

“Saddam Hussein Meeting with the General Command of the Armed Forces Regarding Iraqi Development and Defense Theory”



Document Date: Circa Jan 1996 to Jun 1996

CRRC Record Number: SH-SHTP-A-001-202

Key: UM = Unidentified Male Speaker.

Translator comments, clarifications, and additions are italicized in brackets.

Saddam: How are the young men... the young men of the armed forces? May God bless you. It has been almost six years that we have engaged in the biggest battle in the world. It is the biggest battle in human history in terms of the common [*inaudible*]. All of its lessons were tested and reviewed, not in the form of discussing them while still being studied, but in the form of practical memorization of every aspect of them. Also, as all comrades of the armed forces remember, we are not the type that leaves [*inaudible*] solution and analysis, but we do handle each case separately in its own timeframe and circumstances. [*Inaudible*] and its reasons, everything. In brief, it has been six years for us closely examining the lessons derived from Um al-Maarek [*the Mother of All Battles*], as this battle is new to us in terms of type, compared to al-Qadisiyya. We faced backwardness at its lowest level in al-Qadisiyya, whereas we faced the technical and scientific development at its highest level in Um al-Maarek. So, God, to whom is ascribed all perfection and majesty, wanted good to the people and this nation, of which people are part, when He exposed them to this experience in two places. In any case, [*inaudible*] one must be able to master the art and spirit of combat. You face backwardness, which is the blindness of human beings, but the goal was clear, which is toppling the regime without thinking—without thinking about the aspects of life, without thinking about the value of human life. The enemy was of a different type in Um al-Maarek and so was fanaticism. People were intolerant about sects there, and here they are intolerant about religion, in an inclination that implies a true and abominable hatred toward Arabs and Islam. They hate the Arabs twice, as they are a nation who did not forget its role and duty toward itself, which is unifying its lines in order to practice its role as a civilization. Neither did it forget its role as a leader necessary to Islam. So [*we can say*] in this spirit that every fanaticism is backwardness. Fanaticism there is in the inclination that I described, the Khomeini's fanaticism with his perspective of life and matters in its known framework, while here is the fanaticism of Bush and Thatcher and [*inaudible*] or around them. [*Time Stamp: 04:55*]

In summary, I have nothing that I am required to review with you in this meeting; what did you do with regard to this issue or to that issue, because [*inaudible*] resolving the key issues of any potential confrontation, from which God has kept us away. And unless he wants us to engage in it, we will respond to the trial and will take the test, God willing. I am not sure you have something to review. Does the comrade-deputy have anything that he wants to confirm or that will reassure him regarding some details? Reassurance is faith [*inaudible*]. So this is why we met within this framework. Do you have anything to say and [*do you want*] to provide your opinion about it? I am ready to listen and give my opinion. The discussion might [*inaudible*]. The political issue is about the inspection teams led by Ekeus and anyone who has the same intentions as him at the Security Council; they are known now, America and Zionism. Zionism [*is pushing*] from the back and every case of hostility in the international circle has Zionism behind it; otherwise, there is no interest in hostility for people to be hostile to Iraq or Arabs. They assumed they wanted a crisis, but we have not been able to detect any of the two cases yet. However, the inclination surrounding him [*Ekeus*] is that they [*UNSCOM*] must not leave any issue they do not interfere in, or any place they do not enter, or any file they do not discuss, and this is impossible because they [*inaudible*] any address, on the plea that they want to [*inaudible*] and they will enter [*the place*] that way. But they do not stop there until they reach a point where

the country's security loses its peculiarity, as it is clear in all the details, and they cross the lines of respect of our sovereignty. The Command discussed this issue three times in a joint meeting with the Revolutionary Command Council and decided to [inaudible]. If they are fantasizing they should wake up, but if they meant it, then God help everyone. The dialogue that took place with them was not just about whether they enter or not. [Saddam here talks as if he is addressing the United Nations team] As a [inaudible] that you did based on your decisions. It has been six years and you destroyed all what you wanted to destroy, so why keep looking for one paper [here] and one paper there? Who can guarantee [anything] from now on? Even myself—I have been thinking for the last two days about how we can guarantee... there is one forgotten card that has nothing to do with banned weapons, that is it! They destroyed its industrial base and they destroyed the weapons, but can we guarantee that someone did not forget a single file or something? This is a fact. [Time Stamp: 10:10]

What is the value of this card to you? If you already looked at the key issues in detail and destroyed them, what is the use of one card, then? They want to know the background of everything in the past. Fine, the essence of the past is that for you to make sure at the present time that the machinery, equipment, and industry are not being used to produce anything prohibited. And you made sure of that [inaudible] of every factory and every line of production. You need to think that anything is possible. An officer saved the related Iraqi technicians at the last minute when he told them he wanted to make sure that what has been destroyed was destroyed. He said, "You are 150 teams and you did not leave a location that you did not search, and we are telling you that these were destroyed. There is artillery ammunition filled with chemical—some comrades remember, Sultan and Hussein remember that—that must be left and not used, unless I give you an order to do so. We did fill them up, indeed, in Um al-Maarek, but they were not used in [inaudible] and were destroyed. "You must get us a document certifying they were destroyed on such day and such hour for every type of missile." This is the big [inaudible] that we had during the Page of Treason and Treachery. He brings an officer with him—I am not sure whether it is a 1st Lieutenant or a Captain—and we will have him write down in his book how much was destroyed of such item and on such day in such location. I do not know where he came from, [inaudible] his book. [Inaudible]. So if someone wants to find an excuse he will find it. But if he wants [inaudible] that Iraq has weapons of mass destruction, as they pretended, it is no longer... and they were in the monitoring [committee] investigating when the Iraqis tried to [inaudible]. So this is completely achieved [inaudible]. One of the comrades, members of the Revolutionary Command Council... it seems that even our people do not believe this and [believe] that we are hiding something small at least. I am talking based on this incident. They told him, "We have a few missiles and we need to think about such a thing." I said, "If it is at the level of [inaudible], religious people call the [inaudible] an act of Satan, isn't that so?" [Inaudible]. I told him, "[Inaudible], don't tell me we still have 16 missiles and two bases. If bases were still there with 1000 missiles, they would have told you the [inaudible] are still in their place." But what can we do; thank God, anyway! There is nothing, do you think we would talk like this if we had any, and suffer from sanctions for six years if we had chemical, nuclear, and biological missiles? Fine, let it go.

UM1: [Inaudible].

Saddam: We never bet on something materialistic in the sense of [inaudible]. Our bets have always focused on human beings, as God created them nothing like others. [Time Stamp: 15:03]

[Inaudible, Saddam cites a verse from the Quran but it is not clear]. This is a matter of fate, and our fate is to [inaudible] with our brain. Conscience operates the brain. Even if someone has a mid-level capability he might be able to captivate people with his creativity and given capability. [Inaudible] live conscience exists, and the purpose of weapons is for a human being is to use it to protect sacred things that required such a use for protection at a certain moment, starting with the personal level to the general level or state level. We wish the world did not have any atomic, chemical, nuclear—pardon me germ—weapons, or even aircraft, guns, or pistols so that when people fight, each one will [inaudible] and break each other's ribs if this was necessary. [Inaudible]. We do not want weapons just to display them in the shop windows, but to defend the Arab nation and Iraq. Wherever there is a possibility for Iraq to be in danger, and as long as the nation's lines are extorted, the nation will defend its people and help to lift the situation imposed on it. Even if we accept this situation, the next generation will not. If Israel disarms and so do you, [inaudible].

There are people bigger than Iraq. No one [single nation] is a greater Arab [nation] than Iraq—or more ancient than Iraq in dealing with the modern requirements of civilization coming from the West with all the technical and scientific development tools brought with it, since the time of Muhammad 'Ali Pasha the Great when westerners conspired against him and attacked him because he started making weapons. Nothing is like the way Iraq is now. The comrades in the Command, the regional Command of Iraq and Revolutionary Command Council, have heard the story, the famous story, when I went to Syria—the most I wished for Baghdad at that time—even though I was in my last year of high school and [inaudible] 'Abd-al-Karim Qassim, a smart young man. I used to wonder whether Baghdad would become like Damascus one day or not. When I went to Cairo, I did not unleash my imagination then and think about the possibility for Baghdad to become like Cairo.

UM1: [Inaudible].

Saddam: What?

UM1: Baghdad.

Saddam: It will not dare, I mean to dream to be like Beirut or Damascus or Cairo, and what is related to this issue – [Addressing his staff] drink your tea he who wants tea, but he who does not—and what is related to the issue. It is not a matter of... I mean a house like this one—none of us had a house like this one prior to the revolution. Had we owned a house like this we would not have become revolutionaries.

[Time Stamp: 20:02]

UM1: [Inaudible].

Saddam: What?

UM1: [*Inaudible*].

Saddam: [*Laughing*] it is not important for one to have a house like this or a palace or 10 or 100; it is not important that he opens a street and the street is clean, etcetera, with tram like the way it is in Cairo. But all of this cannot just happen on its own like an orphan; clean streets, etcetera, cars, stores, and shops and people come and go. It has to be connected to its base. This is a general rule. Can the army fight only when its air defense advances? No, it cannot. They will not send aircraft alone but infantry and armors and defeat the nation, while the air defense remains intact [*inaudible*]. But is it possible that the air defense develops [*inaudible*] to the point where backwardness is prevailing among the army lines even if it develops? It is impossible because [*inaudible*]. That is why I say it is developed; if the air defense developed other corps develop also. If the other corps are backward this means the air defense is also backward or this and that. When we say Damascus, this does not mean Damascus as the streets I used to see when I was a high school student, but Damascus with everything related to it. This includes the human being when he eats and the streets that I see and the buildings I saw in Cairo. They are all related to the level of development. Everything is [*inaudible*] in Iraq. Most of you [*inaudible*]. So when the renaissance starts everything starts with it; everything you see is [*inaudible*]. Renaissance does not accept... there is a general director [*on one hand*] and there is prevailing backwardness in one of its branches. Everyone must rise. Anyway, thank God that even with the sanctions Baghdad is more beautiful than Damascus and Cairo. Now, now I mean and not [*inaudible*]. This is not a materialistic comparison, but something incidental. What I mean here is that when the people of this generation perform their duties, they will memorize their regional, humanitarian, and national role, and they will rise. And when people rise in a mass action is a type of rare phenomena. I believe, [*inaudible*], the mass determination to carry out good action is a type of action approved. We are all like this in the Command. When one Iraqi gets injured, everyone feels injured himself. But when it is duty, time for duty, no you can't do this or that, this will be at the expense of people's dignity, sovereignty, and security. We will not spare anything and not give even the soul, the soul and what it entails. So and so said the man defends his name. What name? The name he carries is the position. What does he mean the man carries the name? [*Inaudible*] stands against his father and loses some of his money. Everyone will [*inaudible*], all the [*inaudible*] but God willing we will not get to this point, and we pray to God to save Iraq from misfortune and evil action. But if Satan is controlling them and wanted to face an action in response to their action, we give thanks to God. [*Time Stamp: 25:32*]

This is it, my brothers, the key point; we shall discuss based on this, but I gave examples from the Arab reality and here is Turkey. Turkey was also against Iraq three times, and Turkey was the heart of the Arab/Islamic/Persian Empire; I mean it acts according to its own wishes. [*Inaudible*] and relations worsen, and they do not reach an agreement in democracy on who should form the ministry and maybe one day they say democracy has failed. The army is a part of western democracy, a coup takes place and the parties do nothing temporarily. What can those [*inaudible*] do? The majority and minority is a position; the majority has no position and minority has a better position, always and forever. This is in the history and Holy Quran. Yes, General Sultan.

General Sultan: Thank you, Mr. President Leader, and may God protect you. *[Inaudible]* the way it happened. After I called Your Excellency, *[inaudible]* at night that day. When the *[inaudible]* case happened, I sent a message to *[inaudible]* Husayn and the Air Defense Commander. This is how that case happened because they work in aircraft reconnaissance. When Dr. *[inaudible]* called me I went to Mr. Tariq for a general briefing. I felt they are not going to help me. So at the beginning, we felt that the air defense is the key and I sent the air defense message to Your Excellency *[inaudible]*. After the call, I decided to hold a conference in *[inaudible]*. I took the comrades *[inaudible]* and told them to meet me at the air defense *[inaudible]*. I made two *[inaudible]*, in fact, Sir; the first one in the direction of *[inaudible]* and we have to calculate our *[inaudible]*. After we discussed the quick *[inaudible]*, I went toward the front direction to make *[inaudible]* the Chief of Staff of the Army *[inaudible]*. I engaged the intelligence to get the latest report *[inaudible]*, what they had, and what was the *[inaudible]*. In fact, we did *[inaudible]* messages to the Deputy Operation Director, Deputy of the Air Force Commander, and Deputy of the Air Defense Commander, and Deputy of the Military Intelligence Director to *[inaudible]*. Anyway, we had the picture *[inaudible]*, the entire picture. *[Inaudible]*. After discussion, *[inaudible]* what are the expected targets and how to *[inaudible]*. We notified *[inaudible]*, and the measures that Your Excellency *[inaudible]*, and psychological preparedness of all people. This is what we have should a battle takes place and *[inaudible]*. This is in full swing, God willing. *[Inaudible]* the air force's procedures, because we know, Sir, that the main targets are *[inaudible]*. *[Inaudible]* ready in the north *[inaudible]*. *[Time Stamp: 30:10]*

The other point, Sir, *[inaudible]* to see where and what these aircraft are striking. *[Inaudible]*

Saddam: *[Inaudible]*, it is different in the essence, its *[inaudible]* is different.

[Audio is blank from 31:51-31:35]

General Sultan: *[Inaudible]*, this will give some relief and one will not feel that he is *[inaudible]*.

Saddam: Have you discussed this?

General Sultan: Yes, we did.

Saddam: Good, this means that you discussed it on a larger scale?

General Sultan: *[Inaudible]*, we discussed it, Sir.

Saddam: Good. One without daily tasks will *[inaudible]*.

General Sultan: *[Inaudible]*.

Saddam: What?

General Sultan: *[Inaudible]* will end after *[inaudible]*.

Saddam: Will be finished morally and physically. A human being without... without... without a task I mean a human being without a goal will be lost. This is what made me hesitant.

General Sultan: [*Inaudible*].

UM2: [*Inaudible*], Sir.

Saddam: Yes.

UM2: I have a comment, Sir, about what Your Excellency said about the responsibilities. In fact, Sir, the air defense locations and geographic responsibilities are very good.

Saddam: No, in order to settle this issue we will move to [*inaudible*]. This number is going to be too much for the officers.

UM2: 400, Sir, 400 people. But now, Sir, they are [*inaudible*] and do not have duties [*orders*], do not have [*inaudible*].

Saddam: They also do not have duties.

UM2: Yes.

Saddam: This will hurt them more.

UM2: You see him in the morning holding his stick on his way to the hospital.

Saddam: Okay.

UM2: [*Inaudible*].

Saddam: Yes, Mahdi.

Mahdi: Pardon me, Sir. Based on what Your Excellency said about the [*inaudible*], the air defense sectors, Sir, it is clear to Your Excellency they are the bases from which aircraft take off [*inaudible*]. [*Inaudible*], Sir, regarding these matters [*inaudible*].

Saddam: Mahdi, I do not know what the importance of the air defense is. Let us gather our meetings with the armed forces

Mahdi: Yes, Sir, that is right.

Saddam: Starting with Um al-Maarek until now.

Mahdi: Yes, Sir, [*inaudible*].

Saddam: And let us see how much the part of the air defense was.

Mahdi: [*Inaudible*].

Saddam: First and the rest is [*inaudible*].

Mahdi: [*Inaudible*].

Saddam: But the division's commander—in all armies of the world and not only here—it is impossible to make the division's commander equal neither to the base commander, nor to the air defense sector or the eastern communication system. This cannot happen. I mean the division's commander is the brain of the army in peace and in war. So the word “equality” is what I... it is in the entire country... the entire country, anything is done they say “just like.” The comrades know I am against this. Let so and so say, “I suggest such and such,” but he must not say, “Just like the division's commander” or “such and such is just like the base commander.” He should say, “This title needs this tasking,” and that is fine. No one gives with reluctance to his children and brothers; they all deserve the best one can wish for his children and brothers. I mean anyone of them.

Mahdi: Yes, Sir.

Saddam: But this path forfeits the dividers and dividers are important, just like the human being's fingers, if they were all like this [*Saddam is probably showing his fingers together and not separated to his staff*] would not function. [*Time Stamp: 36:26*]

But these dividers are important to everyone appearing in his own title [*rank*], exactly as his title is, whatever his title is. They are all important. Can the army operate if it does not have air defense? It cannot, and aircraft will be flying right over it in Baghdad and striking anyone who looks up. It became an issue that I suppose [*inaudible*] until now. Even those who did not serve in the military now they know more than they did in the past. I know that, but I need you to handle each case separately. Say, “This one may have more privileges than the division's commander.” But do not say, “This one is just like the division's commander.” No, the division's commander is a division commander, the corps commander is a corps commander, and the air force commander is the air force commander, and so on for the air defense. Each one according to his title. Let us not say this one is just like that one. No, they are not the same; not true.

Mahdi: The last point, may God protect you Sir, [*inaudible*] 40 [*inaudible*] in full.

Saddam: 40?

Mahdi: 40 [*inaudible*] tank carriers, they are ready. [*Inaudible*]

Saddam: Fine.

Mahdi: [*Inaudible*]. Sir, we just pray to God to whom be ascribed all perfection and majesty to save us from [*inaudible*] and protect you because He is the foundation and God willing, our army will be victorious. We pray to God to give us the strength to be honest and tell you the truth as is.

Saddam: May God protect you and enable you to do good always.

Mahdi: With the efforts of all God's believers first.

Saddam: Thanks be to God.

Mahdi: And those believing in your leadership are ready and at your service and in the place that you [*inaudible*]. By God Almighty, one [*inaudible*]. I swear to God if he had a little bit of loyalty to this country, he would say yes and salute [*inaudible*]. God to whom be ascribed all perfection and majesty is with us and will stay with us, God willing, because we have faith He is with us. May God protect you, Sir.

Saddam: May God protect you. The aircraft of the Zionist enemy have intentions that indicate they will not be coming to Turkey soon, although in one aspect they had a political use that may seem to have a temporary feature. That political use was a kind of a hint to Iraq that these forces around [*inaudible*] are not the only ones, but their new depth has become Israel. [*Inaudible*] Turkey and hinting to Syria in terms not to have a deep discussion of the peace solution, is also heading in the same direction I mean following the same footsteps. Their footsteps are different than those of others, such as the King of Jordan or the king of Egypt or president of Egypt; no we will not allow it. However, they have a practical aspect higher than... when we build in the north, Israel will establish its development in the north, I mean, big action. For a long time now before we came to power to lead the people, Israel was in the north. [*Time Stamp: 41:35*]

And when an agreement was reached and the armed action collapsed in the north, Jewish experts left the north. So Israel set its hopes on this issue according to its perspective of weakening Iraq. So its presence [*probably the aircraft*] in the north and it might integrate with the coalition aircraft, one way or another will add to its experience of close dealing with Iraq from its northern borders' side. Of course, we shall not forget that the Israelis have a vendetta against us; they do. [*Inaudible*]

Mahdi: [*Inaudible*].

Saddam: A vengeance, meaning they enter Babylon. From the Assyrians and Babylonians' time until Salah al-Din's, everyone defeated them. They were slapped with every rising movement that happened in Iraq, because it seems to be they are the worst thing on earth and therefore, when people defeat them they will not [*inaudible*]. They got closer to them with the presence of agents in the north, some of them were on their way to Turkey. The presence of aircraft also, as you know, requires an administrative base. The base has people of different types [*backgrounds*]; this one is a sergeant and that one is a captain, or this one may be working in the communication field and that one working for the intelligence. Of course, the enemy does not guarantee it; when they can get the chance to control they will attack the Command if they make sure that at such moment the aircraft gets over such location and guarantee the Command is there, they will attack it. That is it; this is one of the tasks, and they will tell Turkey, "They informed us that we want to fly to Israel. We finished our duty and it was out of our control in the air; how can we down them?" They went and accomplished their duty! One time, I asked the Intelligence—I have told

you this before—to investigate the possibilities of a missile strike on our surroundings, in terms of launchers and sea. What do they launch and how much? How many missiles they can launch at once?

Mahdi: Yes, Sir, [*inaudible*] 40 now.

Saddam: They told me it was 40 then. They were doing their math and one part of it is related to us; they are expected to hit 40 targets at once. So, you need to take this into consideration in your planning.

Mahdi: May God protect you, Sir. The comrades have reached a fact that we are [*inaudible*] of it, by God.

Saddam: Yes.

Mahdi: [*Inaudible*] they said they need -- [Interrupted]

Saddam: The one related to the security aspect?

Mahdi: [*Inaudible*], Sir.

Saddam: Yes, [*inaudible*].

UM3: [*Inaudible*].

Saddam: What is bothering them is that they are counting the palaces and saying we have 14 palaces, while we have much more than that. Palaces are...

Mahdi: Maybe Sir...

Saddam: And for us, every Iraqi house is a palace and all Iraqi lands are palaces; its trees are palaces, a house is a palace, a farmer's house is a palace, and the citizen's house in Baghdad, Basra, 'Amara, Salah al-Din, and Nasiriya is a palace. But you just need to be cautious about your meetings and the manner of holding them. As for other matters, it has been taken care of all this time, [*inaudible*].

[*Time Stamp: 47:00*]

Mahdi: [*Inaudible*].

Saddam: What?

Mahdi: Very [*inaudible*].

Saddam: Yes, God willing. Do you have anything about the air defense, [*inaudible, sounded like "Ahmed"*].

UM4: I do, Sir. The enemy's activities in the north and south [inaudible]; they remain the same [inaudible]. The average of their sorties in the southern region is about 40 to 50 sorties per day, [inaudible] 12 sorties per day, [inaudible]. So no change in the activities happened, except for the 11th, 12th, and 13th of last week; temporary [inaudible]. [Inaudible] on the 14th.

Saddam: When did you say the change took place?

UM4: On the 11th, 12th, and 13th, Sir, and they [inaudible] on the 14th. [Inaudible], four days. They continued [inaudible] on the 11th, 12th, and 13th. [Inaudible] on the 14th. This is the [inaudible]. This time they said no, from the 11th to the 14th, on the 11th, 12th, and 13th, and [inaudible] on the 14th. I made a report to Your Excellency about this, only three hours after the [inaudible].

Saddam: On what?

UM4: On Baghdad, they focused on Baghdad. We announced it because there are communication sources in the satellite and we can exchange information with them. In fact, Sir, [inaudible]. Honestly, Sir, I am very happy, and this is the truth, [inaudible]. I am very happy that people heard about what happened. Your Excellency has issued an order, many thanks to God, [inaudible] missiles [inaudible] Alexandria [inaudible] I mean they are ready and so are the [inaudible], with the help of the Chief of Staff of the Army who sent 34 tank carriers. The carriers have arrived and they will move [inaudible]. This is the first time we have received such quick cooperation [inaudible] personnel armor vehicles. We received 12 missile carriers. [Inaudible]. [Inaudible], Sir, they are all following your procedures [inaudible] I am not sure in Basra or Nasiriya at the rate of two or three carriers. We sent cars to all areas and made sure that all [inaudible] of missiles were open and [inaudible] directed toward Alexandria. We coordinated with the Republican Guard Staff Headquarters and the air defense director [inaudible] the security apparatus director briefed us [inaudible]. Morale was high, very high [inaudible] like one family. [Inaudible] air defense, air forces, and all interceptors – we have about 63 interceptors now, 44 of them are armed. [Inaudible] The morale is very high, [inaudible], we explained to them and [inaudible], the [inaudible] in particular. [Inaudible] is known, Sir. [Inaudible] were formed and went to the fighters to attack the [inaudible], especially the [inaudible] mainly, how to operate the guns and how to [inaudible], benefiting from our previous experience. Also, the observation posts were ready for the Cruise, because in fact, Sir, [inaudible] we expect that your projected day of the attack [inaudible]. Either by the Cruise [missiles] or raids or [inaudible], but the likelihood is that [inaudible]. It could be one at night.

Saddam: Closer to...

UM4: The closer to the [inaudible], Sir.

Saddam: Now they have been careful to down aircraft and pilots being captured, etcetera.

[Time Stamp: 52:03]

UM4: Exactly, Sir.

Saddam: Everything is possible.

UM4: Possible.

Saddam: But we must say in our analysis which cases...

UM4: Yes.

Saddam: Closer to the starting line.

UM4: Yes, Sir.

Saddam: To use the missiles that is closer to the starting line.

UM4: Yes, Sir. God willing, our *[inaudible]* is good and the border line that is 200 kilometers from Baghdad, some of its sectors are ready and we continuously visit them *[inaudible]*. And God willing, God willing Sir, what we hope for is to defeat them. We are ready, Sir, to fight to the end and God willing, everyone cooperates in the procedures, and God willing, Sir, victory will be ours. *[Inaudible]*. Just a small incident, *[inaudible]* the Minister of Defense, one week prior to his statement, *[inaudible]*. They called me saying it was my fault, *[inaudible]* because the fact is he is Baghdad *[inaudible]* dinner. *[Inaudible]*. So Sir, this proverb *[inaudible]*. If one believes *[inaudible]* and I am willing, Sir, to *[inaudible]*.

Saddam: What about the traps and their cars?

UM4: Sir, in fact, Your Excellency may have learned about what happened. We made cars for *[inaudible]* missiles and land dropping and I placed 20mm *[inaudible]* on them. *[Inaudible]* until now. And until now *[inaudible]* notified Your Excellency about the mobile ambushes. So I brought the 23mm *[inaudible]*, Sir, and placed them on the cars. Now we have about 30-34 guns mounted on wheels. These are what you call "mobile ambushes".

Saddam: Very good.

UM4: *[Inaudible]*.

Saddam: I will give you 10 cars: five pickup trucks and five Toyota Land Cruisers.

UM4: Thank you, Sir.

Saddam: So that you can see where you have something and investigate the area.

UM4: Sir, we have *[inaudible]*. *[Inaudible]* machine repair that Your Excellency *[inaudible]*.

Saddam: *[Aside to UM5]* From the Council *[Diwan]*; send me a report from the Council.

UM5: Yes, Sir, I submitted it [*inaudible*].

Saddam: What is the latest of Um al-Maarek?

UM5: Sir, Um al-Maarek is in full swing, thank God. [*Inaudible*] Also, Sir, everything is going well in all phases, [*inaudible*]. We are successful, indeed, Sir; all the experiments they are conducting they tried it Sir, and is going right even the [*inaudible*] about to be done, Sir. [*Time Stamp: 57:30*]

[*Inaudible*] also, the report of [*inaudible*] is going on weekly [*inaudible*]. God willing, I will get you good news, Sir. Thank you.

Saddam: General Nizar.

General Nizar: Sir, we have two batteries ready and another two that will be ready by the beginning of the month, God willing, Sir. We have new instructions to double the capability [*inaudible*].

Saddam: This will give the young men some psychological relief and us, as well, because our losses will be few.

General Nizar: Sir, if something happens in Um al-Maarek, God forbid, they can participate because they are ready, Sir. We do not want the air defense [*inaudible*].

Saddam: I can analyze the matter to you as follows, with some of the important information for you to add to the information you have and it is for you, of course, to deal with according to its secrecy. The Americans, when are they going to have the elections?

[*Inaudible discussion in the background*]

UM6: [*Inaudible*] November, and the new president will take office on the 20th of January. He will take over in early January after the New Year.

Saddam: So the elections are in October, this is the election year they have. There is an election year in Russia, they started but I do not know what the latest there is.

UM6: [*Inaudible*] that other communist, they will elect him after July.

[*Inaudible discussion in the background*]

Saddam: Is this the second one?

UM6: Yes, Sir.

Saddam: They wanted him to be the second one. I mean they wanted Yeltsin to be either the first in this round or the second but no less, because if he comes less than second this will lead to a coup. These are their speculations. They say if he comes less than second or if he has no hope winning the elections, they will launch a coup. This is their analysis.

UM6: [*Inaudible*], Sir.

Saddam: What?

UM6: A military officer...

Saddam: An officer at an early time...

UM6: [*Inaudible*].

[*Inaudible discussion in the background*]

UM5: They supposedly appointed the Minister of Defense.

UM6: They appointed the Security Apparatus Director, [*inaudible*].

UM5: The communist one said the same, "If we win, do we give a leadership position?"

[*Inaudible discussion in the background*]

Saddam: Bet on it. Anyway, we became an international card after Um al-Maarek. He who wants to win in his country—I am talking about a number of countries—does his math. Would he win if he strikes Iraq, or not? And if he wins, what type of military success would he achieve in Iraq? They think about this, 1, 2, and 4. But if he realizes that he will not achieve anything, then no, and if he realizes that he will get something at the end, then yes. This is at the American level. On the other hand and at the Russian level, any military action against Iraq will not be beneficial to the Russian nominee, unless the latter has already decided to provide real support to Iraq and show the Russian voters that this is the talks that [*inaudible*] betrayed, but now he is going to support it at this level.

[*Audio is blank from 01:02:29-01:04:05*]

End of Recording