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MR POWELL, NO 10

cc. Sir Robin Butler

IRAQI MISSILE DEPLOYMENT

1. The MOD tell us that they have just been telephoned by the DIA in Washington to say they have for the first time identified (presumably from their latest satellite pass) a SCUD-type missile deployed on a fixed launcher at a site in western Iraq (ie facing Israel). There are several command and control vehicles nearby. That is all DIA know at present.

2. The missile is believed to be one of the longer-range SCUD derivatives, the *Al-Abbas*, which is thought to have a range of some 600 Kms carrying a 200-lb warhead (see map).

3. It seems unlikely that the Iraqis would want to fire a single missile at Israel: in any case, if they had intended to, Iraq would surely have already done so at once. Possible explanations include:

- this is *not* a singleton: the imagery has simply not picked up other deployments yet;
- it is a tactic to provoke an Israeli pre-emptive strike;
- it is a training practice-run.

4. We do not yet know whether the Americans have told the Israelis (see our paper of 6 September on the risk of an Israeli pre-emptive strike against Iraqi missiles), but we expect that they will have done so.

Christopher MacRae

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23 October 1990

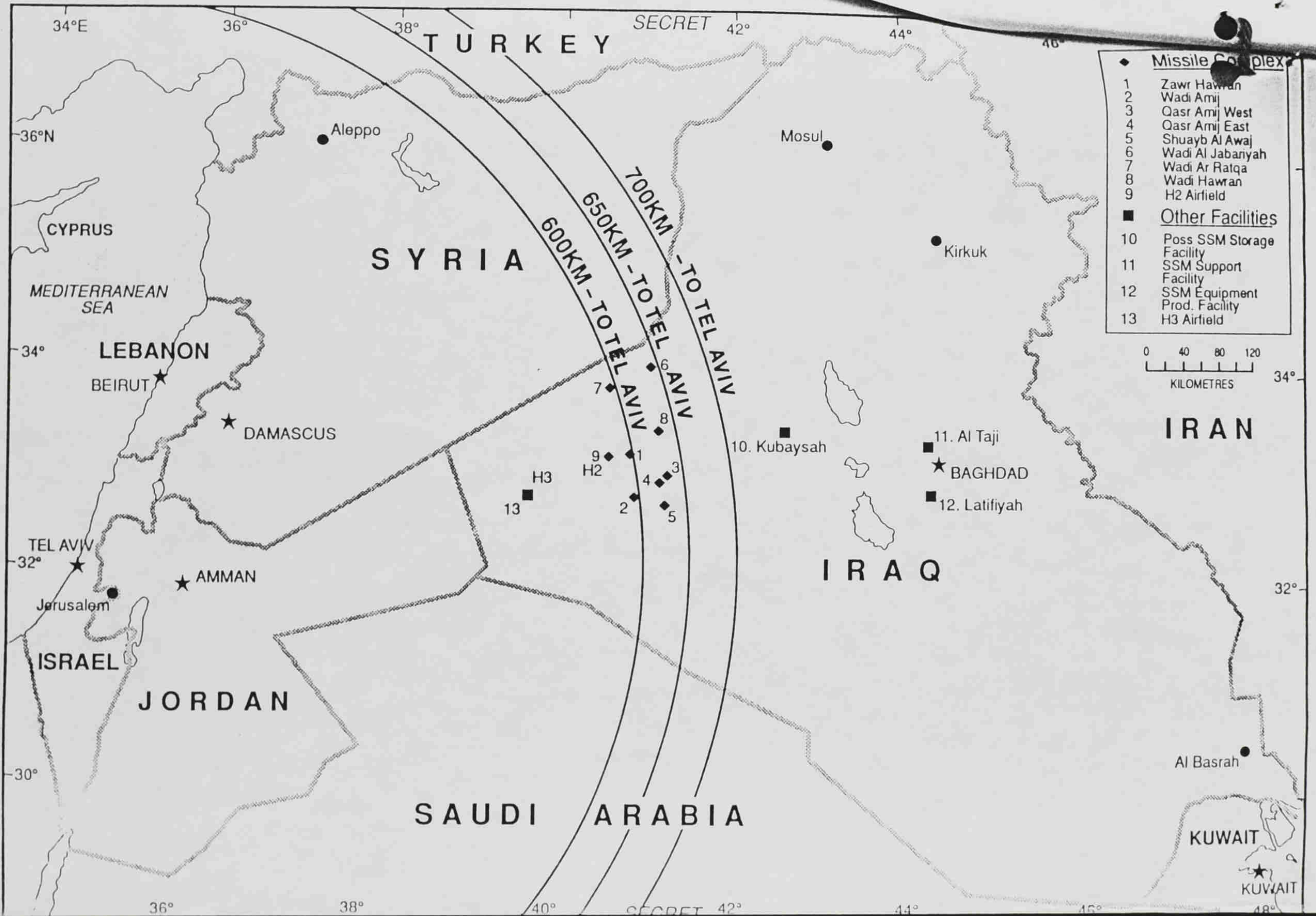
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- | Missile Complex | |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | Zawr Hawran |
| 2 | Wadi Amij |
| 3 | Qasr Amij West |
| 4 | Qasr Amij East |
| 5 | Shuayb Al Awaj |
| 6 | Wadi Al Jabariyah |
| 7 | Wadi Ar Ratqa |
| 8 | Wadi Hawran |
| 9 | H2 Airfield |
| Other Facilities | |
| 10 | Poss SSM Storage Facility |
| 11 | SSM Support Facility |
| 12 | SSM Equipment Prod. Facility |
| 13 | H3 Airfield |



13

34°

32°

48°

34°E

36°

38°

42°

44°

46°

36°N

34°

32°

30°

36°

38°

40°

42°

44°

46°

48°

TURKEY

SYRIA

IRAQ

IRAN

SAUDI ARABIA

KUWAIT

KUWAIT

LEBANON

BEIRUT

DAMASCUS

AMMAN

TEL AVIV

Jerusalem

ISRAEL

JORDAN

Aleppo

Mosul

Kirkuk

10. Kubaysah

11. Al Taji

BAGHDAD

12. Latifiyah

Al Basrah

700KM - TO TEL AVIV

650KM - TO TEL AVIV

600KM - TO TEL AVIV

H3

H2

9

1

4

3

2

5

7

8

6

AVIV

AVIV

AVIV