

# **“Saddam Meeting with Ba’ath Party Members to Discuss the Results of the UN Inspectors’ Mission to Look for WMD”**



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**Saddam Hussein:** [Audio begins with the conversation already in progress]...the new emerging matters.

**Tariq Aziz:** Yes.

**Saddam Hussein:** I mean if any, if the specialized person [*an expert*] wants to be malicious, this is much more powerful than that by a long shot.

**All:** Yes.

**Saddam Hussein:** I mean activities were entirely obstructed, and we have talked about it.

**Tariq Aziz:** Yes. Anyway, his [*Ekeus's*] approach now is to reopen all files. I mean, he wants to revisit the missiles, the chemical, the monitoring, which he had talked positively about in his report on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June and said, "The biological file is the only remaining obstacle we have." But now, no, he has reopened all of the files.

**Saddam Hussein:** He wants to benefit, to benefit from the psychological and political opportunity to develop matters that had never crossed their [*the Security Council's*] mind at that time.

**Tariq Aziz:** Also, Your Excellency, there are other matters. I mean, there are things that he discovered. They were all, I mean, we were able to settle them; we were able through strenuous effort, I mean.

**Saddam Hussein:** Do you mean the fault lies within the monitoring body that he did not know?

**Tariq Aziz:** No, that there were issues.

**Saddam Hussein:** You mean outside the realm of the monitoring body, the monitoring body has cameras; they are taking pictures. These were external issues, I believe!

**Tariq Aziz:** The equation, the equation, first he said, "As long as there are issues that took place of which we were not aware, in addition to things that were present then that we did not know about, this means that our monitoring at the time was not complete and comprehensive. Therefore we have to review these matters." As far as the missiles and chemical files, we believe that we could, I mean, we can bring the situation back to what it used to be in June. But this requires time, I mean, no less than two or three months, that is if General Amir agrees with me in this assessment. It is true that there were new things and inquiries as well as errors in the numbers I mean, confirming what they say, but these are, I mean, we could deal with such matters, and we have new information; we have new proof; we have new evidence. But with regard to the biological issue, and the matter of verifying the last results of the biological file, which is the destruction, the destruction of some of the chemical material elements, they can demand this. The other matter that they want, which we have addressed forcefully and objectively but is still pending, and we do not want to bother Your Excellency with it—that is in their point of view—is the matter of suspicion. They say, "You told me such and such and such,

and I closed the file on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June. But then you came back and said that there were these other hidden materials; you need to come and pick it up.” Who will say that these materials are all of the hidden materials?

**Saddam Hussein:** Let him close the file and add a caveat stating that in the event there are intentionally hidden materials, then he will reopen the file one more time.

**Tariq Aziz:** Yes, this is what -- *[Interrupted]*

**Saddam Hussein:** At any time during the following stages.

**Tariq Aziz:** Yes, as Your Excellency knows, there are parties in the *[Security]* Council that are looking for excuses in order to drag this thing out. They want to prolong, they want to use this as an excuse to prolong *[the inspections]*, I mean.

**Saddam Hussein:** No, I am talking about those who are fair.

**Tariq Aziz:** Yes, this is an article to prolong *[a delay tactic]*; even Ekeus at the current time is leaning toward the prolongation plan. He claimed, saying, “Just let this storm pass, I mean, the report of the 11<sup>th</sup> of October, and after that, I will start to intervene gradually in the matter in a manner that we make the work resume just like before.” These are the details. I mean, he is leaning toward prolonging.

**Saddam Hussein:** He is the master of prolonging, the technical one *[technical aspects related to the mission]*.

**Tariq Aziz:** I mean the result of this, if we want to summarize the conclusion that resulted from the traitor *[Husayn Kamil]*, it is prolonging. It will not be less than six months; I mean, six months is the minimum delay. *[Someone clearing his throat]* This is just so that my assessment would be objective and accurate; six months is the minimum and not the maximum. With regard to the technical aspect of the work involved, we have here two of the gentlemen who have participated. The Minister of Oil and Petroleum and the Minister of Transportation and Communications, I mean, we -- *[Interrupted]*

*[Time Stamp: 04:55]*

**Saddam Hussein:** Do you have any comments General Amir?

**General Amir:** Your Excellency, I have a comment about the conclusion. I mean, we have here many details. He is coming with a spirit that explains what he wants and why he came here. It looks like he also talked with the Russian Charge d’Affaires. He is coming here on a political mission more so than a technical one. Anyway, the political mission is summarized in the following: he wants to comfort the Iraqis or the Iraqi side that he does not want to create a crisis following what will be happening as a result of the negative report that he will be submitting on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October. I mean, he is trying to say that he will be issuing a negative report or a very negative report.

**Saddam Hussein:** Do not show any reaction.

**General Amir:** So, he is saying, “You have to be patient. After the storm passes,” just like His Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister has stated. “After the storm calms down, I will work with you peacefully, to implement paragraph 22 [of Resolution 687] within the specified timeframe; so bear with me a bit and endure the storm. Endure this storm which will take place on the 11<sup>th</sup> of October.” He will reopen all files and it is possible that he will merge the monitoring bodies. But I have a technical comment, Your Excellency. The monitoring system consists of cameras and sensors, but it also includes the inspection teams, as well as the meetings and visits in that regard. So when he [Ekeus] says that the monitoring system has failed, he really did not say it failed, but he meant that it contains problems. The Americans are clearly pressuring him in the media. He means that despite all this monitoring equipment of cameras and sensors, they were not able to see everything. Thank you, Your Excellency.

**Saddam Hussein:** For the brothers, the Ministers, for your information, I mean the core of the biological [weapons] issue, despite [the fact] that he has reviewed new information, but its core is complex. I mean we do not have biological weapons, which is the core of the issue, but this is the truth. We do not have chemical weapons; this is true. We do not have the capability to produce nuclear [weapons] [someone in the back is coughing]; this is true. We do not have the capability to produce chemical [weapons], and this is also true.

[Inaudible male voice in the background]

**UMI:** Sir, Mr. Deputy Prime Minister confirmed in the meeting with Ekeus that the core of the issue remains the same; there are no weapons.

**Tariq Aziz:** However, he wants to make sure.

[Someone in the background coughing]

**Tariq Aziz:** [Inaudible] he [Ekeus] said, “I want to make sure. The more documents you provide me, the faster we will move in the process; the more you [inaudible].” It is the same cliché that we hear from him. The point now is to confirm that things that are said to be done, to confirm them. Also, Sir, the information is somehow distorted by the person in charge of this; he [Husayn Kamil] is providing them [the inspection team members] with false information. He gave them information that we produced missiles. He gave them numbers, and now they are saying that they have verified the numbers we gave them before, and they turned out to be inaccurate. So now we have to explain to them and convince them that we did not produce missiles. That we lied, see. [Inaudible]

**Saddam:** What do you mean, we lied?

**Tariq Aziz:** We lied because the missiles that were described as being 100% Iraqi are not 100% Iraqi, just the casing, as he told us, General Amir al-Sa'di. He was the one who talked about the project and said, “We made the casing as well as some parts of it [the missile], but we did not

finish it. But then we started, we took some Scud parts and imported some other parts, put them together and welded them and called them missiles. So these are counted as “ours.” Now, we are said to have a certain number and we have to prove that this is not the case, what's being said is not right.

**Saddam:** So, the missile from which they took parts will be counted as one of ours?

**Tariq Aziz:** Yes, since we have reached -- *[Interrupted]*

**Saddam:** *[Speaking simultaneously]* Don't we have the rest? We can say, “Here are the parts that you destroyed and here are the rest.”

**Tariq Aziz:** Sir, we already calculated this! We told them here is how many missiles we imported from the Soviet Union; we have used this many, and so forth. That matter was settled. Then he *[Husayn Kamil]* told them there is more. To them, he is a source of information, a main source of information.

**Saddam:** General Amir, do we still have missiles?

*[Time Stamp: 10:03]*

**General Amir:** *[Inaudible]*.

**Tariq Aziz:** No, Sir, we do not!

**General Amir:** Sir, I do not want to *[inaudible]* so that I can better clarify it. We, on the basis of ... I mean, based on the traitor's conviction, and in details as a result of his *[Husayn Kamil's]* exaggerations, as *[inaudible]* he was clearly lying. So he thinks the entire missile engine is produced solely *[in Iraq]*, when, in fact, the missile engine was not entirely produced *[in Iraq]*. You remember, Sir, something that Major General Amir al-Sa'di explained to Ekeus. There was a program to produce an entire missile engine. At the same time, however, to save time, a request was made to manufacture parts in Germany. So what happened, Sir, is that -- *[Interrupted]*

**Saddam:** *[Inaudible]* the war?

**General Amir:** Sir, before the war, before the attack on the 30<sup>th</sup>. What happened was that the parts would arrive from Germany. The parts we make in Iraq, and the program is going well, these parts were assembled with the parts that came from Germany. As a matter of fact, only the parts that came from Germany were assembled at the beginning to manufacture an engine. Until today, primary components of the engine have not yet been manufactured in Iraq. So what is said to be an Iraqi engine is actually Iraqi-made parts plus the parts received from Germany.

**Saddam:** So, this is how it happened.

**General Amir:** So, it seems that what caused the problem is that he *[Hussein Kamil]* exaggerated the matter.

**Saddam:** [*Inaudible*].

**UM1:** Yes, Sir.

**General Amir:** And because he exaggerated the matter, he put pressure on us to prove that the number of missiles' engines [*that Iraq had previously claimed to have*] was correct -- [*Interrupted*]

**Tariq Aziz:** [*UM1 and UMI2 continue to speak simultaneously, both are inaudible*] details.

**Saddam:** Yeah -- [*Interrupted*]

**Tariq Aziz:** [*In the background*] It requires some time.

**General Amir:** [*Hurrying to continue*] Sir, this is one point. Sir, I would like to say something, if I may, to Your Excellency and the members of the Council of Ministers. There has been a lot of talk in the media about the biological program. May I say something?

**Saddam:** Yeah, yeah, of course.

**General Amir:** Well, Sir, in the program -- [*Interrupted*]

**Saddam:** [*Jokingly*] What's important is convincing your own kin [*everyone laughs*] and not just Ekeus!

**General Amir:** Sir, there is a main program in the biological [*sector*]...there is a main program in the biological [*sector*], which is the program that achieved an outcome, and a weapon was made as a result. This was the main biological program; the armament [*weapons*] paragraph was concealed from us, but now it is in the open, following the fleeing of the traitor. This was the main program. Actually, I do not believe the problem was very serious, and they [*the inspectors*] had their suspicions -- [*Interrupted*]

**Saddam:** Regarding the armament [*weapons*] paragraph, have you tried -- [*Interrupted*]

**General Amir:** Yes, Sir.

**Saddam:** The materials that you produced have you tried to -- [*Interrupted*]

**General Amir:** To make a bomb?

**Saddam Hussein:** To produce something that can be used as reserve or not? This paragraph, when the brothers started the program, they showed [*the UN inspectors*] everything, except for this paragraph. When asked, "Have you tried to get this weapon or not?" They said, "No, we have not tried as we did not need to."

**General Amir:** Fine, you did not show this paragraph, but where is the negligence, the drama, the exaggeration, and the extremism? Sir, it is -- *[Interrupted]*

**Saddam Hussein:** Iran has germs [*biological weapons*]; it has the nuclear bomb. This is what they are trying to do.

**General Amir:** Your Excellency, if you permit me.

**Saddam Hussein:** And not just any germ makes it stronger than [*inaudible*].

**General Amir:** Sir, there are projects that at best are meaningless. I really would prefer not to use a more cruel word. As per the biology [*program*], these were secondary activities and not programs, which were in response to Your directions. Minister of Communications, General Director of the Technical Research Center, was there at the time too -- *[Interrupted]*

**UM1:** [*Inaudible*].

**General Amir:** Would you please allow me to talk about this subject matter. Sir, when someone comes up with an idea and says, "Let me use this biological toxin, because once I use it, the entire Iranian Army will disappear." No one then would dare to discuss it with him because it is something more difficult to judge than, say, a bomb or a rocket. [*Consequently*], they give him the green light to start, and they support him. Also, for example, a middle school graduate came and said that he invented a three-phase rocket [*the three phases usually include ignition and lift off, engine burn out, and coasting*]. Now, who would want to believe a middle school graduate? Anyway, Sir, there are secondary biological programs run by university professors. As you know, ignorance is not only limited to the illiterate. It also applies to those who have high [*advanced*] degrees. There are many secondary biological programs that did not bring any results, produce any weapons, or do anything of value. They were *inconclusive* [*this word was said in English*]. But you know them; there is a type of exaggeration to the issue. He [*Ekeus*] is taking advantage of this -- *[Interrupted]*

**Saddam Hussein:** Didn't they know of this earlier?

[*Time Stamp: 14:58*]

**General Amir:** Definitely not, Sir, because the [*biological activities*] did not bring any results or anything of substance. At one time, for example, you may know of Doctor Mouna al-Jiburi. She had an idea and worked on it for six or nine months, but it did not produce anything of value. The idea died later on. While the main program was working very well and was producing some results, other marginal programs did not bring anything. Some would last three months, some six months, and some might have taken a year. One day, someone conducted a biological experiment and carried out an explosion. The expert then asked him: "Well, did you conduct this experiment?" The person replied, "Yes." Then the expert asked him, "Did you do it that way?" The person replied, "Yes." The expert then said, "Thank God you are safe." [*All attendees are laughing. General Amir was alluding to the fact that some people don't know what they are doing.*]

**Saddam Hussein:** Fine, they were able to forge [*inaudible*] while they are sitting [*inaudible*].

**General Amir:** So, Your Excellency, he [*Ekeus*] is using all these exaggerations and the hidden documents, but here is the problem. The hidden documents are nothing. If you allow me to say, these programs are stupid, most of them are stupid or secondary, in a way that nothing is hidden. I mean when the documents were hidden as general documents, knowledge -- [*Interrupted*]

**Saddam Hussein:** This does not have any documents.

**General Amir:** As for the same main [*biological*] program, there was nothing worth hiding there. So he -- [*Interrupted*]

**Saddam Hussein:** He is looking for similar documents.

**General Amir:** Yes, Sir. He says, “You prepared the documents that you gave to us, in a way that some organized [*predisposed*] decisions.” But in reality, what you and your folks see are these programs. Sir, with the nuclear bomb, like Your Excellency has mentioned, you cannot compare this one to that one. We should tell them to take a look at the International Atomic Energy Agency and notice how its market is stagnant. Despite all this hoopla and nuclear bomb - - [*Interrupted*]

**Saddam Hussein:** This is another matter. My God, I wish I knew about this earlier.

**Taha Yasin Ramadan:** All this is nonsense.

**General Amir:** So, Your Excellency, this is the matter in summary. I do not want to elaborate here.

**Tariq Aziz:** No, the people of -- [*Interrupted*]

**Saddam:** Because the Atomic Agency [*IAEA*] has programs that are not nonsense; they have nonsense but to a lesser extent than these, and still...

**General Amir:** [*Inaudible*].

**Saddam:** Let it go, let it go. There is no change in our position.

**General Amir:** Sir, do you know what they said? Sir, allow me to say that they said that this nuclear program of the atomic bomb is stupid and will definitely fail. Therefore, as far as we are concerned, it means nothing in the way of evaluating the Iraqi capability.

**Saddam:** Yeah.

**General Amir:** Sir, you see they employed it in a positive way. An American, one from the non-proliferation of weapons, he came to me—we developed sort of a good relationship—and said, “I

do not care about propaganda; this is my position and I will inform the U.S. State Department and so forth. Our position is this: you all, our evaluation of you remains the same as it was in 1993 and 1994, even after all this new information. We just need the details. But we know there is nothing left. The significance of the biological program does not even equal 1% of the nuclear program.” And yet they insist on knowing all details. As you know Sir, writing down and proving the details, and convincing them of [*the details*] takes a lot of time. We are talking about various cadres here. They returned with us to the al-Hasan bin-Haytham Institute during the seventies in order to explain the issue to them in detail.

[*Time Stamp: 19:10*]

**Tariq Aziz:** Your Excellency, the nuclear issue has two essential and important factors [*inaudible*]. Is there a device that enriches uranium? If there is no device that enriches uranium, then there is nothing. Is there [*already*] any hidden enriched uranium? If those two [*pieces of evidence*] are not available, then the experts should not worry. The enriched uranium that we used to have, which we imported according to the guidelines of the International Atomic Energy Agency, they have received it all completely. There wasn't any discrepancy there. Isn't that true, Doctor? And the uranium enrichment equipment that we used, they have seen it and accounted for all of it. There wasn't any device left. As for the biology, anyone can conduct biological [*research*] in the kitchen, at the tannery, the General Manager of the related department, Dr. Ahmad Murtadha, [*etcetera*]. If anyone wants to conduct biological research, they do so [*everyone laughs*], so all this nonsense that they keep bringing up are all excuses. They are nonsense, but at the same time it gives them material for their discussion. They are also experts in their field. Frankly, a large number of these experts are taking our side. On this occasion, in addition to the effort of General Amir, I have to mention the direct work of Dr. Ahmad Murtadha, who worked hard, and his product was very accurate. Also, Dr. Amir al-Sa'di knows all these issues and knows the difference between the truth and lies, and consequently we discovered that there are documents. I mean, for example, we do not have documents, but sometimes one would search in the papers of General Amir al-Sa'di and he would find a document related to the ongoing discussion at his house. Major General Hazim—I am not sure [*of his title*]; he may have been promoted now—has this document in the form of an order from the committee when it existed. Major General Abd, Comrade Qusay, and the Intelligence Director were supervisors for this operation. We received instructions saying that as per the order of the Deputy Prime Minister, it has been decided so and so to provide such and such entity with sufficient amount of explosives for the detonation of such and such. I mean we have started to find some documents that will help us in supporting our position. That is all. But he [*Ekeus*] is not helping, of course. Our documentation is clear, and regardless of his ties to the Americans, he is a coward. I mean he has no nerve to stand up and say, “Despite all these new things I have seen, my convictions have not changed.” He does not have the same courage. This is not an intelligence related matter, Sir. The International Atomic Energy Agency is not an intelligence institution.

**Saddam Hussein** [*In English*]: Whatever!

**Tariq Aziz** [*In English*]: Whatever! [*In Arabic*]: But I told him, I said, “What is the matter with the Doctor? I did talk to the State Minister for Foreign Affairs and said that even our water is not

ours! [*Inaudible; several attendees speak at once followed by laughter*]...you caused a drama, scared people, and these guys [*inaudible*] he does not know how to read and write. You brought in biological [*weapons*]. I told him these have to go. These have to go so that we can start doing some scientific and organized work. The basic truth that we have told you, which I told you in the past two years, is that he said yes, and we take responsibility for what has been said and go tell them -- [*Interrupted*]

**Saddam:** I forgot to tell you that we need a statement of this sort, I mean, [*in order*] for the world to understand it.

**Tariq Aziz:** Yes.

**Saddam:** With all that has been said and with all that has been presented and all that has been concealed, the essence of the matter can be summarized in the following: [*there are*] no prohibited weapons at all in Iraq.

**Tariq Aziz:** Yes.

**Saddam:** I mean there is no such and such and such thing. If fair-minded individuals were to build on these facts, they would come up with conclusions other than the conclusions they want to draw from certain matters and use them as a cover to extend the blockade [*sanctions*].

**Tariq Aziz:** Yes. I will think of wording tomorrow [*for the above-requested statement*] and submit it to Your Excellency.

**Saddam:** Yes...

[*Time Stamp: 23:56*]

**UM2:** Sir, one point that Mr. Deputy [*Prime Minister*] has also emphasized, which is the fundamental issue that has not changed since the first meeting: we do not have biological weapons. Even if you were to search Iraq meter by meter, you will not find a biological weapon. This is the fact now, and it has not changed. As for the secondary issues brought up by Mr. Deputy and the Minister of Oil, these are the many secondary issues that happened, Sir. Sir, he [*Ekeus*] also has wrong impressions sometimes that are utterly untrue. We are 100% sure that they are incorrect. What does this have to do with the Doctor's issue of manufacturing an aircraft not a car, and testing it and so on [*meaning this is none of Ekeus' business*]. Sir, the Minister of Oil was there, while the Doctor was not; he has been away in Jordan for a while. Find a way to talk to him. He was in Jordan! We do not hesitate at all, Sir. He introduced the matter and he has the wrong impressions. He said that there is an area in al-Kut where we are working on viruses. We are certain that there is no area in al-Kut that is working on viruses. He asked [*inaudible*] etcetera? And we said, "Yes, there is a livestock farm in al-Kut, but not [*for*] viruses. If you want, we can take you there and you will see for yourself." So, Sir, after much [*inaudible*], and during his last meeting with the Minister of Oil, he said, "Your boats still have chemical weapons."

**UM3:** In Shatt al-Arab?

**UM2:** In Shatt al-Arab. In fact, a company has approached me, Sir. There is really nothing!

**Saddam:** We have suggested that companies come and remove the boats.

**UM2:** Sunken.

**Saddam:** How can we suggest that companies remove the boats if they have biological [weapons]?

**UM2:** Sir, these are conceptions -- *[Interrupted]*

**UM3:** Pardon me, Sir, this is involving money, but the Kuwaitis took about 300 million dollars from them to search the boats in the area. I mean they are blackmailing [us] here.

**UM2:** Blackmailing; that is right.

*[Multiple attendees speak simultaneously and break out in laughter]*

**Tariq Aziz:** *[Inaudible]* I studied it with Dr. Ahmad and Major General Amir. We came to the conclusion that companies are probably blackmailing Kuwait so that they can tell me that we have objected to the next contract, because it has exaggerations. They can force part of it on us, blackmail [us], and on them -- *[Interrupted]*

**Saddam:** We still need to issue a statement.

**Tariq Aziz:** Well, this was interpreted...

**Saddam:** We need a contract for the *[inaudible]*. As soon as an authorization is made *[inaudible]*.

**Tariq Aziz:** I have a suggestion, which is notifying our ambassadors and permanent representative that they *[inaudible]*.

**Saddam:** Oh no, make a statement. The media... the media and our presence in the media are very important. It is more important than our ambassadors to endeavor with others *[possibly other countries]*. The media is read and heard by those in charge and those who are not. *[Pause]* We should get active in the media regarding this issue. Do we have anything else? The Kuwaitis are worried that the sunken *[boats]* may have biological weapons! *[Attendees laugh]*

**UM4:** So what!

**UM2:** Sir, Sa'ad al-Abdallah made a statement saying that our situation is very critical -- *[Interrupted]*

**Saddam:** [*Irritated*] Fine, what does Sa'ad al-Abdallah mean by 'very critical?' Who cares? [*Attendees laugh*] As a response to Sa'ad al-Abdallah, we are going to have a referendum because [*attendees laugh*] then the results of the referendum will scare Sa'ad al-Abdallah! You can see where this is going. He's afraid of dictatorship; he's afraid of a democratic referendum.

**Tariq Aziz:** He said there is a game of [*inaudible*].

**Saddam:** No, he has something in mind; he is talking about something. What is being put forth is a referendum on the position of the president of the republic, or any other referenda, or any other referendum. That's what he is afraid of. The other part is that he would be afraid of a referendum on the position of the president of the republic, but then he will have a discussion the next day asking who would vote to go to Kuwait! [*Laughter*] Those who disagree say nay and those who agree say yes. So, what should we do then about this referendum? Yeah, what can we do for him then? [*Silence*] It is a problem!

[*Time Stamp: 28:47*]

**UM4:** [*Inaudible conversations in the background*] Sir, a person was asked, “[*Inaudible*] when were we in Basra?” The first one replied, “What do you think of the third fleet there?” and the other one replied, “It is not enough; bring the fourth, the fifth, and the sixth. Remove the obstacles!” [*Attendees laugh and several provide inaudible commentary*]

**Saddam:** It is a problem.

**Tariq Aziz:** [*Inaudible*] They scare people with them.

**UM2:** Yes.

**Tariq Aziz:** Kuwaitis will always be scared.

**Saddam:** They have seen them, I mean, they have seen that but there is no [*inaudible*]. [*Inaudible; several attendees speak simultaneously*] But there is no other way around it.

**Tariq Aziz:** Even the threat of Abd al-Karim Qasim to the Kuwaitis made them paranoid to the point that every time he made a statement, the Kuwaitis would fuel their vehicles, load their belongings, and be ready to escape in case the Iraqi attacks start. They have seen that.

**UM4:** [*Inaudible*].

**Saddam:** There is a folklore from the south that says even if he ties himself to a poll—they will say—he is going to pull it out and run away [*this is said about someone who is cowardly; attendees laugh*]. So, these folks need to find another way, otherwise, this is going to give them and us a hard time.

**UM5:** Sir, speaking of popular songs, the other day we stopped by the Shifil area where the Bani Hasan [*clan*] is. There is a popular folk composer there, and many people here know him.

**Saddam:** How's he doing?

**UM5:** Fine, Sir, and he sends Your Excellency his regards. They have a composer in an area called Abu-Sakhra; he is known there. Before we had a coffee with him, he started composing these popular sayings about the referendum. One of these sayings goes like, "It is impossible to choose a person other than you, knowing that you are the one who can stabilize the Keffiyeh" [*Keffiyehs are a head covering for men held in place by a gold band*].

**UM4:** Good point.

**Saddam:** The Euphrates people always say nice things. Well, that is all about Ekeus.

**Tariq Aziz:** It needs some patience.

**Saddam:** [*Rising*] Let us be patient and see where it goes. [*The sound of Saddam and his staff leaving the room*] Okay, good night. [*Time Stamp: 31:42*]

[*Audio is blank from 31:43-45:14*]

**End of Recording**