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F I N A L D R A F T



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Response to October 2003 *Vanity Fair* Article
(Re: Family Departures After 09/11/2001)

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September 24, 2003

PENTTBROM Team /



(S)

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Saudi Flight-182

FINAL

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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FBI Executive Summary
Response to October 2003 *Vanity Fair* Article,
"Saving the Saudis"

(U//LES) The article in *Vanity Fair* alleges a group of Saudi royals traveled by air from Tampa, Florida to Lexington, Kentucky on September 13, 2001, prior to FAA authorization for these types of flights. It also alleges that a chartered flight left the United States (US) with several members of the Binladen family without investigation by the FBI. Both of these allegations are false. There are many other inaccuracies contained within the article.

(U//LES) The FBI conducted investigations prior to the departure of six chartered flights, hired by Saudis wishing to return to Saudi Arabia. None of these flights violated FAA restrictions. The investigations identified 141 passengers aboard these flights. As air traffic recovered, numerous Saudis departed aboard commercial as well as other chartered flights.

(U//LES) In reference to the six flights, the FBI and other law enforcement agencies conducted interviews, database checks and security sweeps prior to allowing any of the flights to depart the US. Before departure, all passengers' identities were confirmed and compared against watch lists. Investigators verified that there were no unauthorized passengers aboard any flights, and swept the aircraft and luggage for prohibited items. Further investigation was conducted following departure where it was determined to be necessary. No information of investigative value was learned from the interviews or following the departure of these individuals.

(S//NF,OC) On September 20, 2003, several members of the [redacted] and their staff departed the United States on Ryan Air flight #441. One of the passengers [redacted] had

b6 -2, 4
b7C -2, 4

[redacted]

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(S//LES) Investigation of the other passengers yielded no information pertinent to the attacks of September 11, 2001, on [redacted]. None of the [redacted] members on this flight [redacted]. All of the passengers were either half-siblings or the children of half-siblings of [redacted]. None of the individuals aboard were suspected of having ties to terrorist organizations.

(S)

(S)

(U//LES) A chartered flight departed from Lexington, Kentucky on September 16, 2001 with fourteen passengers. Four members of the party, to include [redacted] of Prince Ahmed Bin Salman Bin Abdulaziz, arrived in Lexington from Tampa by car. These four individuals had disobeyed the Prince by traveling by car, instead of by jet as the Prince had instructed them. Hired security personnel, who have been quoted in the article and in interviews with the FBI, have perpetuated the cover story that the four had flown from Tampa by consistently stating there was a charter flight into Lexington. No flights arrived or departed from Lexington on September 13, 2001. In addition, one of the members of the private protection detail has confidentially told FBI agents in Lexington the truth about how the four arrived in Lexington.

b6 -2
b7C -2
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OVERALL BRIEF POINTS

Saudi Departures Following 09/11/2001

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b7C -3, 4
b7E -1

- 09/18/2001 - 09/20/2001 [redacted] family Charter, Ryan International Airlines Flight 441
 - 23 Passengers, no children, 20 Passengers were interviewed based upon the discretion of the FBI.
 - A maid was not interviewed
 - The [redacted] were present during interviews, but were not interviewed separately.
 - [redacted] was interviewed twice prior to the departure date. He then called the interviewing agent and requested security assistance in getting to the airport. A third interview was conducted during the ride.
 - Searches of the aircraft and passenger luggage were conducted, identities were checked against the manifest, and record checks were conducted.

- Prior to 09/23/2002, several chartered flights which contained Saudi passengers drew a considerable amount of attention. These flights are summarized below. After 09/23/2002, an undetermined number of Saudis departed the United States aboard commercial and chartered aircraft.

- 09/14/2001 Providence Rhode Island Charter flight
 - 4 Passengers, no children.
 - Extensive investigation including follow-up interviews were conducted into 2002.

- 09/16/2001 Jetlease USA Charter flight from Lexington, KY
 - 14 Passengers, no children.
 - All passengers were identified and confirmed prior to departure. INS, USCS, and FBI records were checked.

- 09/19/2001 Las Vegas Charter Flights (three flights)
 - 48 Passengers (three children) on 09/19/2001, 18 passengers (no children) on 09/20/2001, 34 passengers (one child) on 09/24/2001
 - FBI SAC of Las Vegas made contact with the Saudis at the Hotel prior to departure and obtained copies of passport and passenger lists.
 - Record checks were conducted and interviews were conducted where necessary.
 - [redacted]

- Following departure of these three flights a [redacted] (S)
[redacted] No connections to the 19 hijackers of 09/11/2001 were identified. (S)

- We have information about one Saudi Airline flight which arrived on 09/10/2001 in the course of normal business. This flight was stranded at Newark International in New Jersey along with all other commercial flights at the time. As of 09/13/2001 the flight was still

stranded.

- Investigation was conducted, which included interviews and record checks.
- The passenger list consisted of 26 crew and 92 passengers.
- This flight departed after the flight restrictions were lifted.

- In addition to Saudis we identified a UAE 747 which departed from Lexington, KY on 09/15/2001. No Saudis were aboard the flight. We have included this information because the *Vanity Fair* article includes a reference to a 747. No children were on board the flight.
-

INDIVIDUAL FLIGHT

BRIEF POINTS

Ryan International Flight 441 (commonly referred to as the [redacted] flight)**Flight route: St. Louis, MO; Los Angeles, CA; Orlando, FL; Washington, DC; Boston, MA**

- Ryan International Flight 441, Boeing 727, departed United States at approximately 2:05 am EST on 9/20/2001.
- Flight 441 originated in St. Louis, Missouri. It departed on 9/18/2001 at 11:00 am EST, with no passengers, and made 4 additional stops:
 1. Los Angeles, California (landed 12:30 pm 9/18/2001) - 1 passenger embarked, left on 9/19/2001 at 8:00 am.
 2. Orlando, Florida (landed 4:12 pm on 9/19/2001)- 3 passengers + 1 security representative embarked, left on 9/19/2001 at 6:00 pm.
 3. Washington, DC (landed Dulles International 7:36 pm on 9/19/2001)- 5 passengers embarked, left on 9/19/2001 at 8:30 pm.
 4. Boston, Massachusetts (landed 11:00 pm on 9/19/2001)- 14 passengers + 3 security representatives embarked, first security representative disembarked, left on 9/20/2001 at 12:30 am.
- On 9/20/2001, Flight 441 departed Boston at 12:30 am en route to Paris with a total of 23 passengers and 3 security representatives and made the following stops:
 1. Goose Bay, New Foundland, arrived at 3:18 am and departed at 5:00 am on 9/20/2001
 2. Keflavik, Iceland, arrived at 10:54 am and departed at 1:00 pm on 9/20/2001
- In Paris, France all passengers disembarked at 6:30 pm on 9/20/2001 and continued to other destinations. Flight 441 departed Paris with 3 security representatives at 12:01 pm on 9/21/2001.
- From Paris, Flight 441 returned to the United States with 3 security representatives via:
 1. Reykjavik, Iceland: arrived 1:01 pm and departed at 1:31 pm on 9/21/2001.
 2. Gander, New Foundland: arrived 2:31 pm and departed at 3:01 pm on 9/21/2001.
 3. Cincinnati, Ohio: arrived at 5:07 pm on 9/21/2001
- Searches/Investigative Steps:
 - FBI LA searched Flight 441 on 9/18/2001 prior to departure from Los Angeles, CA. Produced negative results.
 - FBI Boston searched Flight 441 on 9/20/2001 prior to departure from Boston, MA. Produced negative results.
 - FBI checks, INS checks, Watchlist, and various consent searches were conducted. Responding Special Agents determined 20 of the 23 passengers necessitated interviews. 22 interviews were conducted of those 20 passengers. [redacted] had been interviewed a total of three times (refer to Note section). Each produced negative results.
 - Two family members who were accompanying [redacted] were not interviewed.
 - [redacted] who boarded in Boston

b6 -2, 3

b7C -2, 3

b7F -1

was not interviewed

● Note:

- Due to concerns for her safety, [redacted] contacted FBI LA on 9/18/2001 to request an escort to the airport for her flight out of Los Angeles on 9/19/2001. FBI LA transported [redacted] to the LAX terminal without incident.
- Voicing similar concerns as those of [redacted] on 9/17/2001, [redacted] requested an FBI escort for [redacted] to the Orlando airport on 9/19/2001. [redacted] had been interviewed a total of three times, once telephonically on 9/12/2001, at his residence on 9/14/2001 and while being escorted to the airport on 9/19/2001. FBI TP transported [redacted] and his family to Orlando without incident.
- Other Agencies involved:
 - FAA; INS; US Customs; ATF; LAPD; Mass. SPD; Ryan International Airlines Security; Signature Flight Support Security

b6 -3

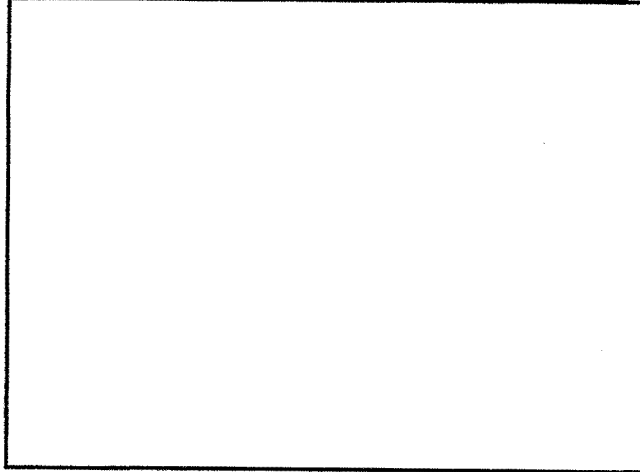
b7C -3

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Chartered flight for Saudi Arabian group out of Lexington, Kentucky

- On Sunday, September 16, 2001, at 4:30 p.m., a chartered luxury Boeing 727 aircraft landed at the airport in Lexington, Kentucky. The flight was chartered through Jetlease USA, 3700 Airport Road, Suite 204, Boca Raton, Florida 33431, telephone number 561-362-8282.
- After boarding its passengers, the chartered flight departed the United States during the evening hours of Sunday, September 16, 2001.
- The passengers included the following fourteen (14) individuals, none of which were juveniles:

- H R H Prince Ahmed Bin Salman Bin Abdulaziz



b6 -2
b7C -2
b7F -1

- The plane was scheduled to fly to Goose Bay, Labrador for refueling prior to continuing on to London, England, and then to Saudi Arabia.
- Searches/investigative steps:
 - Prior to departure, FBI Louisville agents together with an officer from US Customs checked the crew from Florida and inspected the aircraft. During boarding, each passenger was identified by passport by a US Customs officer. Only the 14 passengers listed above boarded the chartered 727.
- Note:
 - Prior to September 11, 2001, a group of Saudi Arabian nationals traveled to Lexington, KY, to attend the Keeneland horse auctions. Following the terrorist attacks, members of this group made several unsuccessful attempts to gain authorization for the usual Saudi government airplane to enter the United States. As a result, the group made arrangements for a chartered luxury Boeing 727 from Florida to fly to Lexington, KY.
 - According to a SA on site, after the September 11 attacks, H.R.H. Prince Ahmed

Bin Salman Bin Abdulaziz attempted to arrange for [redacted] friends to fly from Florida to Lexington, KY on a chartered jet. [redacted]

b6 -3

[redacted] filed a flight plan in Florida, but that flight plan was rejected. As a result, [redacted]

b7C -3

b7F -1

[redacted] drove to Lexington, KY from Florida. Because this violated an explicit directive from his father, [redacted] and [redacted] perpetuated the cover story that the group had traveled by private jet. Lexington Airport Police Chief Scott Lanter confirmed that no planes took off or landed at the airport until the FAA lifted the ban on flights.

- Other Agencies involved:
 - US Customs, Lexington, KY Police Department

REPUBLIC OF GABON-FLAGGED (from Las Vegas)

- Chartered Republic of Gabon-flagged DC-8-73, Tail number TR-LTZ, departed United States on 09/19/2001.
- Flight DC-8-73 departed from Las Vegas, Nevada destination Geneva, Switzerland.
- On 09/19/2001, Flight DC-8-73 departed with 46 Saudi Arabian Royal Party and entourage passengers logged at airport prior to departure . There were three (3) Saudi minors on board aged 11, 9 and 5.

Searches/Investigative Techniques:

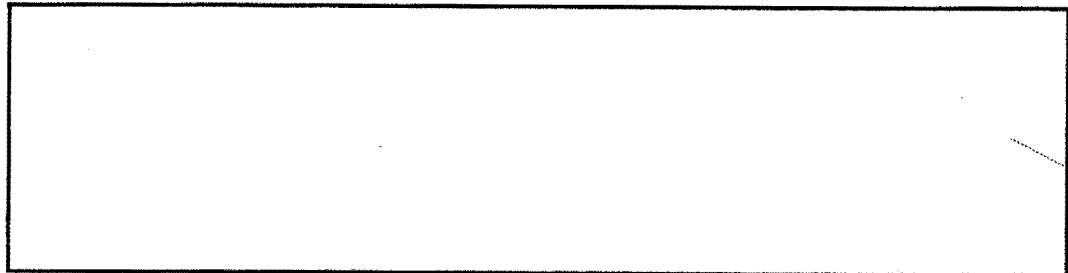
- [redacted] by Hotel Security on 09/11/2001 and 09/12/2001 regarding Saudi Arabian Royal Party staying at the Four Season's Hotel and Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas, Nevada. (S)
- On 09/18/2001, SAC FBI & SAC USSS met with [redacted] to discuss plans for the Royal Party.
- On 09/18/2001, Manifest of Royal Party was provided along with copies of passports.
- FBI and Watchlist checks were conducted.

b1

b6 -3

b7C -3

b7F -1



Agencies involved:

- FBI; USSS; USCS; INS

CHARTERED (Flight B 727-21 from Las Vegas)

- Chartered B 727-21, tail number N727PX departed the United States on 09/20/2001.
- Flight B 727-21 departed from Las Vegas, Nevada destination Stamstead Airport (London), England.
- On 09/20/2001, Flight B 727-21 departed with 18 Saudi Arabian Royal Party and entourage passengers logged at airport prior to departure .
- No Saudi children on board

Searches/Investigative Techniques:

- [redacted] by Hotel Security on 09/11/2001 and 09/12/2001 (S)
regarding Saudi Arabian Royal Party staying at the Four Season's Hotel and Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas, Nevada.
- On 09/18/2001, SAC FBI & SAC USSS met with [redacted] to discuss plans for the Royal Party.
- On 09/18/2001, Manifest of Royal Party was provided along with copies of passports.
- FBI and Watchlist checks were conducted.
- [redacted] (S)

Other Agencies involved:

- FBI; USSS; USCS; INS

AMERICAN TRANS AIR (Flight ATA L-1011 from Las Vegas)

- Chartered American Trans Air (ATA) L-1011, Tail number N189AT, departed United States on 09/24/2001.
- Flight ATA L-1001 departed Las Vegas, Nevada destination Charles de Gaulle Airport, Paris, France and London, UK.
- On 09/24/2001, Flight ATA L-1011 departed with 34 Saudi Arabian Royal Party, including entourage logged at airport prior to departure. There was one (1) Saudi minor aboard this flight aged 16.

Searches/Investigative Techniques:

- Checks conducted against FBI Watchlist and (S)

Agencies involved:

- FBI; USCS

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Northstar Aviation flight to Paris, France from Providence, Rhode Island

- Pacific Jet Company made a flight reservation for 9/14/2001 to travel from Providence, Rhode Island at 11:00 am EST to Paris, France via Northstar Aviation. Type of aircraft is undocumented.
- The reservation was made for 4 individuals; [redacted]
[redacted]
- Flight was paid for by [redacted] American Express credit card totaling \$75,00.00 for the trip including 1500 lbs. of luggage at the request of [redacted]
[redacted] who was interviewed on 9/14/2001, is a [redacted]
[redacted] of which the aforementioned are members.
- [redacted] of travel for [redacted] and [redacted]
[redacted] made the flight arrangements for the aforementioned individuals.
- Searches/Investigative Steps:
 - On 9/14/2001, FBI RI identified and interviewed [redacted]
and [redacted] at Northstar Aviation in Warwick, RI.
 - In addition to interviews and ID checks, luggage was searched with negative results.
 - FBI checks, INS checks, Watchlist, and various consent searches were conducted. Each produced negative results.
- Extensive investigation revealed no information to suggest travel by [redacted]
[redacted] and [redacted] within New England was connected to any terrorist or criminal activity.
- Other Agencies involved:
 - USCS; USINS; DCIS; Rhode Island SPD; Warwick PD; Boston PD; and TF Green PD

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SUPPORTING SUMMARIES

09/17/2003

Ryan International Flight 441 from St. Louis, MO; Los Angeles, CA; Orlando, FL; Washington, DC; and Boston, MA

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Reference allegations about [redacted] relatives departing the US before the lifting of flight restrictions.

On 09/19/2001, Ryan International Airlines, flight number 441, was contracted by the Saudi Embassy to make several stops in the US to pick up various Saudi individuals for expeditious departure from the United States. Ryan International Flight 441 ultimately departed Boston, MA to leave the country at approximately 2:05 am EST on 09/20/2001. Flight restrictions had been lifted at this time.

Ryan International Airlines flight 441 originated in St. Louis, Missouri and made stops in Los Angeles, California; Orlando, Florida; Washington, District of Columbia (Dulles); and Boston, Massachusetts before departing the United States. Flight 441 picked up the following passengers at those airports:

Name	Departure City	Interviewed by the FBI?	Case Opened?
[redacted]	Los Angeles, CA	Yes	No
[redacted]	Orlando, FL	Yes	No
[redacted]	Orlando, FL	No*	No
[redacted]	Orlando, FL	No*	No
[redacted]	Washington, DC	Yes	No
[redacted]	Washington, DC	Yes	No
[redacted]	Washington, DC	Yes	No
[redacted]	Washington, DC	Yes	No
[redacted]	Washington, DC	Yes	No
[redacted]	Boston, MA	Yes	No
[redacted]	Boston, MA	Yes**	No
[redacted]	Boston, MA	Yes	No
[redacted]	Boston, MA	Yes	No
[redacted]	Boston, MA	Yes	No
[redacted]	Boston, MA	Yes	No
[redacted]	Boston, MA	Yes	No
[redacted]	Boston, MA	Yes	No
[redacted]	Boston, MA	Yes	No
[redacted]	Boston, MA	Yes	No
[redacted]	Boston, MA	No***	No
[redacted]	Boston, MA	Yes	No
[redacted]	Boston, MA	Yes	No
[redacted]	Boston, MA	Yes	No

b6 -2

b7C -2

b7F -1

[redacted] and [redacted] accompanied [redacted] who had been interviewed three times.

b6 -2, 3

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[redacted] was present during the interview of [redacted]. [redacted] was not interviewed because [redacted] for the group.

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[redacted] was escorted by FBI LA to a charter terminal at LAX. [redacted] were escorted by FBI TP to the airport in Orlando, FL.

REPUBLIC OF GABON-FLAGGED (from Las Vegas)

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- On 09/11/2001, SA's interviewed management of the Four Seasons Hotel and Caesar's Palace [redacted] of the [redacted] to SA's by Caesar's Palace Security. On 09/12/2001 [redacted]

[redacted]

(S)

- On 09/18/2001, SAC Grant Ashley, FBI Las Vegas and SAC Joseph Saitta, United States Secret Service (USSS), met with Saudi Arabian [redacted] and his representatives. The Saudi Arabian's were asked to provide a manifest of their entire party and photocopies of each person's passport. A total of 69 names with identifiers were checked against the current FBI Watch List and ran for [redacted] No Watch List matches were discovered.

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- [redacted]

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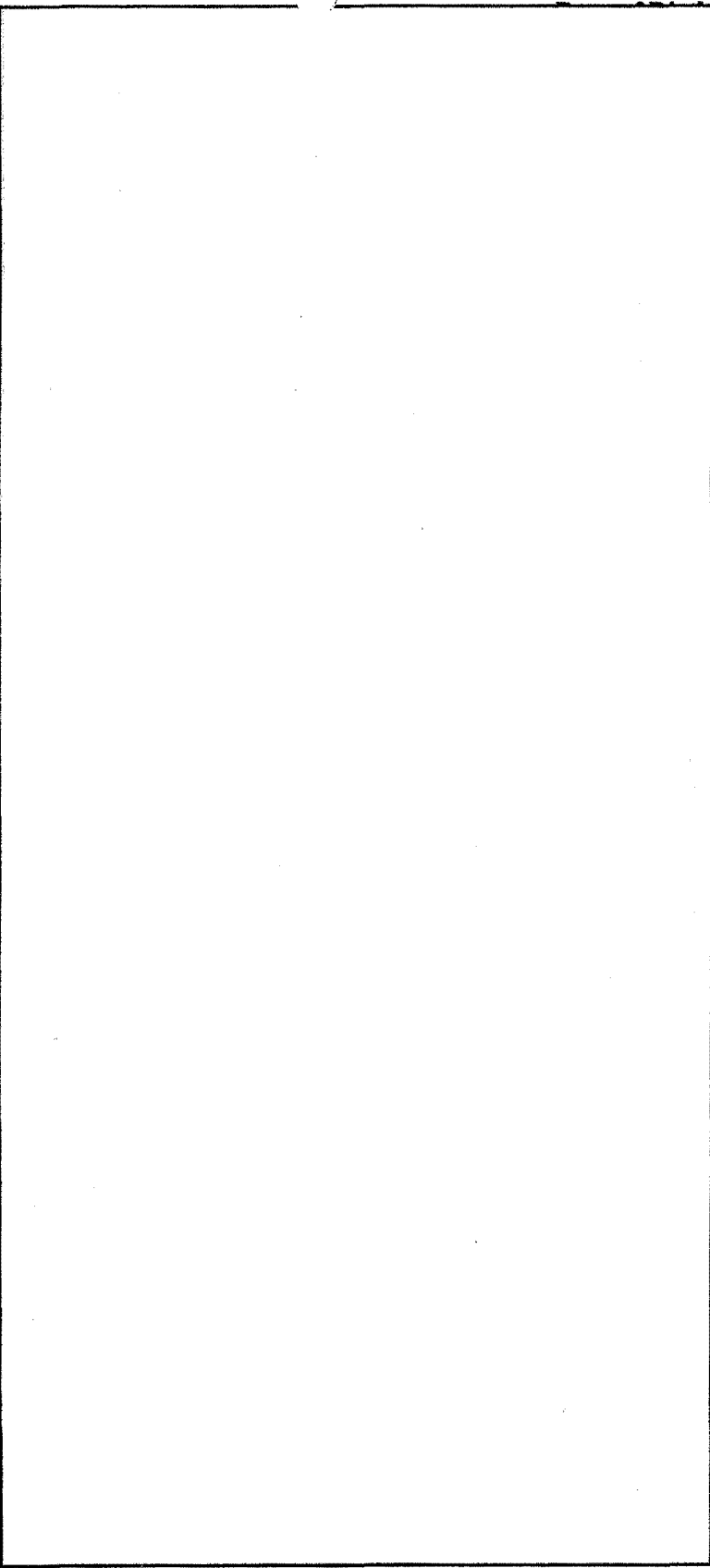
- On 09/19/2001, Flight DC-8-73, Tail number TR-LTZ a chartered, Republic of Gabon-flagged DC-8-73 departed Las Vegas, Nevada with the final destination of Geneva, Switzerland. The FBI cleared 46 Saudi passengers to board this flight. There were three (3) children under the age of 18 aboard this flight ages 11, 9 and 5.
- Prior to its departure, the aircraft was swept, perimeter security was provided, and all persons boarding were matched to a previously-obtained manifest and photocopies of passports by Agents and Officers of the USCS.

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REPUBLIC OF GABON-FLAGGED (Flight DC-8-73)

Supporting Summary: (Saudi Nationals Boarding Flt. DC-8-73)

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CHARTERED (Flight B 727-21 from Las Vegas)

(S)

On 09/11/2001, SA's interviewed management of the Four Seasons Hotel and Caesar's Palace. [redacted] of the [redacted] to SA's by Caesar's Palace Security. On 09/12/2001, [redacted]

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[redacted] (S)

b6 -3

On 09/18/2001, SAC Grant Ashley, FBI Las Vegas and SAC Joseph Saitta, United States Secret Service (USSS), met with Saudi Arabian [redacted] and his representatives. The Saudi Arabian's were asked to provide a manifest of their entire party and photocopies of each person's passport. A total of 69 names with identifiers were checked against the current FBI Watch List and ran for [redacted] No Watch List matches were discovered.

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[redacted]

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On 09/20/2001, 18 members of the Saudi Arabian Royal Party and members of their entourage arrived for the departure of Flight B 727-21, Tail number N727PX, a chartered, B 727 scheduled to depart Las Vegas, Nevada with the final destination of Stamstead Airport (London), England. There were a total of 18 Saudi passengers aboard this flight. There were no children aboard this flight.

Prior to its departure, the aircraft was swept, perimeter security was provided, and all persons boarding were matched to a previously-obtained manifest and photocopies of passports by Agents and Officers of the United States Customs Service (USCS).

CHARTERED (Flight B 727-21)

Supporting Summary: (Saudi Nationals Boarding Flt. B 727-21)

Name	Date of Birth
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(S)



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AMERICAN TRANS AIR, (Flight ATA L-1011)

Supporting Summary: (Saudi Nationals Boarding Flt. ATA L-1011)

Name	Date of Birth
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Note: Record checks were conducted based upon the names and identifiers contained in the identification documents.

[REDACTED] FAMILY

b6 -4

b7C -4

APPENDIX

(U//FOUO) The [redacted] Family

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b7C -4

(U//FOUO) [redacted] is a member of a large and wealthy Saudi family. The family patriarch [redacted] came to the kingdom from Hadramout (South Yemen) sometime around 1930.¹

- In Saudi Arabia, [redacted] father became a construction magnate, completing prestigious projects such as the renovation of the holy mosques in Mecca and Medina. As a result, the [redacted] are a highly respected family both within the Saudi royal household and with the public.

(U//FOUO) There is some confusion as to the total number of [redacted] siblings.

b6 -4

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- Some cite that he is the youngest of some 20 sons,² while others claim he is the seventh son.³
- The total number of his siblings might be 50,⁴ 52,⁵ or 54.⁶ In an interview, [redacted] seemed unsure as well, citing that he had 25 brothers—although he could remember the names of only 20.⁷
- Nearly all of these siblings are half-brothers or half-sisters, as [redacted] father had multiple wives. [redacted] is cited as having only one son.⁸

(U//FOUO) The [redacted] family has denounced [redacted] repeatedly.

b6 -2, 4

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- In 1994, the [redacted] family issued a statement expressing its "regret, denunciation and condemnation of all acts that [redacted] may have committed, which we do not condone and we reject."⁹
- After the attacks on the US on September 11, 2001, the current head of the family, [redacted]

b6 -3

b7C -3

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] "10 [redacted] is [redacted]

[redacted]

¹ "A Biography of [redacted]" PBS Frontline, 26 September 2001.

² [redacted] "Child of Privilege Who Champions Holy War." 14 September 2001.

³ [redacted] "Afghanistan: Who is [redacted] and What Makes Him Tick?" Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. 14 September 2001.

⁴ [redacted]

⁵ [redacted] "A 'Master Impresario'." Washington Post, 13 September 2001.

⁶ [redacted] "Aims to Ride 'Infidels'." Associated Press, 15 September 2001.

⁷ [redacted] "Reportedly Says He Has Armed Afghanistan." Boston Globe, 26 September 2001.

⁸ [redacted]

⁹ [redacted] "Denounced by His Family." Independent Television News, 15 September 2001.

¹⁰ Ibid.

b6 -2, 4

b7C -2, 4

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

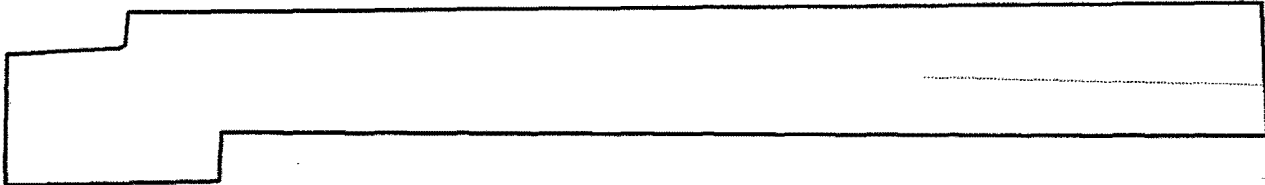
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VANITY FAIR ISSUES

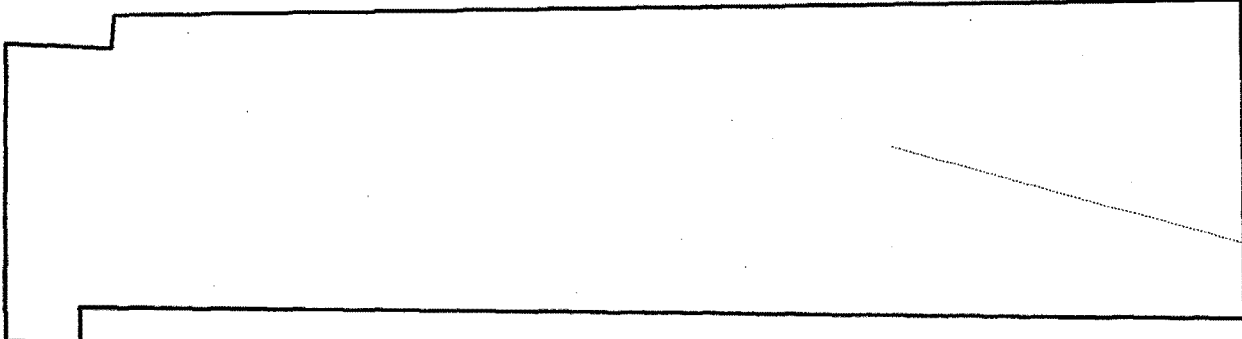
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b7C -4

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

b5 -1

[Redacted]

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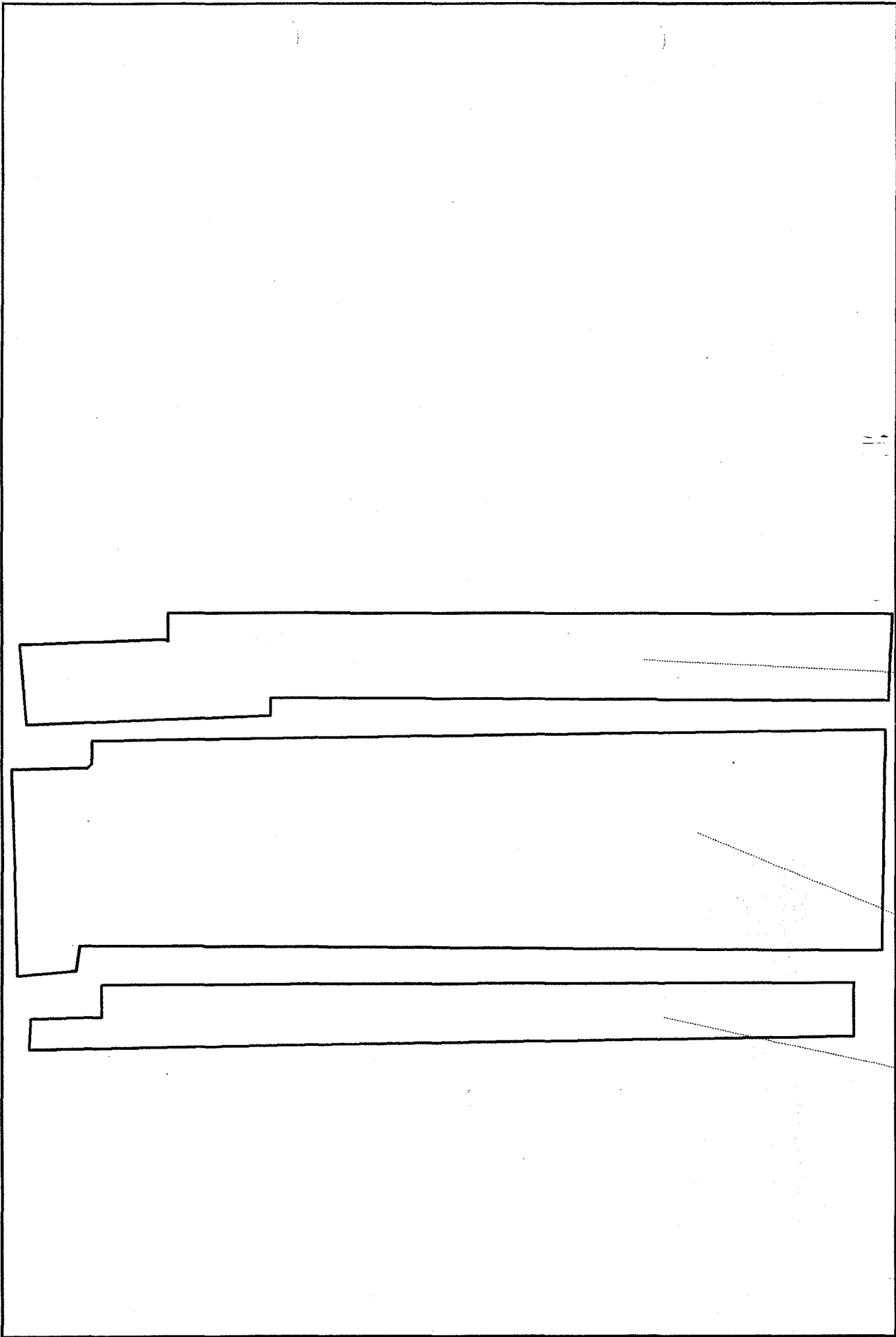
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b7C -2,
b7F -1

b1

b6 -4

b7C -4

b5 -1



b5 -1

b1

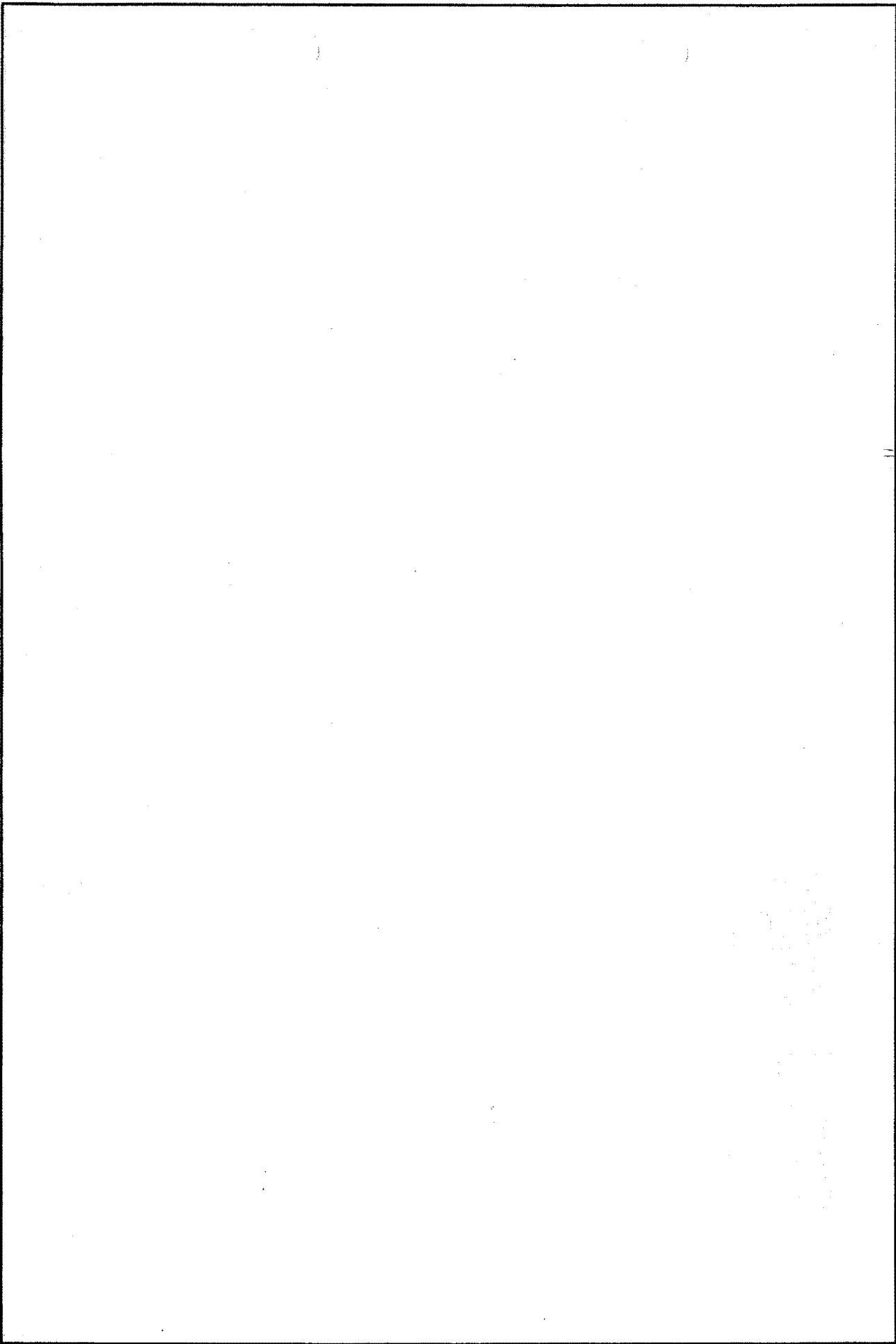
(S)

b1

(S)

b1

(S)

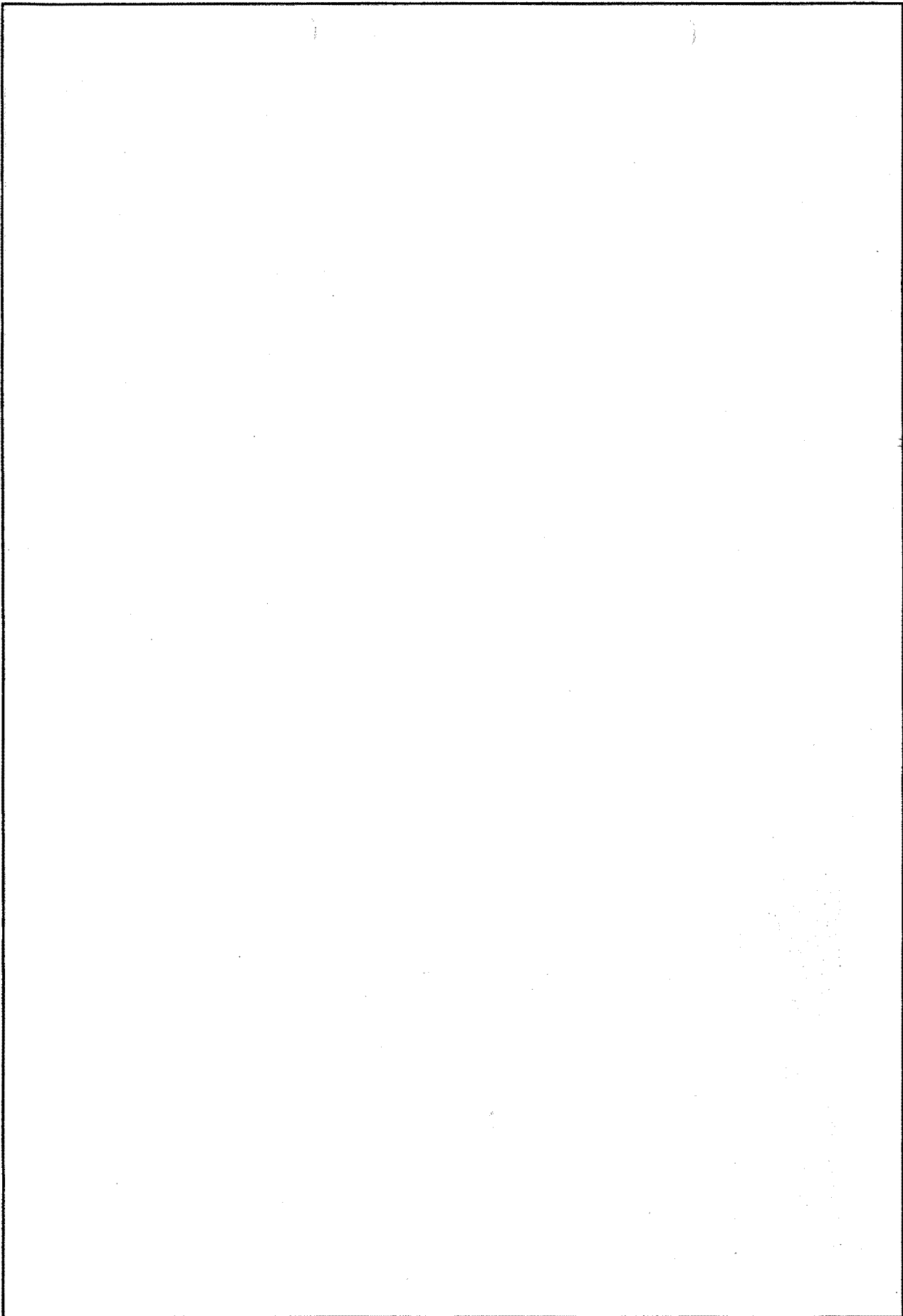


b5 -1

~~SECRET~~//NOFORN

SENATOR FEINSTEIN'S
QUESTIONS

Saudi Flight-215



b5 -1

Saudi Flight-216

SECRET

b1



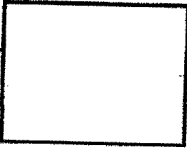
(S)

SECRET

b5 -1

Saudi Flight-217

b1

SAUDI  DETAILS

(S)

Saudi Flight-218

(S)

(S)

(S)

(S)

(S)

b5 -1

b1

Saudi Flight-219

VANITY FAIR, OCTOBER 2003

ARTICLE,

"SAVING THE SAUDIS",

BY CRAIG UNGER

TIME LINES

(SEPARATE CHARTS)