

UNCLASSIFIED

<DIST>

PRT: HILL LORD SCOWCROFT SIT SITTMANN SUNUNU
SIT: HAASS OLEARY FILE SIT SIGLER SUM VAX BRANSCUM
<PREC> FLASH <GLAS> ~~SECRET~~ <OSRI> RUESST

<DTG> 061915Z AUG 90

<ORIG>FM AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD

<TO>TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 4849

<SUBJ>SUBJ: MAIN POINTS OF CHARGE'S MEETING WITH
PRESIDENT SADDAM HUSSEIN

<TEXT>BT

~~SECRET~~ SECTION 01 OF 03 BAGHDAD 04566

NODIS

FROM CHARGE

E.O 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: PREL MOPS IZ, KU SA

SUBJ: MAIN POINTS OF CHARGE'S MEETING WITH
PRESIDENT SADDAM HUSSEIN

1. (S-ENTIRE TEXT)

2. CHARGE MET FOR TWO HOURS WITH PRESIDENT
SADDAM HUSSEIN, AT SADDAM'S REQUEST. SEPTELS
WILL PROVIDE FULLER REPORTING BUT THE
FOLLOWING ARE THE MAIN POINTS.

3. WARNING:DON'T TREAD ON ME:

SADDAM ASKED THAT CHARGE CONVEY TO THE U.S. THAT
"YOU SHOULD REFRAIN FROM BEING PUSHED INTO TAKING
AN ACTION ON WRONG ADVICE AFTER WHICH YOU WILL
BE EMBARRASSED. IF WHAT PRESIDENT BUSH WANTS
IN FACT, IS THE PRESERVATION OF U.S. INTERESTS
AS HE HAS DESCRIBED THEM, THEN ESCALATION OF
TENSION AND THE MILITARY ALTERNATIVE
IS AGAINST THESE INTERESTS." "I WILL TELL
YOU HOW YOU WILL BE DEFEATED. YOU ARE A SUPER-
POWER AND I KNOW YOU CAN HURT US, BUT YOU WILL
LOSE THE WHOLE AREA. YOU WILL NEVER BRING
US (IRAQ) TO OUR KNEES. YOU CAN DESTROY SOME
OF OUR ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL BASE BUT THE
GREATER DAMAGE YOU CAUSE THE GREATER THE
BURDEN TO YOU. IN SUCH A SITUATION (MILITARY),
WE WILL NOT REMAIN IDLE AGAINST YOUR INTERESTS
IN THE REGION."

4. KUWAIT:

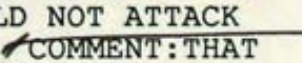
SADDAM MADE IT CLEAR THROUGHOUT HIS PRESENTATION
THAT KUWAIT HAS BECOME EFFECTIVELY AN APPENDAGE
OF IRAQ. TO CHARGE'S REQUEST THAT SADDAM
CLARIFY HIS STATEMENT THAT "KUWAIT IS PART
OF IRAQ," SADDAM'S REPLY WAS, "YES, THAT IS
AN HISTORICAL FACT." AT ANOTHER POINT, SADDAM
SAID, "CONVEY TO PRESIDENT BUSH WITH MY REGARDS,
THAT HE SHOULD REGARD THE KUWAITI AMIR AND CROWN
PRINCE AS HISTORY." AT ANOTHER POINT, HE SAID,
"WE WILL NEVER LEAVE KUWAIT FREE FOR SOMEONE
ELSE TO TAKE. WE WOULD NEVER LET KUWAIT

DECLASSIFIED
PER E.O. 12958

JGE, 11/8/99
Case No. 98-0099-F

BE AN EASY BITE -- EVEN IF THE WHOLE WORLD WERE AGAINST US. WE WOULD FIGHT ON. WE WILL DEFEND OUR RIGHTS, WE WILL NEVER GO HUNGRY AGAIN. WE WANT TO LIVE IN PEACE AND PROSPERITY. WE KNOW YOU ARE A SUPERPOWER WHO CAN DO GREAT DAMAGE TO US, BUT WE WILL NEVER CAPITULATE."

5.BUT WE ARE NOT GOING TO ATTACK SAUDI ARABIA:

SADDAM MADE A POINT OF TELLING CHARGE THAT IRAQIS WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR CREDIBILITY AND, THEREFORE, HE WANTED TO CLARIFY ONE PIECE OF MIS- INFORMATION THAT HAS APPARENTLY REACHED U.S. EARS; SPECIFICALLY, SOME ARAB LEADERS WHO HAD SOUGHT HIS ASSURANCES ON HIS INTENTIONS TOWARD KUWAIT HAD CONVEYED THEM INCORRECTLY TO US (HE DID NOT REFER TO HIS ASSURANCES TO AMBASSADOR GLASPIE). HE SAID, WHAT HE HAD TOLD HIS INTERLOCUTORS WAS THAT HE WOULD NOT ATTACK KUWAIT DURING THE JEDDAH SESSION.  COMMENT: THAT AND OTHER SIMILAR REMARKS MADE DURING THE INTERVIEW AND THE NEAR ABSENCE OF REFERENCES TO EITHER REVOLUTIONARY KUWAITI YOUTH OR THE FREE INTERIM GOVERNMENT OF KUWAIT EFFECTIVELY UNDER- CUTS THE ELABORATE "REVOLUTIONARY" SCENARIO SADDAM'S FOREIGN MINISTER AND PUBLIC RELATIONS PEOPLE HAVE CREATED TO EXPLAIN THE INVASION. END COMMENT.

6. HE THEN ASKED ABOUT U.S. INTENTIONS IN SAUDI ARABIA. SADDAM SAID, "THE SAUDIS ARE OUR BROTHERS AND THEY HELPED US IN THE IRAN/IRAQ WAR. IT WAS THEY WHO BUILT THE OIL PIPELINE. THEY EXTENDED GRANTS, NOT LOANS. IF THINGS REMAIN AS THEY HAVE

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~~SECRET~~ SECTION 02 OF 03 BAGHDAD 04566

NODIS
FROM CHARGE

E.O 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: PREL MOPS IZ, KU SA

SUBJ: MAIN POINTS OF CHARGE'S MEETING WITH BEEN, THEY REMAIN OUR BROTHERS. IN LIGHT OF THIS, WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND U.S. STATEMENTS ABOUT FEARS FOR SAUDI ARABIA. WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND THESE CLAIMS THAT THE NEXT STEPS WILL BE AGAINST SAUDI ARABIA. WE WONDER WHETHER YOU ARE TRYING TO INCITE AN INCIDENT STARTED BY SAUDI ARABIA AS A COVER FOR U.S. ACTION AGAINST IRAQ. IF YOU GET THEM TO INCITE US, ATTACK US, TAKE SOME SORT OF ACTION AGAINST US, THEN WE WILL RESPOND."

AT ANOTHER POINT IN THE CONVERSATION, SADDAM REFERRED TO HAVING SEEN THE AMIR BEING HOSTED BY KING FAHD. WE UNDERSTAND FAHD RECEIVING SABAH-IT IS THE ARAB WAY - SO LONG AS THEY DON'T ALLOW HIM TO USE SAUDI ARABIA AS THE BASE FOR AGITATION AGAINST IRAQ.

7. TO CHARGE'S QUESTION, "I ASK YOU DIRECTLY IF YOU WILL GIVE ME YOUR ASSURANCES THAT GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT EXIST ON THE GROUND TODAY THAT YOU DO NOT INTEND TO TAKE ANY MILITARY ACTION AGAINST SAUDI ARABIA?" HIS REPLY WAS, "YOU CAN TAKE THIS ASSURANCE TO SAUDI ARABIA FIRST, THEN TO EVERYBODY IN THE REGION. WE WILL NOT ATTACK ANY PARTY THAT DOES NOT ATTACK US. WHOEVER WANTS OUR FRIENDSHIP WILL FIND US EAGER."

8. A PART OF SADDAM'S BRIEF AGAINST ANY U.S. ACTION IN THE GULF INVOLVES THE PRINCIPLE OF LEGITIMATE U.S. "INTERESTS." AT ONE POINT IN THE CONVERSATION HE CLAIMS NOT TO KNOW WHAT THEY ARE IN SAUDI ARABIA AND ASKS FOR CLARIFICATIONS SO THAT HE CAN PROVIDE ASSURANCES. YET AT ANOTHER POINT HE DEFINES U.S. GULF INTERESTS FOR US AS OIL AND ASSURES US THAT HE'LL GUARANTEE THE SUPPLY. THE UPSHOT OF HIS UNSTATED, BUT IMPLICIT, ARGUMENT: WE'LL GUARANTEE YOUR OIL, SO YOU'VE NO OTHER REASON TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE. IN THAT CONTEXT, HIS THREAT -- THAT ANY AMERICAN ADVENTURES IN THE GULF WILL RESULT IN DOUBLE THE HARM TO THE U.S. RATER -- IS PRESUMABLY AN OIL THREAT.

9. OPENING OF THE BORDERS:

CHARGE CONVEYED TO SADDAM OUR DEEP CONCERNS THAT THOSE AMERICAN CITIZENS CURRENTLY IN KUWAIT AND IN IRAQ, WHO WANT TO LEAVE, HAVE NOT BEEN PERMITTED TO DO SO. CHARGE SAID HE HAD SPOKEN TO SECRETARY BAKER THE PREVIOUS EVENING AND THE SECRETARY HAD REINFORCED THE CONCERN OF THE PRESIDENT AND OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. SADDAM REPLIED ONLY THAT WE ARE STUDYING THAT AND WE WILL BE MAKING A DECISION SOON. CHARGE ONCE AGAIN URGED THE PRESIDENT TO ACT QUICKLY TO PERMIT AMERICANS TO DEPART. SADDAM REPLIED WITH A SMILE, "ARE YOU SO ANXIOUS ABOUT AMERICANS DEPARTING BECAUSE YOU ARE GOING TO ATTACK ME?" CHARGE REPLIED THAT OUR INTEREST WAS IN ENSURING THAT THOSE CITIZENS WHO WANTED TO LEAVE BE PERMITTED TO MAKE THAT CHOICE, AND NOT BE OBLIGED TO REMAIN AGAINST THEIR WISHES. CHARGE THEN REPLIED THAT HE INTENDS TO STAY. SADDAM SMILED AND SAID HE HAD BEEN MAKING A JOKE. (ON LEAVING THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, CHARGE RAN INTO THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PROTOCOL, WHO SAID THAT DIPLOMATS MAY NOW BEGIN LEAVING AFTER TRAVEL PERMISSION IS GRANTED. THIS WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF ANOTHER TELEGRAM.)

10. VIOLATION OF DIPLOMATIC PROPERTY:

SADDAM MADE A POINT OF SAYING THAT THE IRAQI TROOPS HAD BEEN BEHAVING WITH GREAT DISCIPLINE

AS THEY HAD BEEN SO INSTRUCTED BY THE GOVERNMENT. CHARGE REPLIED THAT SINCE THE PRESIDENT HAD RAISED THE SUBJECT, HE WOULD

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NODIS

FROM CHARGE

E.O 12356: DECL:OADR

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SUBJ: MAIN POINTS OF CHARGE'S MEETING WITH LIKE TO SHARE SOME INFORMATION WITH HIM.

NOTING THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD CONVEYED THE SAME MESSAGE TO THE CHARGE THE PREVIOUS DAY, THE SHARING OF INFORMATION ON POSSIBLE ABUSES BY IRAQI SOLDIERS WAS OF MUTUAL CONCERN. IN THAT

SPIRIT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THE RESIDENCE OF OUR COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY IN KUWAIT HAD BEEN BROKEN INTO THE PREVIOUS NIGHT BY IRAQI SOLDIERS. IN ADDITION TO BEING A VIOLATION OF ONE OF THE MOST BASIC IMMUNITIES PROVIDED TO DIPLOMATS UNDER THE VIENNA CONVENTION, THIS ACT WAS IN DIRECT VIOLATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S INSTRUCTIONS TO HIS MILITARY FORCES, CHARGE CONCLUDED. SADDAM TURNED IMMEDIATELY TO HIS CABINET SECRETARY, AND ORDERED AN INVESTIGATION, THEN TURNED BACK TO THE CHARGE AND PROMISED THAT HE WOULD CONVEY THE RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATION TO US AND TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTION TO PREVENT ITS HAPPENING AGAIN.

11. COMMENT: THE ABOVE IS A SYNOPSIS OF THE CONVERSATION WHICH WAS CHARACTERIZED BY REAL TENSION AT THE BEGINNING, WHILE SADDAM WAS CONVEYING HIS WARNING. HE DID BEGIN TO RELAX, AND AT THE END HE AGAIN ARGUED THAT U.S. INTERESTS, AS WELL AS IRAQ'S, ARE SERVED BY BETTER RELATIONS, AND HE LOOKS FORWARD IN THE FUTURE TO ONCE AGAIN DEVELOPING A BETTER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. CHARGE DID NOT RESPOND.

WILSON

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<SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 03 <SSN> 4566 <TOR> 900806161847 MSG000271268327

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