

## **SØREN PADKJÆR**

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Dear Imad and Majida,  
07.04.1997

Thank you very much for your fax of 03.04.1997 - we appreciate very much your good suggestions and hospitality. We certainly agree with you about the long standing friendship between our families, and it is a long time indeed, isn't it? I still remember when we played on the lawn in Baghdad. Actually I spoke to your father shortly after having received your fax - he was quite proud of his grandson bearing his name. He also mentioned that Tariq is going to marry shortly. Recently Tariq has been helping me with some connections in Jordan for the sale of plastic articles from one of my companies.

After the receipt of your fax we have discussed the idea of changing our starting point to Washington instead of New York, as we believe that you are more familiar with the procedures of buying a car. I have received an old (outdated?) description from AAA (through the Danish Automobile Association) about this troublesome task, which please find enclosed. May be you could clarify the points (including the mentioning of the special Personal Property Tax in Virginia).

We have in mind to buy a camper with sleeping room for 4 persons, I believe the size is called 25'. It should be equipped with the ordinary facilities, like WC, shower, h/c water, kitchen. We have spoken with 2 Danish families, who both (independent of each other) to our disbelief have bought such a fine second hand camper at the unbelievable price of approx. US\$ 5.000 - and resold it a year later with a loss of \$ 500! The prices in Denmark for new campers start at approx. US\$ 50.000 (with a weak FIAT 1,6 l diesel engine - you can imagine the pain of climbing even a small hill).

However as an ignorant fool of all secrets under the hood - and elsewhere - I would rather pay a bit more and be sure to get a reliable vehicle (without engine troubles in the jungle of Guatemala). Our experienced friends said that they simply bought a local newspaper and looked in the classified adds where they found a selection of private campers for sale at very reasonable prices. Could we ask you to have a look or may be send us a copy of the relevant page.

Your offer to register the car and use your address is highly appreciated, since otherwise I understand that f.i. insurance is quite difficult and expensive. Likewise your suggestion about the CB radio was greatly applauded by the whole family. I understand that I cannot use my GSM cellular phones and have to buy a special US edition. Could you tell me about the prices as well as how to register, being a foreigner without American address and collection account. Do you know how well the country is covered (even in small

Denmark conversations are often interrupted due to weak signals, when driving). In most European countries we can use the GSM system, which automatically changes between the different phone companies when crossing the borders. The bill from our local phone company then includes whatever conversations we have had also in other countries. Does the American system operate the same way between f.i. USA - Canada - Mexico - Central America? I am also bringing my portable IBM and might then even hook up on the internet.

Dear Imad and Majida - we really hope to meet you this summer, as we are convinced that our journey will then get the best possible start. Thank you again for your helpfulness.

Best regards,