is documented that MEK members would often torture their own members.

NLA fighters are separated from their children who are sent to Europe and brought up by the MEK's Support Network. Investigation has learned that these children are then further indoctrinated into the organization and are often used for various social benefit fraud such as was revealed during joint FBI/Cologne Police Department investigation in Germany. In one
case one of the children was chained to a bed and only after her escape and report to local police was the fraud scheme discovered. Interviews of some of these MEK children found children fully indoctrinated into a "cult-like" organization with no regard to the welfare of the child. These children are then returned to the NLA to be used as fighters upon coming of age. Interviews also revealed that some of these children were told that their parents would be harmed if the children did not cooperate with the MEK. Open source reporting from defecting MEK members has revealed that MEK fighters are often told the same story about their children should they take issue with MEK leadership and desire to leave the organization.

One area that may be used to help interviews would be to work on the natural parental instinct of those MEK's fighters whose children have been removed from them.

Lastly on Ideology is the fact that multiple MEK members/supporters lit themselves on fire to protest the arrest of Maryam Rajavi. There were seven confirmed incidents of this self immolation and multiple attempts, to include at least one in the U.S. This blind loyalty is an obvious sign that this is organization has a strong ideological base and fanatical "cult-like" loyalty. Thus defectors would most likely be the best source of information on the activities inside the organization. Members/supporters/fighters who remain loyal to the organization are less likely to provide any details of value about the MEK itself.

**NCR / MEK Argument.**

The MEK is indoctrinated to answer that the NCR is a overall umbrella organization that includes multiple Iranian resistance groups to include the MEK. Most of the lower level members may not be aware that the NCR is made up almost entirely of MEK members or supporters. Thus, lines of questioning on this matter are most likely to produce the same propaganda answer. One approach that may be utilized is to ask the interviewee, *"What role does the NCR play in convincing the world that the MEK is the right solution for Iran?"* This approach essentially shows that the NCR is the political branch of the MEK without beating them over the head with the question.

**MEK INTERVIEW BASICS**

MEK members/supporters/fighters are Iranian. They are "Persians" not Arabs. They fundamentally would be insulted to be called an Arab. They speak Farsi not Arabic. They tend to be aristocratic in their view of Middle Eastern History. Iranians tend to see themselves as members of a higher race with roots in ancient empires that date back thousands of years.
MEK members/supporters/fighters do not use the term "M E K". It is highly likely they would not even know what the interviewer was talking about should this term be used. As the MEK MKO or PMOI are all English acronyms they may not recognize these either. The best term to use when referring to their organization is "mojahedin" or "mujahedin" or "Iranian mojahedin".

For interviews, allowing the individual member to discuss the evils of the current Iranian regime to get them talking can be used effectively to elicit confessions as to their knowledge of MEK terrorist activity. One example of this deals with the designation of the MEK by the U.S. as a terrorist organization.

"Did you know the MEK was designated as a terrorist organization by the U.S. State Department?"

Most likely Answer: NO

Better, keeping in mind the MEK ideology, the question should be asked:

"Tell me why you are fighting the Iranian regime." Then after a most likely lengthy speech the question can be asked, "Well...how then did it make you feel when the U.S. designated the MEK as a terrorist organization?"

If this question was asked outright without letting the indoctrinated MEK member talk about the evils of the Iranian regime, the outcome may be very similar to the first question. Set up questions that laud the "noble" fight (in their minds) of the MEK against the Iranian regime can be used for most "sticky" questions.

For example:

"So the mujahedin is really interested in fighting the current Iranian government...is that correct?"

"Tell me how the Saddam Hussein government helped the mujahedin fight the Iranian government?"

In this example the mujahedin member/supporter/fighter may start giving details of methods that the Iraqi government helped the MEK.

"In the new government once the Iranian regime falls, what will the relationship be with Iraq...since Saddam Hussein helped the MEK?"

"What are some of the ways that Saddam Hussein helped the mujahedin with their struggle against the Iranian regime?"
"How did the mujahedin return the favor of Saddam Hussein?"

Again as in past example if the interviewer pays deference to the struggle of the mujahedin members against the Iranian regime, the indoctrination will kick in to trigger in their mind to go ahead and answer the question and most likely answer the question passionately.

Iranian's are very emotional people. Time should be spent to show interest in the individual and to establish an emotional bond. One way this has been done in Los Angeles to build report is to sit with the interviewee for some time as a companion during processing. When MEK members are arrested in Los Angeles in the past they have immediately bonded with the arresting agent by the arresting agent merely accompanying the MEK member/supporter through the different stages of the arrest process. This is true in most arrest situation, but due to the Iranian emotional mind tends to be magnified or exaggerated. Basic interview techniques such as health and comfort question, or family and well being questions tend to work very well with Iranians in building this emotional bond.

With this in mind once a basic emotional bond can be established a line of questioning dealing with the current Iranian regime and reflecting a perception that the interviewer hates the Iranian regime as much as the MEK member/supporter/fighter may go to establishing this emotional bond.

Only once an emotional bond can be achieved should substantive questioning begin. Even throughout the substantive questioning phase interviewers should return periodically to improve the emotional bond with the MEK member/supporter/fighter.

Interviewers should keep in mind that membership in the MEK is a significant step in MEK hierarchy or leadership cadre. It is safe to say that only the high echelon leadership will most admit to being MEK members. This situation is very analogous to the Italian Mafia in which a "made-man" or "made-member" of a La Cosa Nostra family is very important and though individuals in the organization may be soldiers for a "made-man" they themselves are yet not members or "made-men". Thus, an MEK fighter may not view himself as a member of the MEK but simply a lowly soldier. It is irrelevant for the purposes of the interview to pin the MEK fighter down and have them admit that they are a member of the organization. The same can be achieved by allowing the fighter to talk about their position in the organization and thus allow us to determine from his position and responsibility his level of membership.

For example MEK fund raisers in Los Angeles when interviewed denied membership in the MEK. When finally confronted as to their involvement in the organization they admitted that they
fund raised on behalf of the MEK and that they were part of the LA cell but adamantly denied that they were high enough in their organization to call themselves members. Thus it was learned that the MEK has a different definition of the term member or "ozv" in Farsi than the FBI. An MEK fighter may have conducted bombings in Iran on behalf of the MEK, been on assassination missions, and traveled to Europe to fund raise for the organization and may in his mind still call himself "sympat" or sympathizer.

Thus, with these ideas in mind the interview of an MEK member/fighter/supporter should be broken down into the following phases:

1. Initial Emotional Bonding/Rapport Building
2. Introduction
3. Emotional Bonding/Rapport Building
4. Biographical Data (Possible Advice of Rights)
5. Venting against the Iranian regime
6. Substantive Questions
7. Reestablishing Emotional Bond/Rapport
8. Substantive Questions
9. Needs of the Detainee

**Initial Emotional Bonding.** Ceremony is very important to Iranians. Men should never touch women. Greetings can be long winded and flowery. Politeness is very important. Paying respect to the detainee from the beginning of introduction is very important. Long hand shakes and statements about the detainees well being is important in establishing this initial emotional bond.

Explaining that the interviewer is of very high rank is an honor to the interviewee. MEK members though fully indoctrinated are still Iranian and will always be looking to make a deal and thus being of high rank is very important in eventually gaining their cooperation. If the MEK members thinks you are low rank he will be less inclined to believe you can personally help him based on this emotional bond and thus less likely to cooperate. Flags for this would be if they say they are only willing to talk to the interviewers boss or to someone high in the FBI organization.

**Introduction.** The introduction should explain that the detainee is about to be interviewed by the FBI to better understand the MEK's position. There is no need to inform the detainee of the true nature of the interview. If the detainee believes based on his indoctrination that there is a chance he may turn the interviewer in his favor he is more likely to cooperate with the interview. One example would be for the interviewer to tell the detainee that the fate of the MEK is depended on their cooperation and that this interview is being
conducted to give them an opportunity to tell the FBI their story.

At this point an emotional bond has probably not yet been established, so it may be too soon to Advise the interviewee of his rights.

Emotional Bonding. MEK detainees are in a real hard spot based on their current circumstances. Showing empathy to their current situation may go a long way to build an emotional bond with the interviewee. Discussions which include the MEK member/supporter/fighter's living situation, his family, location of family members, sports, dreams for the future, hobbies, jokes, and artistic ideas like poetry, or music will help build the emotional bond needed to conduct a successful interview.

A good test to see if that bond or rapport is being developed can be seen in the reaction of the interviewee when someone new enters the room. If the interviewee looks to the interviewer for acceptance to continue the discussion they are asking for permission to continue talking in front of this new person. If a male interviewee attempts to hold the hand of the male interviewer this is a good sign that an emotional bond has been established and should not be discouraged. Despite Western or more accurately American customs to the contrary this is very common among Iranians.

Biographical Information. It is a good place to start once this bond is being established. If asked politely in story format this can enhance the emotional bond.

It is only after the interviewer has established this emotional bond should the interview proceed with admonishments of rights and the potential introduction of DOJ modified Advice of Rights form for overseas investigations, for persons potentially in violation of U.S. Law, i.e. interviewers of U.S. citizens at the MEK camp.

Venting. MEK members/supporters/fighters have been through years of ideological training and for a lack of better word "brain washing". Allowing them to vent about the evils of the Iranian regime though not in line with the objectives of the interview will go along way to disarm the interviewee. An interviewer can privately tell the interviewee that he agrees with the MEK in their hatred of the Iranian regime and perhaps something can be worked out for them by their cooperation. This venting once reaching a mutual agreement can then be turned into the substantive questioning.

Key Iranian leaders name they may discuss are:

Mullah. Iranian Shi'a Spiritual leader or cleric.
Ayatollah Khamanie Spiritual Leader of Iran, successor to Ayatollah Khomeini.

Khatami. Current President of Iran. Seen by the west as a moderate Mullah. Won out against the Islamic conservative former Iranian President Rajsanjani.

Substantive Questions. As mentioned above the key to obtaining confessions or admissions regarding substantive questions is giving the MEK member/supporter/fighter a set up question that allows him to believe he is helping himself and the interviewer and thus helping his situation by telling the truth.

At this point the interviewee should be identified as to falling into one or more of the following categories:

MEK members/supporters/fighters who are U.S. citizens.
or
MEK members/supporters/fighters who are USPERS but not yet U.S. citizens.
or
MEK members/supporters/fighters who are non-USPERS but lived in the U.S. at one point in the past.

MEK Financial people involved in the world wide fund raising operation for the MEK.

MEK defectors.

MEK leaders.

Questions at this point should be tailored to fit the individual. See attached lists of questions that pertain to separate interviewee categories. Basic Law enforcement "minimization" should be utilized in the interviews. For instance one can talk about their armed struggle in place of terrorist activity. However, be cognizant that too much "minimization" will cause the Iranian interviewee to possibly lie to please the interviewer.

Examples of this might include questions asked as follows:

"You say your struggle or war is with the current Iranian government and not the U.S....Then what have you done to bring down this Iranian government that the U.S. has characterized as part of the Axis of Evil? What training have you had that may be useful?"

This line of questioning may provide an opportunity for the MEK member/supporter/fighter to talk about what he has personally
done in the MEK's armed struggle. For those U.S. citizens that are potentially looking at criminal violations for traveling to Iraq and joining a designated foreign terrorist organization the answers here may serve as an admission that they engaged in terrorist activity.

A bad example of this would be:

"Have you engaged in any terrorist activity?"

**Reestablishing Emotional Bond.** Once a MEK member/supporter/fighter is talking and answering questions, it is important to go back and reestablish the emotional bond with the interviewee. One way this can be done is to go back and thank the interviewee for his help and let him know that you agree with what he is saying. Encourage him that this will help his case. This is important because during the interview the interviewee may become suspicious of the line of substantive questions should they come one after another. Without returning to emotional bond building discussions.

**Additional Substantive Questions.** Care should be taken not to end the interview on bad news or difficult lines of questioning. The interviewee should feel as his cooperation is helping his case. Under no circumstances should the interviewer tell the interviewee the exact purpose of the interview as this interviewee will most likely tell subsequent interviewees as to the lines of questioning. However, the interviewer may tell the interviewee that the people who help the most will be given consideration sooner than those who provide sketchy or incomplete information. No need to specify what the "consideration" they will be given is, i.e. possible prosecution. Final questions should be opened ended questions such as:

"How could you help the U.S. government against the Iranian regime?"

Or, "What will you do when you are done here?"

**Needs of the Detainee.** Interviewees should be left open for subsequent follow-on interviews. One technique that may work on this matter is to ask the interviewee, what his needs are. Invariably, they will have some need or want and this is a good opportunity to say to them, "I will work on that and see what I can do about it, when we talk next I will let you know what I am going to do about your problem".
Sample Substantive Questions.

Interviews of MEK members/supporters/fighters can never be exactly the same. However, the following sets of substantive questions can be utilized to give the interviewer a good picture as to the interviewees involvement and activities inside the MEK. To follow are specific questions that should be covered to satisfy the elements for possible U.S. prosecution and to open the door to potential general subsequent questions with intelligence value. These questions are broken down in to sub categories based on the nature of the interview. Following these specific questions that have been submitted by FBIHQ that are more general in nature. These questions have been grouped into the following categories for MEK subjects:

- MEK members/supporters/fighters who are U.S. citizens.
  or
- MEK members/supporters/fighters who are USPERs but not yet U.S. citizens.
  or
- MEK members/supporters/fighters who are non-USPERs but lived in the U.S. at one point in the past.

MEK Financial people involved in the world wide fund raising operation for the MEK.

MEK defectors.

MEK leaders.

It should be noted that some of the interviewees may fall into more than one of these categories.

Control question. We should start with one of the Substantiate questions as a control question to know if they will be lying to us or not. After the first few rounds of questioning the control question should be given as:

"Have you heard other persons who have been interviewed discussing the questions or the nature of the interviews?" if yes; Who and what did they say? If the answer is no; then it is a good indication that the subject will not be truthful during the interview.
U.S. Citizens and USPERs

MEK members/supporters/fighters who are U.S. citizens.

or;
MEK members/supporters/fighters who are USPERs but not yet U.S. citizens. USPER = U.S. Person, i.e. green card holders or individuals granted asylum.

or;
MEK members/supporters/fighters who are non-USPERs but lived in the U.S. at one point in the past.

For these interviews one of the main objectives is to show that the MEK member/supporter/fighter traveled from the U.S. to Iraq to join the MEK, knowing full well that the MEK was 1) a foreign terrorist organization engaged in violent terrorist activity such as bombings and assassinations; or 2) that the MEK was designated by the U.S. as a foreign terrorist organization. Of course if they are out-right just asked this question the answer will be "NO I wasn't aware of that" which by all information and evidence will be a lie.

The following questions can be utilized to satisfy the same "knowing" requirement.

"I am going to ask you a few questions that will establish your ties to the U.S."

Tell me why you left Iran?

When did you come to the U.S.?

You know the longer you lived in the U.S. the better? How long did you live in the U.S.?

What was your INS or immigration situation in the U.S.?

Where you Naturalized? When? Where?

What name did you use in the U.S.?

Did you have a bank account in the U.S.?

Did you have a job in the U.S.? Where did you work?

Did you attend school in the U.S.?

Were you married in the U.S.? Divorced? Kids?

Who did you live with in the U.S. that will vouch for you? What city did you live in? Did you attend school in the U.S.?
What kind of visa did you use to come to the U.S.? Did you have a visa?

Tell me about why you choose the U.S. as the place to live in after Iran? What other countries did you consider? Why the U.S. over those countries?

Why is the MEK the best alternative to the current Iranian government?

When were you in the U.S. last?

Why did you go back to the MEK?

What is the MEK doing to fight the "evil" Iranian regime? (get details of any bombings or assassinations or other violent acts they talk about. If it appears that they are reluctant to admit that they participated in any of these violent acts the interviewer can minimize by talking about how it was their duty as an NLA soldier to participate and follow orders. Also, one can talk about how willing they would be to fight the Iranian regime in the future and compare that to what they have previously done)

What steps do they take to minimize civilian casualties?

How did it make you feel when the MEK was designated as a foreign terrorist organization by your country, the U.S.? When did you hear about it?

Does the MEK get all their money from Saddam Hussein? "NO" Well...then where does the money come from? Is there a lot of support from Western Countries like the U.S.? Who does the monetary support come from? Have you ever helped the MEK with money to fight the Iranian regime? Did that money go to the MEK? How do you know the money went to the MEK? How about Iranians in the U.S.? Are there Iranians in the U.S. who support the MEK?

Why do Iranians in the U.S. support the MEK? So the designation really made you mad? Was this designation have anything to do with Washington trying to please the Iranian regime.

Did you every think about leaving the MEK? Why or why not?

Do you plan on returning to the U.S.? Now that you are a citizen? What about the designation of the MEK as a foreign terrorist organization by the U.S.?
Financial Questions.

MEK Financial people involved in the world wide fund raising operation for the MEK.

The MEK operated a worldwide money laundering scheme that utilized fund raising charities and human rights organization to launder and transmit money to support the MEK's NLA. As it turns out a number of the key account holders are currently in custody and may be able to provide vital information on the MEK fund raising operation. The following questions may be utilized to properly interview these people:

Tell me why you left Iran?

When did you leave Iran?

Where did you settle? Did you visit any countries before this? What was your immigration status in this country?

Why did you become involved with the Iranian resistance or the MEK?

Why is the MEK the best solution for Iran?

What is the best way to take power from the Iranian Mullahs that control Iran?

If the U.S. chooses to support the MEK against Iran, what will be your role with the MEK? Are you a combatant? Or are you just responsible for the money?

What accounts are you responsible for?

Who sends you money to this account?

Where do you send the money next?

Does Saddam support the MEK exclusively? Or does the MEK get their money from multiple sources? Like who? Do all the people who give the MEK money support a new free Iran? (let them talk about this ideology)

How exactly does the MEK get their money? If the U.S. chooses to support the MEK will the MEK continue to get money from these sources? Will the MEK supporters to continue to give money? How will this money get to the NLA?

How did the money get to the NLA in the past?

What are some of the MEK charities to help the Iranian
resistance or MEK? What are biggest ones? Who runs them?

Which banks are used? Are some banks better than others? Are some countries better to operate in than others? Why?

How many members of the U.S. Congress support the MEK. How do you get this support? Who is in charge of lobbying? Who funds this activity? Which Congressman get the most MEK money?

Where do the MEK get their weapons from? Is Saddam reimbursed for these arms?

What is the Committee for Human Rights in Iran (CHR)? Committee to Monitor Human Rights in Iran? Iran Aid?

What other organization are used by the MEK to facilitate the movement of money?
Defectors

Reports have indicated that there are 143 MEK defectors who are willing to talk to U.S. Investigators. The MEK has a long history, based on their authoritative "cult-like" ways of producing dissatisfied members/supporters/fighters. These people usually are genuine and can be asked more direct questions about the MEK these same questions can be found after at the end of this report. Care should be taken recognize that these defectors still hate the Iranian regime but most likely also hate the MEK.

Specific questions that should be included in these include the above questions as well as the specific questions designed by FBIHQ that follow. Additionally these are good questions to ask:

Why did you leave the MEK?
When were you in Iran last? Europe?

Have you ever had contact with Iranian forces that caused you to leave the MEK, i.e. contact with an Iranian intelligence or military unit?

Did the MEK ever torture you?
Were you or your family ever tortured by the MEK?
Were you threatened by the MEK?
What was your motivation to leave?

Did the leadership of the MEK ever discuss the U.S. or European Union designation of the MEK as a foreign terrorist organization?

What is in the Iraqi bunkers? Did you ever see WMD material at MEK camps or elsewhere in Iraq?

Were you aware of any specific terrorist acts conducted by the MEK?

What do you know about the relationship between Saddan Hussein’s government and the MEK? Any connections between the MEK and the Mukhabarat, or directorate M-9? Do you know any Mukhabarat

Where is Masoud Rajavi now? When did you see him last?

Did other non-Iranian fighters from other terrorist organizations like Hamas or Al Qaeda train with the MEK?
Are there other MEK bases outside of Iraq? or Pakistan? or Indonesia? or Europe? or the Former Soviet Union countries?

Are their any high ranking MEK leaders in this camp that are hiding?

What do they know about he takeover of the U.S. Embassy?

How about the assassination of U.S. Military leaders in the 1970s in Iran? Is anyone at the camp responsible for these acts?

What did they do with the display of the killed Americans that was in their museum?

Tell about the MEK's operation in France? Auvers Sur Oise location?

Tell about the MEK's operation in Germany? Bagharzadeh, or Nikohosseini Locations?

Tell about the MEK's operation in the U.S.? Washington D.C. or Los Angeles?

Are there any MEK members/supporters/fighters in the surrounding towns or countryside that are not known to the U.S. forces?

Are there any non-Iranians in custody in the camp?

Are there any non-Iranian Iraqi in the surrounding countryside who are helping the MEK?
MEK Leaders

MEK leaders are fully indoctrinated in MEK culture and are less likely to provide any actual information. It is possible that being in a leadership situation they realize the dismal future of their organization and may be willing to defect or at least cooperate to better their situation. In this event they should be questioned as the Defectors to include the supplemental FBIHQ designed questions. If not care should be taken not to "telegraph" the true intentions of the interview teams. For fully indoctrinated leaders unwilling to cooperate the following are good questions:

What is your position in the MEK?

Who is the commander/leader that is responsible over you? What is his rank?

What is your rank?

Who are your ranking subordinates that you directly supervise?

What is your responsibility?

What are they willing to do against the Iranian government to gain the support of the U.S.?

What does the future hold for the MEK? If the U.S. chooses to support them?

What do you know about the relationship between Saddam Hussein’s government and the MEK?

Do you know anyone in the Iraqi Mukhabart (Iraqi intelligence service)? (explore nature of this relationship).

What were your instruction in the event of war between the U.S. and Iraq?

Any connections between the MEK and the Mukhabart, or Directorate M-9?

Where does Saddam Hussein hide his WMD? What is in the 50 Iraqi bunkers in or adjacent to Ashraf?.

Would you consider cooperating with the U.S. government if we could guarantee your safety? (Meaning testify and become a U.S. witness) (for high ranking members).
**FBIHQ questions**

These questions will most likely need to be reworded as they are more interrogation then interview questions, but are important details that can be asked if we find MEK members/supporter/fighters who start talking. Used by themselves they may be too confrontational based on the safety concerns for the interview teams and will clearly tip off the MEK as to the true intentions of the interview mission.

If MEK members are determined by investigation and interview to be cooperative and likely to answer questions that would hurt the MEK, then they will be asked as is.

How do you attract new people to your movement? How do you attract people from Iran? How do you attract from Western countries, especially those younger individuals who grew up outside Iran?

Do you actively recruit or do individuals come to you? If you recruit, where do you spot people? What is the assessment process for new recruits? Do you conduct background checks?

Is there a hierarchy of MEK offices internationally? Do all MEK groups report individually to the leadership in France?

How do the leaders in France disseminate instructions? Are there teleconferences? Is there communication via e-mail or other electronic means?

How does the MEK raise funds? How many charities or front companies do you operate? How do they go about fund-raising?

How do you transport money? Do you use wire transfers or hand carry funds? Where do these funds go, which banks, which countries?

What is the process of indoctrination for new recruits? How long is the process? What do you do if an individual does not respond or wishes to leave? Is there an out-processing procedure? What is it?

How many of your American members have gone through combat training in Iraq? Who are your American members? Do you know how many reside in the US?

How many members in other countries have gone through combat training? What type of training? Is all training conducted in Iraq?

Is combat training standardized or are there different levels? Do some people get more training than others? How is that decided? Who gets specialized training?
What kind of operational security do you practice? How does that security differ in the United States?

How are operations planned and implemented? Who does the planning? Do operations have to be approved by Maryam or Masoud Rajavi prior to implementation? Who does have to approve operations?

How much autonomy are local MEK groups given? Are local groups organized in any manner or do your members operate in a loose fashion?

What type of military training do your members undergo? What is the training process? What types of weapons are they trained to use?

Do you members go through ideological training? What is the content of this training?

How did you get into Iraq? How long have you been here? Why did you come? How long have you been a member of the MEK? What did you do prior to coming to Iraq?

Have you personally engaged Iranian fighters in combat? Have you fired rockets or conducted other combat attacks against Iranians or Iraqis?

How extensive is the MEK network in Iran? Do they conduct espionage? How do they avoid capture by the Iranian police or IRGC?

What are the MEK’s highest priorities for global intelligence gathering? What issues are most important for collection? How are individuals tasked to collect on these issues? Who issues collection requirements? How are these requirements disseminated? How do members send relevant intelligence back? To whom is it sent?

Is there a process of indoctrination for your indigenous members who do not train in Iraq? What is that process?

Are there military or other types of training in the United States? Do your US members do any type of training to keep up their skills?

Do you have annual meetings of MEK members in the US? Is there any type of nationwide meeting of MEK members to plan and set goals?

How do you go about lobbying members of Congress to your cause? How extensive is your lobbying effort? How much money is spent annually on this effort?

What effect does the disappearance of Masoud Rajavi have on the morale of the group? What effect did the imprisonment of Maryam
Rajavi have on the group? Was there discussion of revenge against the French?

Where will the group relocate once driven from Iraq? Will you try to reconstitute your army in another border country? If not, where will your group go?

What are your day to day activities in Iraq? From whom do you take your orders? What is the normal schedule?

From where did the MEK obtain their arms/military equipment? How do you resupply your arms/equipment? Does any of your equipment or other goods come from the United States? Is it shipped or hand carried by members?

Does the MEK engage in illicit arms or drug smuggling? If so, what is the process and to whom do you sell?

What were the MEK’s activities against the Kurds and the Shia during the ten years after the first Gulf War? Did you perform functions on behalf of Saddam Hussein?

How does the MEK ideologically explain being a Shia group who voluntarily resided in Iraq for nearly twenty years? Does this affect your recruitment efforts?

What types of activities are engaged in by your US members? Are they illegal activities?

What are the names of your affiliated committees and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)? Do they operate autonomously or do they take direction? From whom to they take directions?