

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DC

ORDER NO. 3532

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served July 27, 1990

Application of SAKKAF TOUR)	Case No. AP-90-27
SERVICES, INC., for Temporary)	
Authority to Conduct Charter)	
Operations for the Accounts of)	
ARABIA FELIX TRAVEL & TOURISM,)	
INC., and FIRST WASHINGTON TOURS,)	
INC.)	

By application filed July 18, 1990, SAKKAF Tour Services, Inc. (SAKKAF or applicant), seeks temporary authority to transport passengers, together with mail, express, and baggage in the same vehicles as passengers, in charter operations between points in the Metropolitan District, except transportation solely within the Commonwealth of Virginia, restricted to transportation in vehicles having a manufacturer's designed seating capacity of 25 passengers or less and further restricted to transportation for the accounts of Arabia Felix Travel & Tourism, Inc., and First Washington Tours, Inc.

Applicant would conduct the proposed operations using one 25-passenger minibus. SAKKAF proposes to charge \$36 an hour (March through October) and \$32 an hour (November through February). A four-hour minimum which includes time required for positioning would be required. In addition a transfer rate of \$150 would be offered for service between any two points in the Metropolitan District. Thirty minutes "free" time for loading the vehicle would be included in the transfer rate. Time used in excess of the free allotment would be charged at a rate of \$30 an hour or portion thereof.

With its application SAKKAF submitted a balance sheet as of June 1, 1990, showing current assets in cash of \$1,750 with \$59,250 in fixed assets, \$56,000 of which represents an (apparently) undepreciated motorcoach. The balance sheet shows liabilities of \$56,000 in the form of shareholder loans plus \$5,000 in equity. Applicant submitted a projection of income and expenses for conducting the proposed operations.

Mr. Hussein Moen is applicant's president. SAKKAF is a newly formed Virginia corporation that plans to offer "luxury" minicoach transportation with foreign language service in Arabic and French. Mr. Moen attests that several small travel agencies located in the Metropolitan District require such transportation. Affiant believes that the need for the proposed service is "immediate" during the summer season. SAKKAF, through its president, is prepared to comply with the Commission's rules and regulations.

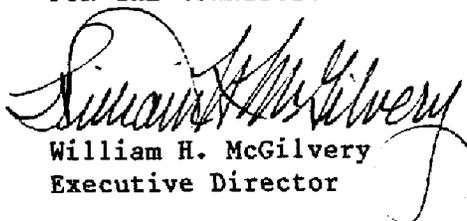
Mr. Byung Soo Park, president of First Washington Tours, Inc., submitted a notarized statement in support of the application. First Washington Tours, Inc., makes travel arrangements for groups ranging in size from 15 to 25. These groups require transportation for general sightseeing and transfers between points in the "Washington area." Mr. Park attests that there is an immediate and urgent need for applicant's service. He requires use of a 25-passenger vehicle twice a month. Mr. Park prefers to use a 25-passenger vehicle because 15-passenger vans are too small to seat his clients comfortably, and 47-passenger coaches are too large and expensive. He has not always been able to hire a minibus when needed. On these occasions, Mr. Park has been forced to use less desirable full-sized coaches.

Mr. Jamal A. Numan, president of Arabia Felix Travel & Tourism, Inc., also submitted a notarized statement in support of the application. Arabia Felix Travel & Tourism, Inc., specializes in making travel arrangements for visitors to the United States from the Middle East. The company requires transportation throughout the Metropolitan District in a 25-passenger vehicle, with a multi-lingual driver. Mr. Numan supports this application because he requires tours in Arabic and is looking for a company that is familiar with Middle Eastern culture and customs. Mr. Numan believes that there is an immediate and urgent need for the proposed service because his company is currently operating in its busy season and would require applicant's service once a month, on average, each use requiring multi-day service. Mr. Numan expects the need for service to increase in the future.

The standards for temporary authority are set forth in the Compact, Title II, Article XII, Section 4(d)(3). The essential elements are (1) an immediate and urgent need for service, (2) no other carrier capable of meeting such need, and (3) fitness of the applicant. This order will provide notice of SAKKAF's application, and a brief period will be established for the filing of protests, if any. Each protest should contain or be accompanied by all evidence and argument upon which protestant would rely. No extension of time will be granted. The application is available for inspection at the office of the Commission during regular business hours.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that any person desiring to protest this application shall file a notarized protest in conformance with Commission Rule No. 14, together with all evidence and legal argument in support of the protest, at the office of the Commission, 1828 L Street, N.W., Suite 703, Washington, DC 20036-5104, no later than Monday, August 6, 1990, and simultaneously shall serve a copy of such protest on applicant's counsel, Jeremy Kahn, Esquire, 1726 M Street, N.W., Suite 702, Washington, DC 20036.

FOR THE COMMISSION:


William H. McGilvery
Executive Director