



U. S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney  
Central District of California

[Redacted]

Assistant United States Attorney  
Organized Crime Strike Force

[Redacted]

1400 United States Courthouse  
312 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

June 2, 1999

Via Facsimile (202) 514-2836 and U.S. Mail

[Redacted]

Acting Chief

Internal Security Section  
Criminal Division -- Dept. of Justice  
Room 9428 Bond Bldg.  
1400 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20530

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Attn: [Redacted] Trial Attorney

Re: Search Request re: Sarkis Soghanalian

Dear Ms. [Redacted]

This letter is to confirm our conversation today regarding this office's request for a search of intelligence files on the above-named subject.

This office is conducting a criminal investigation of Sarkis Soghanalian and others in a bank fraud and money laundering scheme. This scheme works as follows: a number of individuals would recruit various individuals to steal blank cashier's checks from banks and to convert the checks into cash by conducting a series of monetary transactions at casinos and other financial institutions. At least two such checks were stolen from a bank and made payable in the amounts of \$300,000 and \$3 million. The \$3 million cashier's check was fraudulently made to T.I.D.R., a company believed to be controlled by Soghanalian, who attempted to cash the check at a bank in Paris in August 1995.

Through various co-conspirators who have cooperated with the government, and through other channels, we have learned that Soghanalian has provided information to the government in the past. Soghanalian was indicted and found guilty in the early 1990's for exporting arms in the Iran-Contra matter. He has claimed to have connection with high government officials and to have provided sensitive information to the government. It is unclear where Soghanalian resides permanently; however, he is known to spend a lot of time in Paris.

"2" MATTERS

ENCLOSURE

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Re: Sarkis Soghanalian

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It is my belief that there is likely information on Soghanalian in CIA and/or other intelligence files which may affect this office's indictment strategies and charging decisions. One of the claims that Soghanalian may raise is that he was operating in some covert intelligence capacity for the government during the transaction in question, in and around August and September 1995. Thus, information that Soghanalian has a colorable claim to being a government operative, especially during the period in question, may result in further grand jury investigation prior to indictment. In addition, to the extent that there are security concerns relating to any indictment of Soghanalian, I would like to address them preemptively. Hence, I believe that all three criteria set forth in USAM 9-90.210B are satisfied in this case.

Soghanalian is believed to have been born in Beirut, on February 6, 1929. His citizenship is unknown. He has a social security number of 051 34 1708. His place of residence in California at one point was 37641 Peacock Circle, Rancho Mirage, CA. He is believed to have owned or had an interest in a company named T.I.D.R. (believed to be an abbreviation for Trans International Development Association), a Swiss entity.

In this regard, this office requests that you ask the relevant components of the intelligence community to conduct a search of Sarkis Soghanalian's files to determine whether Soghanalian has had or currently has any relationship with any intelligence agency and whether any payments (or other benefits or promises) have been made to him. This office plans on indicting Soghanalian and his co-conspirators in the shortly. A response to this request would enable this office to address any intelligence issues before presenting the matter to the Grand Jury.

Please contact me at the above number if you have any further questions. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

ALEJANDRO N. MAYORKAS  
United States Attorney

[Redacted]  
Assistant United States Attorney

cc: [Redacted] Chief  
Organized Crime Strike Force

# 1987-95/96

- exculpatory evidence
- payments, benefits, promises
- getting family out of jail
- 2-3 weeks

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