

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Assoc. Dir. _____
Dep. AD Adm. _____
Dep. AD Inv. _____
Asst. Dir.: _____
Adm. Serv. _____
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Tech. Servs. _____
Training _____
Public Affs. Off. _____
Telephone Rm. _____
Director's Sec'y _____

TO : Mr. Mullen

DATE: 12/27/79

FROM : W. D. Gow

1 - Mr. Mullen
1 - Mr. Gow
1 - Mr. Ramsey
1 - [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: ABSCAM

PURPOSE: To provide results of a conference which was held on 12/17/79, at FBI Headquarters (FBIHQ), relative to the immediate direction of captioned project.

RECOMMENDATION: None. For information.

APPROVED:

Director _____
Exec. AD-Inv. _____
Exec. AD-Adm. _____
Exec. AD-LES _____
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Tech. Servs. _____
Training _____
Public Affs. Off. _____

DETAILS: On 12/17/79, a conference was held at FBIHQ between ASAC [REDACTED] Newark; SA [REDACTED] Newark; SSRA [REDACTED] Hauppauge Resident Agency; Assistant Section Chief [REDACTED] Unit Chief [REDACTED] and Supervisor [REDACTED] Criminal Investigative Division, FBIHQ. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the immediate thrust of the operation, more particularly, the activities to take place during the week of 1/7/80. It was decided that the following people would be contacted during this week utilizing various scenarios i.e. political asylum for the Arab principal of this project, and mob protection of businesses concerned with casino gambling. Meetings will take place with U. S. Senator Harrison Williams; U. S. Congressman John Murphy; U. S. Congressman John P. Murtha; U. S. Congressman Peter W. Rodino; Philadelphia Attorney Howard Criden; New Jersey State Senator Joseph Maressa; New Jersey State Senator William Musto; Hoboken, New Jersey, Mayor Steven Capiello; Anthony DeLuca and Frank J. Boscia, both of New Jersey.

87-147437-342

6 JAN 17 1980

WJW/aw (5)

ROUTE IN ENVELOPE

56 JAN 18 '80

FBI/DOJ

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION*Memorandum*

TO : Mr. Mullen

FROM : W. D. Gow

SUBJECT: ABSCAM

1 - Mr. Colwell
 1 - Mr. Steel
 1 - Mr. Mullen
 1 - Mr. Revell
 1 - Mr. Gow
 1 -
 1 - Mr. Ramsey
 1 - Mr. Mintz
 (ATTN: Mr. Weaver)
 1 - Mr. R. Long
 (ATTN: Mr.)

DATE: 1/7/80

b6
b7C

Assoc. Dir. _____
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 Dep. AD Inv. _____
 Asst. Dir.:
 Adm. Servs. _____
 Crim. Inv. W
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 Training _____
 Public Affs. Off. _____
 Telephone Rm. _____
 Director's Sec'y _____

PURPOSE: To gain approval for the expenditure of \$75,000 for this operation for the purpose of a bribe to U. S. Congressmen Richard Kelly, Republican, Holiday, Florida, and John P. Murtha, Democrat, Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

SYNOPSIS: Abscam is a solely Bureau funded, controlled undercover operation targeted against major political corrupters, swindlers, and property thieves. During the course of this operation, Abscam has developed prosecutable cases against the mayor of Camden, New Jersey; Vice-Chairman of the New Jersey Casino Control Commission; a U. S. Senator; associates of the Senator; an Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), investigator; five U. S. Congressmen, and one State Senator. Abscam operatives through Gene Ciuizio, who reportedly has Organized Crime ties in Florida, will meet U. S. Congressman Richard Kelly; and through Howard Criden, Philadelphia Attorney, will meet U. S. Congressman John P. Murtha. Both Congressmen, for a bribe of \$25,000 and \$50,000 respectfully, will promise to utilize their position in obtaining political asylum or permanent resident status for Yassir Habib, the Arab principal of Abscam. Chief Federal Strike Force, Eastern District of New York, recommended payoffs be made provided necessary commitments occur.

RECOMMENDATIONS: 1. That authority be granted for the payment of \$25,000, if paid directly, to Richard Kelly, U. S. Congressman of Florida, as a bribe to obtain political asylum or permanent resident status for Yassir Habib.

APPROVED: *W*

Director _____
 Exec. AD-Inv. _____
 Exec. AD-Adm. _____
 Exec. AD-LES _____

Adm. Serv. *rel*
 Crim. Inv. *AN*
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 Public Affs. Off. _____

MDW:kal
(10) *kal*b6
b7C

ROUTE IN ENVELOPE

Same previous requirements - payments to be made personally to the Congressman after their representative situation.

56 JAN 18 '80

FBI/DOJ

W. D. Gow to Mr. Mullen memorandum
RE: ABSCAM

2. That authority be granted for the payment of \$50,000, if paid directly, to John P. Murtha, U. S. Congressman, Pennsylvania, as a bribe to obtain political asylum or permanent resident status for Yassir Habib.

APPROVED: *[Signature]*
Director _____
Exec. AD-Inv. _____
Exec. AD-Adm. _____
Exec. AD-LES _____
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Crim. Inv. _____
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Training _____
Public Affs. Off. _____

3. That if this request is approved, Brooklyn-Queens MRA will be advised to utilize the \$59,500 presently in their possession and previously authorized, but not expended. Therefore, if this request is approved, Administrative Services Division will forward \$15,500 to Brooklyn-Queens MRA in time for this transaction.

APPROVED: *[Signature]*
Director _____
Exec. AD-Inv. _____
Exec. AD-Adm. _____
Exec. AD-LES _____
Adm. Serv. _____
Crim. Inv. _____
Ident. _____
Intell. _____
Laboratory _____
Legal Coun. _____
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Training _____
Public Affs. Off. _____

DETAILS: Abscam is a solely Bureau funded, controlled undercover operation targeted against major political corrupters in various Federal and State Government, as well as major swindlers and property thieves. During the course of the operation, Abscam has developed prosecutive Federal cases against Angelo Errichetti, Mayor of Camden, New Jersey; Kenneth McDonald, Vice-Chairman of the New Jersey Casino Control Commission; Harrison Williams, U. S. Senator, New Jersey; Senator Williams; associates Henry A. Williams, III.; Alexander Feinberg; and George Katz; and an INS investigator Al Alexandro; Michael Ozzie Myers, U. S. Congressman, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Raymond F. Lederer, U. S. Congressman, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Frank Thompson, Jr., U. S. Congressman, New Jersey; John M. Murphy, U. S. Congressman, Staten Island, New York; John W. Jenrette, Jr.; U. S. Congressman, South Carolina; and Joseph A. Maressa, New Jersey State Senator.

An Abscam operative, who has been in contact with William Rosenberg, a known conman, and Stanley Weiss, a Long Island accountant, who has Organized Crime ties with John Delmastro,

W. D. Gow to Mr. Mullen memorandum
RE: ABSCAM

a known member of the Luchese family, was introduced to Gene Ciuzio, who reportedly has Organized Crime connections in Florida. Ciuzio has advised that he controls Florida Congressman Richard Kelly, 5th Congressional District, and that Kelly, for an initial payoff of \$25,000 will assure undercover Agents that he will use his congressional position to see to it that Yassir Habib receives political asylum in the United States. This meeting is scheduled for 1/8/80. This meeting will be recorded and videotaped.

Thomas Puccio, Chief, Eastern District of New Jersey, Organized Crime Strike Force, recommends that the payoffs be made to Congressman Kelly if and when he provides the proper commitments concerning utilization of his influence to obtain political asylum for the Arab principal of this project.

FBI, Miami and Tampa indices reflect the following information concerning Congressman Richard Kelly and Eugene Robert Ciuzio: Regarding Kelly, Tampa File 56-0-34, captioned, "Possible Election Law Violations, Congressman Richard Kelly - Complaint," pertains to an unsubstantiated claim by Congressman Kelly and his administrative assistant of a possible election law violation. The basis of the allegation concerned possible ballot tampering in Pasco County, Florida, during Kelly's 1978 re-election for the 5th congressional seat.

Kelly, according to the Miami Office, is listed in the 1978-1979 issue of "Who's Who in America" as being born 7/31/24 at Atlanta, Georgia, as serving as a city attorney for Zephyrhille, Florida, and Assistant U. S. Attorney, District of Florida, 1956-1959. According to this issue, Kelly served as a county judge in the 6th Circuit Court of Florida from 1960-1974.

Regarding Ciuzio, Tampa File 92-1994, captioned, "Eugene Robert Ciuzio, aka Geno, AR" revealed a New York memo to Tampa for general information dated 5/22/75, which indicated that Ciuzio was a former associate of Michael Casale (deceased), a suspected member of the Bonanno LCN family.

Undercover Agents of Abscam operation through Philadelphia Attorney Howard Criden have a meeting arranged for 1/10/80 or 1/11/80 at Washington, D. C., with U. S. Congressman John P. Murtha of Pennsylvania. Criden has assured undercover Agents that U. S. Congressman Murtha, for a payment of \$50,000, will promise to use his influence/position to obtain political asylum and/or permanent resident status for Yassir Habib, the Arab

W. D. Gow to Mr. Mullen memorandum
RE: ABSCAM

principal of Abscam. This meeting will be recorded and videotaped. It should be noted that Criden for the past few months has been hounding Abscam operatives to meet with this Congressman for the purpose set forth above.

Thomas Puccio, Chief, Federal Strike Force, Eastern District of New York, has recommended that the \$50,000 payoff be made to U. S. Congressman Murtha, provided he makes the proper assurances concerning the political asylum scenario.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO Mr. Mullen

FROM W. D. GOW

SUBJECT: ABSCAM

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1 - Mr. Colwell

1 - Mr. Steel

1 - Mr. Mullen

DATE: 1/10/80

1 - Mr. Revell

1 - Mr. Gow

1 - [redacted]

1 - Mr. Ramsey

1 - Mr. Mintz

(Attn: Mr. Weaver)

1 - Mr. R. Long

(Attn: Mr. [redacted])

Assoc. Dir. _____
Dep. AD Adm. _____
Dep. AD Inv. _____
Asst. Dir.: _____
Adm. Servs. _____
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Telephone Rm. _____
Director's Sec'y _____

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b7C

PURPOSE: To gain approval for the expenditure of \$10,000 for this operation for the purpose of providing Howard Criden, a Philadelphia Attorney, a fee for introducing Abscam operatives to U.S. Congressmen Frank Thompson of Pennsylvania, John M. Murphy of Staten Island, New York, and John P. Murtha of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, all Democrats.

SYNOPSIS: Abscam is a solely Bureau funded, controlled under cover operation targeted against major political corrupters, swindlers, and property thieves. During the course of this operation, Abscam has developed prosecutable cases against the mayor of Camden, New Jersey; Vice-Chairman of the New Jersey Casino Control Commission; a U.S. Senator; associates of the Senator; an Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) investigator; seven U.S. Congressmen, and one State Senator. Abscam operatives will be meeting Howard Criden, a Philadelphia Attorney, who has brought three U.S. Congressmen to the operation for bribes of \$50,000 each, on Thursday, January 10, 1980 at Washington, D.C. Criden is requesting \$10,000 for his services. Chief Federal Strike Force, Eastern District of New York recommended payoff be made in order to insure Criden's continued cooperation.

87-147437-361 1/21/80

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RECOMMENDATIONS: 1. That authority be granted for the payment of \$10,000 to Philadelphia Attorney Howard Criden.

APPROVED: _____
Director _____
Exec. AD-Inv. _____
Exec. AD-Adm. _____
Exec. AD-LES _____
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(CONTINUED - OVER)

MDW:pjh (10)



ROUTE IN ENVELOPE

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

FBI/DOJ

1/10/80 2:53 PM
advised paid only \$5,000
to Criden as suggested
by ITSP-TC Unit. W

Memoerandum from W. D. Gow to Mr. Mullen
Re: ABSCAM

2. That if this request is approved, Brooklyn-Queens MRA will be advised to pay the \$10,000 from the \$50,000 presently in their possession and previously authorized, but not expended.

APPROVED: _____

Director _____	Adm. Serv. _____	Legal Coun. _____
Exec. AD-Inv. <u>W</u>	Crim. Inv. <u>W</u>	Plan. & Insp. _____
Exec. AD-Adm. _____	Ident. _____	Rec. Mgnt. _____
Exec. AD-LES _____	Intell. _____	Tech. Servs. _____
	Laboratory _____	Training _____
		Public Affs. Off. _____

DETAILS: Abscam is a solely Bureau funded, controlled undercover operation targeted against major political corrupters in various Federal and State Government, as well as major swindlers and property thieves. During the course of the operations, Abscam has developed prosecutive Federal cases against Angelo Errichetti, Mayor of Camden, New Jersey; Kenneth McDonald, Vice-Chairman of the New Jersey Casino Control Commission; Harrison Williams, U.S. Senator, New Jersey; Senator Williams; associates Henry A. Williams, III; Alexander Feinberg; and George Katz; and an INS investigator Al Alexandro; Michael Ozzie Myers, U.S. Congressman, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Raymond F. Lederer, U.S. Congressman, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Frank Thompson, Jr., U.S. Congressman, New Jersey; John M. Murphy, U.S. Congressman, Staten Island, New York; John W. Jenrette, Jr.; U.S. Congressman, South Carolina; John P. Murtha, U.S. Congressman, Johnstown, Pennsylvania; Richard Kelly, U.S. Congressman, Florida; and Joseph A. Maressa, New Jersey State Senator.

On January 7, 1980 Howard Criden met with Abscam operatives and with U.S. Congressman John P. Murtha from Johnstown, Pennsylvania. This meeting was set up in order to make a payment of \$50,000 to U.S. Congressman Murtha in exchange for his cooperation in gaining permanent resident status for the Arab principal of this operation. During this meeting Murtha pledged his support, however, indicated he would not accept the money at that time. He advised that he was aware that U.S. Congressman Murphy from New York and U.S. Congressman Thompson from New Jersey, had already accepted money and were presently working on the political asylum problem. Subsequent to this meeting Criden indicated that a share of the money to be paid to Murtha was actually to go to U.S. Congressmen Thompson, Murphy and himself. He requested that he be given his share, which would amount to \$10,000.

Thomas Puccio, Chief Federal Strike Force, Eastern District of New York has recommended that the \$10,000 payoff be made to Criden in order to insure his continued cooperation.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Mullen

FROM : W. D. Gow

SUBJECT: ABSCAM

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

DATE: 1/15/80

- 1 - Mr. Colwell
- 1 - Mr. Steel
- 1 - Mr. Mullen
- 1 - Mr. Revell
- 1 - Mr. Gow
- 1 - Mr. []
- 1 - Mr. Ramsey
- 1 - Mr. Mintz
- (Attn: Mr. Weaver)
- 1 - Mr. R. Long
- (Attn: Mr. [])

Assoc. Dir. _____
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Public Affs. Off. _____
Telephone Rm. _____
Director's Sec'y _____

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b7C

PURPOSE: To gain approval for the expenditure of \$40,000 for this operation for the purpose of a bribe to U. S. Senator Harrison Williams of New Jersey.

SYNOPSIS: ABSCAM is a solely Bureau funded, controlled under-cover operation targeted against major political corrupters, swindlers, and property thieves. During the course of this operation, ABSCAM has developed prosecutable cases against the Mayor of Camden, New Jersey; Vice-Chairman of the New Jersey Casino Control Commission; a U. S. Senator; associates of the Senator; an Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) investigator; seven U. S. Congressmen, and one State Senator. An ABSCAM operative will be meeting U. S. Senator Harrison Williams on Tuesday, 1/15/80, at 2:00 p.m. Senator Williams, for a bribe of \$40,000 will promise to utilize his position in obtaining political asylum or permanent resident status for Yassir Habib, the Arab principal of ABSCAM. Chief Federal Strike Force, Eastern District of New York, recommended payoff be made provided necessary commitment occurs.

RECOMMENDATIONS: 1. That authority be granted for the payment of \$40,000, if paid directly to Harrison Williams, U. S. Senator of New Jersey.

APPROVED:

Director _____
Exec. AD-Inv. CF
Exec. AD-Adm. _____
Exec. AD-LES _____

Adm. Serv. _____
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MDW:pdh
(10)

CONTINUED - OVER

ROUTE IN ENVELOPE



Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

FBI/DOJ

72 APR 12 1982

Memo W. D. Gow to Mr. Mullen
RE: ABSCAM

2. That if this request is approved, Brooklyn-Queens MRA will be advised to utilize the \$40,000 presently in their possession and previously authorized but not expended.

APPROVED:

Director _____
Exec. AD-Inv. _____
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Exec. AD-LES _____

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DETAILS: ABSCAM is a solely Bureau funded, controlled undercover operation targeted against major political corrupters in various Federal and State Government, as well as major swindlers and property thieves. During the course of the operation, ABSCAM has developed prosecutive Federal cases against Angelo Errichetti, Mayor of Camden, New Jersey; Kenneth McDonald, Vice-Chairman of the New Jersey Casino Control Commission; Harrison Williams, U. S. Senator, New Jersey; Senator Williams' associates Henry A. Williams, III, Alexander Feinberg, and George Katz; INS Investigator Al Alexandro; Michael Ozzie Myers, U. S. Congressman, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Raymond F. Lederer, U. S. Congressman, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Frank Thompson, Jr., U. S. Congressman, New Jersey; John M. Murphy, U. S. Congressman, Staten Island, New York; John W. Jenrette, Jr., U. S. Congressman, South Carolina; John P. Murtha, U. S. Congressman, Pennsylvania; Richard Kelly, U. S. Congressman, Florida; and Joseph A. Maressa, New Jersey State Senator.

On Saturday, 1/12/80, undercover SAs of ABSCAM operation held a meeting in New York City with George Katz and Alexander Feinberg. They were advised that Yassir Habib, the Arab principal of ABSCAM, was ready to close on the titanium mine venture in which Katz and Feinberg are involved along with U. S. Senator Harrison A. Williams. However, before this takes place, Yassir Habib wants to meet with Senator Williams on 1/15/80 to ask him for one favor, namely that Senator Williams give his personal assurances to Habib that Habib would be granted either political asylum and/or permanent resident status in the United States. Habib intends to offer Senator Williams \$40,000 in cash for these assurances.

Memo W. D. Gow to Mr. Mullen
RE: ABSCAM

Thomas Puccio, Chief, Eastern District of New York, Organized Crime Strike Force, recommends that the payoff be made to Senator Williams if and when he provides the proper commitment concerning the utilization of his influence to obtain political asylum for the Arab principal of this project.

1 - Mr. Gow
1 -
1 - Mr. Ramsey

b6
b7C

1/24/80

To: SACs, Brooklyn/Queens (Enclosure)
Miami (Enclosure)
Newark (Enclosure)
Philadelphia (Enclosure)
WFO (Enclosure)

PERSONAL ATTENTION

From: Director, FBI

ABSCAM:

ITSP

OO: BROOKLYN/QUEENS

Re FBIHQ teletype to captioned offices dated 1/22/80.

Enclosed for each of the above offices is a copy of a memorandum prepared by Irvin B. Nathan, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, to Messrs. Del Tufo, Vaira, Ruff, Margolis, McDowell, Puccio and Stewart dated 1/18/80.

For your information.

MDW/aw (14)

ENCLOSURE

87-147437-401

16 JAN 29 1980

Exec AD Inv. _____
Exec AD Adm. _____
Exec AD LES _____
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Telephone Rm. _____
Director's Sec'y _____

MAIL ROOM ☒

56 JAN 30 '80

FBI/

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

No Duplication Fees are charged for Deleted Page Information Sheet(s).

Total Deleted Page(s) ~ 3

Page 12 ~ b5 per DOJ Criminal Division

Page 13 ~ b5 per DOJ Criminal Division

Page 14 ~ b5 per DOJ Criminal Division