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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET				
SUBJECT: (Optional)				
FROM: Acting Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service	EXTENSION	NO. FBIS-0097/87	DATE 6 May 1987	
TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
	RECEIVED	FORWARDED		
1. Deputy Director for Science and Technology Room 6E45, Headquarters				For your information. Here is account of his recent detention by Turkish Cypriot police during his tourist trip through the area. I am sending copies of it to C/CI Staff, C/Cyprus Desk/DO, and C/RE&CD/OL. As , our bureau chief, opines "the situation is now history and concerned embassy officers are satisfied that about the only thing is really guilty of is being incredibly naive." <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 200px; height: 80px; margin: 10px auto;"></div>
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Chief, FBIS/Nicosia
SUBJECT: Detention by TRNC officials
FROM:
DATE: 21 April 1987

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The following is a detailed account of the events of which I informed you when you phoned me at my hotel room at 9 o'clock of 17 April 1987.

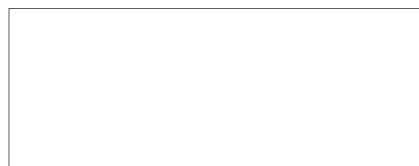
At approximately 10:30 A.M. on Friday, 17 April 1987, while on a visit to the Turkish-occupied portion of Cyprus (the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus), I was detained at the village of Vatili (Vadili), near Famagusta, until approximately 4:45 P.M. by police officials of the TRNC. This detention occurred following a stop, en route to Famagusta, at the nearby village of Lysi (Akdogan) to photograph a 14th century Gothic-style cathedral.

My decision to stop at Lysi en route to Famagusta (via the "old" Famagusta road) came about after I had discovered that one of only two Gothic-style cathedrals in Cyprus was located there (the other being in Famagusta). Asking the night receptionist at the Cleopatra Hotel on Thursday night if he knew how to find this cathedral, he replied that a friend of his named Dimetris (whom I had met previously) used to live in the village prior to 1974 and would probably remember the way. When I checked the next morning at reception, the night receptionist had left a book (and a photocopy of a map on one of the book's pages) about the history of Lysi in my key/letter box. On the photocopy, he had circled the church and had also indicated where his old house and school had been (asking, by writing at the bottom of the page, if I could take a picture of these, also, while I was there).

Passing through the Ledra Palace check-point at about 8:30 A.M. on Friday morning, I proceeded to drive to Famagusta via the "old" road which would also take me through Lysi. On the way toward Lysi, I had to pass through areas marked as military areas where photographs were not allowed. One of these areas was near Lysi; but as there was a sign marked "No Photographs" as one is driving toward Lysi, and similar sign a few hundred yards further (prior to reaching Lysi) for travel away from Lysi, I reasoned that the prohibited area must be between the two signs. This was reinforced by the lack of any signs saying "No Photographs" when I arrived at Lysi. As the cathedral would be the first point I would come to upon entering the village, I drove directly to that point and parked in an open area outside the cathedral. After nearly 15 minutes of photographing the cathedral, during which time I was always completely out in the open (as opposed to skulking about in a surreptitious manner), two police officers arrived on the scene and enquired as to my "purpose in Lysi". Stating that I was there to photograph the Gothic cathedral, they informed me that I would have to accompany them to the police headquarters (in the village of Vati).

Upon arriving at the station, I was again questioned as to why I had come to Lysi, and then as to what I planned to do with the photographs I obtained in Lysi. My passport and driver's license were taken from me at this time; and I was also questioned as to the amount of money I might have in my wallet, for some strange reason. I responded that, since photography in general and photography of ancient buildings in particular was my hobby, I had hoped to obtain some of the Lysi cathedral. The officers made a few telephone calls and then proceeded to make a search of the vehicle and of my camera bag, where I had the map of Lysi as well as maps of Cyprus (both Cypriot and Turkish versions since village names had been changed) and diagrams of other towns (which were given to me by various people I had met during the course of my stay in Cyprus and who had asked me to take a picture of their house for them if I ever passed through their town). Most of these towns were near the "tourist" areas (Famagusta, Kyrenia, etc.) and were circled on the maps, too. Directions to a person's house were usually indicated in relation to the village church, town square, an orchard, coffee shop, etc. Since I could understand a person's desire to see the house where he grew up and where his family may have lived for 3 or more generations, obtaining a picture of that house seemed a harmless gesture of goodwill that required little effort.

At any rate, I was questioned about each map/diagram and the film in my possession for the next 6 hours, while a clerk wrote down my responses to their questions. I maintained a cooperative and honest, but not gratuitous, attitude throughout. At the end of the affair, I was made to sign the transcription and turn over my film to the officers. The maps, as well as the book about the history of Lysi, were also taken from me. My passport, driver's license, and camera gear were returned to me, and I was told that I was free to go. At that point, I drove back to Nicosia and to my hotel room (around 6:00 P.M.) to take a long, hot bath and to eat a large dinner, since I had not had anything to eat or drink since 6 A.M. that morning.



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