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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE

Date: 11/29/2002

To: Pittsburgh

From: Pittsburgh
Squad 4

Contact: SA [redacted]

Approved By: [redacted]

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Drafted By: [redacted]

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Case ID #: ~~(S)~~ 199-0 (Pending)

Title: ~~(S)~~ IT Matters

Synopsis: ~~(S)~~ To report results of investigation of Pittsburgh anti-war activity.

~~(S)~~ Derived From : G-3
Declassify On: X1

Details: ~~(S)~~ The Thomas Merton Center (TMC), 5125 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, telephone: (412) 361-3022, webpage: www.thomasmertoncenter.org, is a left-wing organization advocating, among many political causes, pacificism.

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~~(S)~~ TMC holds daily leaflet distribution activities in downtown Pittsburgh and is currently focused on its opposition to the potential war with Iraq. According to these leaflets, Iraq does not possess weapons of mass destruction and that, if the United States invades Iraq, Sadam Hussien [sic] will unleash bio-chemical weapons upon American soldiers.

~~(S)~~ TMC advertises its activities on its webpage. On November 24, 2002, TMC coordinated the 8th Annual An-Nass (Humanity) Day at the Islamic Center of Pittsburgh, 4100 Bigelow Blyd., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213. The contact person for this event was Farooq Hussaini of the Islamic Center, work telephone: (412) 622-8838, home telephone: [redacted], email: [redacted], URL: www.icp-pgh.org. The purpose of An-Nass Day was "to bring all people of Pittsburgh together in understanding and respecting each other and also to inform them about Islam and Muslims."

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To: Pittsburgh From: Pittsburgh
Re: ~~(S)~~ 199-0, 11/29/2002

~~(S)~~ Tim Vinning, the Merton Center's executive director, stated to Pittsburgh Tribune Review columnist Mike Seate that there are more than a few Muslims and people of Middle Eastern descent among the regulars attending meetings at the Merton Center's East Liberty headquarters.

~~(S)~~ On November 29, 2002, SA [redacted] photographed TMC leaflet distributors at the Pavilion in Market Square, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. These photographs are being reviewed by Pittsburgh IT specialists.

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~~(S)~~ One female leaflet distributor, who appeared to be of Middle Eastern descent, inquired if SA [redacted] was an FBI Agent. No other TMC participants appeared to be of Middle Eastern descent.

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