

“Meeting between Saddam Hussein and His Officials after the First Gulf War”



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Saddam Hussein: Have a drink. You either drink this, or there will be no talking. [*Laughter*]

Ra'ad al-Hamdani: Sir, we saw men with great willpower in the Mother of All Battles. They [*the United States*] cannot deprive us of our willpower no matter what. Despite their pressures with regards to monitoring, and because we did not utilize or take advantage of our expertise in the field of missiles, we feel that time will not serve them. No matter how long it takes, the [*missile*] factories will remain in our minds. No matter how much material and equipment they take from us, the factory will remain in our minds. He who can manufacture a Hijarah missile within four days, increase its range, and launch it successfully, can do anything and everything after one, two, or five years. So with time, they will lose, and our willpower will become stronger day after day.

Saddam: God willing.

Ra'ad: Sir, the missile teams, whose equipment was destroyed, helped in the reconstruction process in the various [*parts of the*] Military Industrialization Commission and in the state's institutions as a whole. We also repaired some pieces of equipment that were destroyed, some of which are highly sophisticated. Our groups also contributed effectively to Asad Babil [*the Lion of Babylon Tank project*]. We are also active in the production of short-range missiles, including the 122 mm, 81 mm, 107 mm, and Ababil missiles. Acting upon your directives, which were conveyed to us by the senior undersecretary, we have a plan to develop a surface-to-air missile system that is more efficient and effective than what we already have. They [*unclear who "they" are, possibly those acting upon the directives*] have chosen the Volga missile system for us and we started working on it; we are in the preliminary stages. We also have other plans to develop missiles that do not exceed the range set by the United Nations. These are our plans at the current stage. Sir, we are ready and are awaiting your instructions. If you ask us to resume work in any field, we are ready any time. They [*UN inspectors*] feel that time will not serve them, and we are ready for this challenge. Thank you, Sir.

Saddam: God willing, they will lose. This is the most important thing. They lost the battle on the human and moral levels. God willing, you will win everything. You will win it on this level, and also on the material level. Thank you, Ra'ad. Abdul Amir [*Saddam is giving him permission to speak*].

Abdul Amir: Sir, the enemy's bombs began to fall on Hittin Facility on the second day of the aggression and through the final hours. Around 850 bombs and missiles were dropped on it. The raids continued for 24 hours on certain days. When the cease-fire came into effect and when the aggression stopped, we started to implement Your Excellency's orders to give priority to the 82 mm mortars. Indeed, we started the manufacturing campaign along with the reconstruction campaign. The first batch of the 82 mm mortar shells was delivered on 7 April. The first batch numbered 1,000 shells, and then the production increased. [*Time Stamp: 05:17*]

Sir, a major part of our previous production program is now back on track. We are currently manufacturing 82 mm and 60 mm mortar shells. As for the artillery, we are manufacturing the 122 mm, 130 mm, and 155 mm shells. In addition, we are now manufacturing new products that

were neither manufactured by the facilities prior to the [U.S.] aggression nor ever in the history of these facilities. We started working on the zero batches [*initial batches*] of 115 mm tank shells a few days ago. God willing, we will begin the production soon. Sir, we are also working on the 125 mm tank shells in cooperation with the al-Qa'qa Facility. We are currently working on the first experimental batch of paper wrapper shells. Paper wrappers were never used before in our factory. This is a project that we are currently working on with the al-Qa'qa Facility and the paper plant. God willing, we hope to succeed in it within a short period of time. God willing, our facility will become better than ever before by the beginning of next year. Thank you, Sir.

Saddam: Thank you. What does the commander of the State Facilities Protection Force say?

Lt. Col. ██████: Everything is, God willing, in good shape, Sir. We, the State Facilities Protection personnel and I, promise to safeguard everything in these facilities and to close all doors before the enemies. Sir, I have one comment on the activities of UN committees. Currently, four committees are visiting us; namely, the biological, chemical, missiles, and nuclear committees. We are in the process of setting up an operations center, thanks to all brothers who are cooperating with us. We serve as a protection and security force for the Military Industrialization Commission [*MIC*]. Additionally, there is a security center in charge of protecting each facility comprised of military elements. Since the establishment of this force, it was an organ of the Military Intelligence Directorate. When the Military Industrialization Commission was set up, it split from the Military Intelligence Directorate. Gradually, each facility had its own security center. The protection of state facilities is the duty of the army and is called the State Facilities Protection Command. We are only affiliated with the operations. In other words, we are administratively connected with the Military Operations Directorate. Sir, as far as the four UN biological, chemical, missiles, and nuclear committees are concerned, we have no problem with their activities, except for the Petrochemical 3 [*an Iraqi nuclear weapons project*]. Your Excellency has probably heard of the problem related to the Workers Union. The security activities and performance is excellent with the rest, praised be God. I would like to assure Your Excellency that my personnel are good and share the same mentality as myself. The majority of them are military officers and are quite disciplined and performing well according to the available resources. Now, Mr. Qusay is helping me out with the latest situation. Colonel Abd [*Abd Humud, Saddam's secretary*] is also helping me out. All problems have now been resolved, Sir.

Saddam: Well-done. Muzahim, would you tell us something about al-Muthanna?

Muzahim: Yes, Sir. May God watch over you, Sir. Unlike the other facilities, al-Muthanna Facility was distinctly targeted by the [U.S.] aggression. The facility includes several other facilities in different locations. The main location is relatively large. It is different from the locations of the other affiliated facilities in terms of its geographic size. We have four other support locations. One of these was very specialized in [*inaudible*]. There are other new facilities that were built after 1985. The strange thing about the attack on al-Muthanna Facility is that the bombing was focused on the workshops. Even the administrative building and the library of the main location of al-Muthanna were targeted. I did not notice that the headquarters of the other facilities were bombed. [*Time Stamp: 10:08*]

Sir, although the [UN] committees have curtailed the activities of the facility due to the inspection and filming they conducted in the facility, the units—thanks to the directives of the senior undersecretary and the head of the Technical Affairs Department—did not sit idly by. On the contrary, the facility with its units contributed to the reconstruction campaigns in Bayji and al-Qa'qa. Afterwards, the facility engaged in a conflict with the committees over the reconstruction of the chlorine plant. Step by step, we managed to achieve breakthroughs in the reconstruction campaigns. Now, Sir, we have a major reconstruction campaign to rebuild the main locations, which are the three support locations. The main location in particular was the target of another reconstruction campaign despite the harassment we received from the [UN] inspection committees. We, as the Military Industrialization Commission, will, God willing, bring you the good news. The present challenge, as we call it at al-Muthanna Facility, is that the other facilities want to be reconstructed so that they can resume their production, but we will reconstruct our own facilities so that we can serve industrialization, medicinal production, and the production of insecticides. This is our vision for the time being.

We still have one more conflict to resolve, which is how to re-take our own equipment from them [*the UN inspectors*]. We have a plan that we are going to implement upon the directives of the senior undersecretary. God willing, al-Muthanna will remain in your good graces.

Saddam: Do not show leniency when it comes to your own equipment. Your equipment is used for civil purposes, and the [UN] committees' role is to make sure of that. After they have ascertained that we have no intention to produce in this field, they have no right to show intransigence toward surrendering the equipment that can help in the production of civil or military products that have nothing to do with the previous production. Thank you, Muzahim. Your turn, Doctor; we host you at such military meetings. You keep telling us that you are not a military person, but we insist that you are. [*Laughing*]

UM1 [*The Dr.*]: If you allow me, Sir, to present a briefing on the activities of the inspection teams that were conducted in the four fields mentioned by Lieutenant Colonel [REDACTED]. The briefing is much related to the situation we are currently experiencing. As Your Excellency knows, UN Resolution 687 is reviewed every two months to see how much our country is committed to the resolution.

Saddam: The resolution has nothing to do with commitment.

UM1: You are right, Sir. But it is an opportunity.

Saddam: They just want to gain time. I believe what they are doing is a true embodiment of the rural saying: "They are trying to get what they want." In other words, they will eventually get tired. We have become more conscious and more capable of charting our own path, and we firmly believe that the siege will gradually erode. There is no connection between what they term as commitment to the resolutions and their own real intentions behind these resolutions.

UM1: I just wanted to put this briefing in your hands. We, as technical teams, work under the

direct supervision of the command. Your Excellency knows that we work according to the directives of a committee chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, who acts upon Your Excellency's directives. We work according to the directives of this committee. I will be talking about my field of specialty, but my observations might be true as far as the other four fields are concerned. We worked on eliminating what was termed as the technical or legal mines [obstacles] we had in front of us, so that we can render false all the pretexts according to which they [the UN] might recommend that Iraq is committed or not committed to Resolution 687. Following the recent visit by the [UN] committee in charge of inspecting the missile-range test facility, we believe that we came to a point where there are no longer technical or legal mines that would empower the inspection teams to make a recommendation to the Security Council to the effect that Iraq did not abide by the resolution. Although we are not sure for how long the constant monitoring plan will remain viable, we are certain that it will continue until they say that the dossier of Resolution 687 has been closed. So, we expected that Ekeus, the Swedish monitor who is supposed to be very neutral -- [Interrupted]

Saddam: Supposed to be...

[Time Stamp: 16:04]

UM1: Yes, we expected him to present a fair report. I do not mean to take our side, but [we expected him] to be neutral and fair in his report to the Security Council before the latest meeting on 3 December, which has not yielded anything so far. It seems they were expecting this latest committee to plant a new mine [a new obstacle], so that they can make a decision [to prolong the sanctions]. They used to walk in the hallways and make the decision to continue [with sanctions]. This time, they still have not made a decision.

At any rate, he [Ekeus] submitted his report. Now, I consider this report as one that constitutes the prism through which they [the UN] are viewing our issue. We can analyze this report, and see, based on it, the remaining pretexts that they can use against us, so that we may work based on this. At least, we can draw up our plan to face up to this situation. Sir, as a matter of fact, there are three or four basic arguments, one of which is technical, even though it is extremely flimsy, while the remaining others are all political. It is very clear that they are meant to achieve a political goal. That is, it was a technical report that was drafted on the basis of political guidance. The aim is that when presented with this technical report, prepared by the Special Commission, the politicians could say that Iraq has thus far not complied with Resolution 687, which requires that the resolution remains in force, and that the [UN] committees continue with their work, etcetera. The first argument on which Ekeus' report was based is that Iraq's stand has remained unchanged; Iraq is still uncooperative and unclear; and Iraq has a track record of untrustworthiness and cannot be trusted in anything it states to the inspection teams, etcetera. Of course, there is more to it. This conflicts with what the inspection teams have stated in their reports. The latest teams in particular highlighted the cooperation of Iraqi authorities and teams to render their mission a success; however, he blatantly kept the preamble and main argument of his report to be harmful as it is in this manner [the way it is written]. Also, one of the arguments that he [Ekeus] relied upon is that Iraq has wide-ranging programs; he spoke of an extensive program, huge financing, and highly sophisticated facilities that are capable of manufacturing

nuclear weapons. Using these general terms, he sounds like a person who finds it too much for a country like us to have sophisticated facilities. This is definitely so. Yes, our facilities are sophisticated. When he left Baghdad, David Kay held a news conference in Bahrain at which he said that one cannot but look at the laboratories and facilities that he saw in Iraq in wonder. They are better than the laboratories and facilities that I saw in many advanced world states, Kay added. Sir, this is an example. He is submitting his report to the Security Council so that the latter may decide whether or not it should continue with the embargo regardless of whether or not Iraq was found to be in compliance [*with Resolution 687*].

He addresses such generalities, and then moves on to address trivial technical issues—issues that are really ridiculous even though they address technical and specialty areas. They sound just as if somebody asks you to bring a man to life from the dead. For example, I do not want to delve into technical matters in your presence, with regard to some parts which are made up of fragile material. We had told them that they were destroyed, and that once destroyed, no trace of them was left. They said that we had to fetch these materials, or else this point would be used against us. That is because -- [*Interrupted*]

Saddam: You had the intention.

UM1: You had the intention [*inaudible*] of late. They also came up with a situation, saying that while they were walking, they took swipes [*samples*] from our laboratories. They sent these swipes to an analysis laboratory. The swipes showed the presence of highly enriched uranium; that is, 93% enriched uranium, which is different from what they saw in our possession in the past, which means that we have something else. That is, as a matter of fact, this report included these kind of technical points, which are ridiculous, and the details of which we would like to discuss with them. There are fair-minded people among them. There are people among them who are scientifically-minded. When you have the chance to sit together with these people and discuss matters with them reasonably and quietly, they become convinced. Nonetheless, they eventually say something to the effect that things are meant to be that way. The remaining technical points, which are raised and considered some of our failings, belong to this category. There are also other points, but they all belong to this category. Finally, one cannot conclude that this report is a technical report. I mean to say that the Special Commission created by the Security Council to follow up on the implementation of Resolution 687 was meant to write this report in this manner in order to serve the political objective. As a matter of fact, we as technicians think that we have reached the stage at which all the technical mines pertaining to technical issues have been defused. I think that this applies to all four fields. I am talking about the four points—the technical and legal points pertaining to nuclear issues, missiles, chemical weapons, and biological weapons. The requirements enshrined in Resolution 687 have been fully met. This is what I wanted to present to Your Excellency. With regard to the issue being discussed, although I did not know the topic of discussion, it addresses these topics that really apply to us all. He [*unclear*] says that it is useful that Your Excellency, even though I trust that you have an appropriate assessment of this resolution on which you talked about, but with regard to us -- [*Interrupted*]

Saddam: These committees that they send now are not [*sent*] so that they may ascertain the facts

as they are, but rather so that it may create a cover for them in any capacity, if in technical or even in general terms. These general terms would be written by a technician rather than a politician so that they may [inaudible]. That is, their rancor against us now is greater than it was prior to the [U.S.] aggression. Prior to the aggression, they had information and conclusions that we would work according to the parameters that you have described, that is, the serious parameters. Now, they have ascertained these serious parameters based on their judgment [and] this link is over. The things that concern them the most are our minds [intellectual capital]. What can they do with those people [that] cannot abandon their memory? That's it... They are desperate attempts.

[Time Stamp: 23:13]

UM1: Sir, the last point is the object of great attention by them. This is not an inference, they told us about it. They told us that the effort that we had made is significant. I think that I once mentioned this in your presence. They said that they are studying how they can incorporate these minds so that they may be used in a program that would not worry them in the future. They do not want these minds to work in a program that could cause them to worry again in the future.

Saddam: Let them hire us.

UM1: [Laughing] Let them hire us. As a matter of fact, this issue certainly [inaudible].

Saddam: Let them hire us, but, they will not be able to pay us wages. They want us to... Thank you. Dr. Jaffar, do you have any remarks?

Dr. Jaffar: Sir, I have a remark which I would like to make on electricity in the al-Hatha Power Station. I will speak for a while on this. I have two other remarks which, Sir, I seek your permission to address.

Saddam: Dr. Humam you were right when you said if Dr. Jaffar loves something, he sticks to it. [laughing] Now he loves electricity.

Dr. Hummam: [Laughing] Yes, Sir.

Saddam: [To Dr. Jaffar] Do you think that we won or lost when we carried out the projects that were destroyed, even though they were destroyed? I think that we won. That is because had the aggression occurred without us having such an experience, electricity would not have made such strides. Yes, Doctor, please speak.

Dr. Jaffar: Sir, the al-Hartha Station, near Basra, is the station that was most damaged during the [U.S.] aggression. We think that they used thermal and special purpose bombs in the attack on this station. That is because the destruction of this station was massive, many times the destruction inflicted on any other station. Work is under way at the station right now. We have some 1,870 persons working at the station, persons affiliated with the Electricity Commission as well as other people who are affiliated with southern facilities, military industrialization, other installations, petrochemical units, and other facilities. It is our hope that we will be able to

restore one of the four units [*of the al-Hartha Station*] before the start of the coming season, before the start of next summer, so that we may be able to cover the electrical loads in the critical period; namely, the summer months. One of the things that we have recently seen is that one of the cooling towers [*possibly smokestacks*]... the cooling tower number one is similar to the al-Dora cooling tower; it has the same height—almost 100 meters high—and the same dimensions, and the steam-operated units at the two stations are almost similar in capacity. The cooling tower was hit in the center by a missile that struck it at a 50-meter high level. The missile emerged from the other side of the cooling tower.

Saddam: Without exploding?

Dr. Jaffar: The missile did not explode inside the cooling tower because the fuse of the missile had a delay function.

Saddam: Have you not noticed that many of their fuses [*have a delay function*]?

Dr. Jaffar: Sir, it penetrated, the penetration of houses.

Saddam: It happened to us.

Dr. Jaffar: Sir, the missile exploded, but -- [*Interrupted*]

Saddam: In the presidential areas, several of their missiles did not explode. They penetrated, but did not explode.

Dr. Jaffar: Also, Sir, the foundation of the cooling tower was hit by another missile. In their assessment, the brothers have recently made measurements and found a clear and obvious slope, a slope of almost 15 centimeters. The permissible slope is in the vicinity of 22 centimeters. What we have seen...

Saddam: This would make the cooling tower the Hadba of Basra [*a monument in Basra that tilts*].

Dr. Jaffar: [*Laughing*] This is what we saw, Sir. Our civilian experts who examined the foundations said that we need to build another cooling tower. We have the expertise to build a cooling tower, as attested to in the building of a cooling tower in the al-Dora [*Power Station*], they argued. We have already built one. It has become an established fact that the al-Faw Facility built a cooling tower for the al-Dora Power Station. It appears to have been a simple decision to build a new one. But, the problem, then, would be how to demolish this cooling tower; that is, we are talking about a cooling tower that is 100 meters high. It is difficult for one to demolish it when there are nearby facilities. That is, we do not have the expertise to demolish a 100-meter high cooling tower in a manner that would cause it to fall without affecting nearby facilities or buildings. I do not think that any party across the world has such an expertise. There are nearby facilities that are only 10 meters away. This is a technical problem, Sir. That is because the lifetime of such cooling towers is perhaps 100 years or longer. The lifetime of steam-operated

stations is less than 100 years. Nobody has demolished such a cooling tower before unless it was caused to fall in war conditions.

[Time Stamp: 29:08]

Saddam: Do the pipes of the cooling tower have the same dimensions? Are its top dimensions identical to its bottom dimensions?

Dr. Jaffar: Sir, its top dimensions are smaller than its bottom dimensions. The diameter of the piping in the bottom section is 8 meters, 8.5 meters, or 9 meters, whereas the diameter of the piping in the top section is 5.5 meters; that is, there is a slight reduction in the diameter of the top section of the piping of the cooling tower. That is, perhaps, it would be easier to decide to repair the cooling tower rather than demolish it.

Saddam: It is better to repair it.

Dr. Jaffar: Sir, this is a remark on which we have not made a decision thus far. Sometimes, it is difficult to decide to demolish such a thing. The things that I want to talk about, Sir, are two other points: in the areas of reconstruction, and also in facilities, electricity is a key element. Now, [*electricity*] is outside the confines of our reconstruction plan. This requires special technological equipment. The reconstruction of this equipment thus far has not been planned in detail. We will need...this may require imports that are needed for its reconstruction. In the area of electricity, Sir, we have identified our needs. We need imports to restore the electric power stations, but this does not constitute more than 10% of our overall generation capabilities....

[Audio is blank from 00:30:55 to 00:40:20]

Dr. Jaffar: ...in al-Harthah and a little in al-Musayib. The other aspect, Sir, is the one pertaining to taking advantage of the units and resources in what we now call forbidden activities, the activities concerning special projects, and also the Petro 3 [*factory*] and maybe the atomic energy projects. These activities, Sir, perhaps following the finalization of the reconstruction campaign in the few coming months, will not have a clear role in the short term. In other words, what role will they have and what programs will they be involved in? Brigadier General Ra'ad said that in terms of the spiritual aspects, we are willing to undertake any tasks in the future. Sir, those who do not work and have no doctrine -- [*Interrupted*]

Saddam: Will lose their distinctiveness.

Dr. Jaffar: [*Continuing*] Will risk losing some of their technical know-how. Those who stop tackling technical, scientific, and engineering problems will no doubt lose their skill over time. We must therefore develop good technical practices that allow us to take full advantage of our huge resources. We must capitalize on these resources as best as we can. These, Sir, are the points I wished to discuss.

Saddam: Thank you. Qahtan [*Saddam is giving him permission to speak*].

Qahtan: Sir, you spoke about the new additions to the spirit [*of cooperation between organizations*]. I am in charge of the Heavy Engineering Machinery Enterprise, which, thank God, was only hit by shrapnel. With this new spirit, the enterprise joined the rest of the facilities to work in a tree [*branched out*] structure. Sir, we became involved in the oil and electricity sectors and in al-Qa'qa, Hittin, and in all other facilities. The new spirit is as follows:

In the oil sector, the gas separation plants, which were considered very complicated, were damaged by military strikes to an extent that it would have taken foreign companies years to renovate them, provided they did not deem them completely destroyed. In this field, our facility conducted complete technological studies and repaired the insulators. As you saw, crude oil production in Basra rose from 50,000 barrels to around 500,000 - 600,000 barrels so far, and we are still going.

We are working deep in the insulators section, not only to repair them, but to employ reverse-engineering techniques while carefully following work orders. We reported to the senior undersecretary and took photographs that have been documented. We went to the Basra refinery, where the tower resembled a sieve. It received 272 strikes, one of which made a hole measuring 2.4 by 2.8 meters. We accepted the challenge and repaired the refinery, which is now operational. You would not find the repair methods we used in any American or European standards when considering that the tower was coated on the inside with a layer of stainless steel and Monier [*a type of concrete*] materials. The new thing we did here was that we worked as a tree [*network, pooling resources*] and not as a facility [*unilaterally*], with the other Military Industrialization Commission facilities. When we heard a certain comment during our talks with the southern oil [*facilities*], the refinery, or other concerned parties, we would go back to the other facilities and visit them. For example, al-Qa'qa Facility, even though damaged, contributed to the packaging effort. The al-Nasr Facility provided the equipment, and so did al-Faw Facility and the Iron and Steel Establishment. These facilities started to work as one. If there was a thermal effort that required a certain substance, the relevant facility would get involved, take on the effort, and then withdraw. If it needed certain machines from the Aokba Facility, these machines were sent to the site for a certain period of time, and so on. [*Time Stamp: 45:12*]

This new system, Sir, saved us a lot and allowed the technicians, through rotations and their delving into technology, to rise to the level needed to operate these facilities, including the power stations. For example, electrical energy storage systems and air exhausts in al-Dawrah, al-Musayyib, or the South Baghdad Electrical Plant were all included in this effort and were repaired. These systems used to be imported in full in the past. Your Excellency has said that if it was for money, they would have given them to us. They used to give us these plans and the Iraqi staff would only operate them. From the time of the IPC [*Iraqi Petroleum Company*], they would give the Iraqis such things but keep them out of the details. Educated people would sometimes be appointed in positions higher than those of scientists in order to distance these scientists from the decision-making process.

Sir, we went to al-Qa'qa Facility, not knowing what was in al-Qa'qa. Your Excellency has seen the stainless steel canisters, the reactors, and the storage tanks, as was the case in Hittin and the

other facilities. Praise be to God, the study was not for the sake of repair, but it was a documented and comprehensive scientific study. All the information is documented and given to the concerned party after the start of operations so that they can refer to it in case of any error, and so that we can see if the error was caused by that site or any other operational fault. We considered this a scientific supply for the present and the future. It gave us the necessary support to rely entirely on ourselves and lessened the imports of and reliance on material[s] and large quantities of steel. This, in fact, was the case with regards to the civilian aspect. As far as al-Qa'qa and Hittin, we also worked with Asad Babil [*Lion of Babel tank*] groups. As the Lieutenant General has explained, when we went to any meeting, we would discuss the issue of molds. We would give the metal presses that we have at the facility, as well as the work process, and we interacted with the other facilities to operate these pieces of equipment in order to arrive at the goal drawn by Your Excellency, to shorten time and to give an opportunity to the designers and to the facilities that manufacture molds to manufacture these molds in the future. By interacting in this way, and [*through*] this tree method—with no selfishness whatsoever—we succeeded. If we have some material in a certain place that can operate another factory, we would consider the possibility of having the other establishment working in tandem for months, rather than keeping all of that material and not having the other establishment functioning at all. With this spirit, as Your Excellency has said, the Military Industrialization fed the other establishments, and when we withdrew from these establishments, they started to work smoothly and they started to show reliance, not hesitation. They started to work and to exchange views, information, and the material that is present in these establishments. Thank you, Sir.

Saddam: Thank you, Qahtan. Dr. Walid. [*Saddam is giving him permission to speak*]

Dr. Walid: Sir, the Mujahideen [*warriors*] of the Military Industrialization Commission are working in the State Enterprise for Iron and Steel have exerted distinguished efforts in the field of reconstruction, not only in the enterprise to repair the damage caused by the hostile bombardment, but also in the various other sectors. As Your Excellency said in the beginning, we tried very hard to transfer the spirit that exists within the Military Industrialization Commission to the other departments. Our first instruction from the Military Industrialization Commission was to rebuild the al-Ashar Telecommunications Department in Basra. We had a team comprised of staff from our establishments and telecommunications engineers. We moved the telephone exchange that we had left in al-Faw in 1989 and installed it there. We also restored the microwave link. So, we had civil engineering projects to build towers, and we restored them to their normal conditions. During the discussions with our engineers and the telecommunications engineers, one of the engineers said you have set one week to move the telephone exchange from al-Faw, or rather two days to one week to dismantle it, two days to move it, and one week to install it. The French, with whom we had a contract at a value of 250,000 dinars at the current foreign exchange rate, took three months to install it. It was the same engineer. Indeed, Sir, we dismantled it within two days and installed it within a week. It was the same engineer who worked with other engineers from the Telecommunications Ministry—worked day and night, including Fridays, and finished it within the set timeframe. You should have seen their spirit and how proud they were in their work and in what they achieved. Indeed, as Your Excellency has said, there was a new spirit. We dismantled the old telephone exchanges and the old collapsed buildings. If Your Excellency visits Basra station and

sees the damage that was inflicted on the nearby buildings, it was the same level of damage to this same unit. [Time Stamp: 51:36]

Now, we have modern buildings with all the necessary facilities working normally, as well as from the humanitarian perspective, Your Excellency's instructions to the Military Industrialization Commission were to find a solution to the issue of drinking water in Basra Governorate. The Lieutenant General, the Commander, was there at the time, and we set a plan to handle this issue...and this was at the instruction of the Lieutenant General, the Military Industrialization Commission Director, who instructed that we should distribute potable, drinking water to the citizens for free. We started first by distributing water to citizens through tanker trucks and then we built [water] tanks, which were allocated first to the Armed Forces, in the form of 50 groups with the Basra Governor. Each citizen would walk 200 or 300 meters to collect the water he wants for his home, instead of us moving around with the tanker truck to deliver the water. Out of the 50 groups, we have finished 42 groups. As an organization we deliver an average of 1.5 million liters of water daily to the Armed Forces units and the [water] tanks in the populated areas. Sometimes on Fridays I make tours, and one needs to check things himself to see that we are carrying out our duties as required from us by the comrades who are with us. The good thing is that you would see the citizen waiting, knowing that the tanker truck will come. Indeed, tanker trucks come and unload and citizens take their portions and leave. Large numbers of tanker trucks are available and a state of stability is prevailing, although there were violations at the beginning of work. We asked them to continue until the situation stabilizes, and in fact the situation now is much better.

We had another issue. There was some kind of misunderstanding and a rumor spread to the effect that UNICEF—Sir, we have been giving water to the Red Cross and UNICEF since June, continuously and for free. We wrote on the tankers “Military Industrialization Commission: the State Enterprise for Iron and Steel” and “al-Faw Facility” so that nobody would miss them. Even the comrades who came from the Party's South Organizations Bureau a week ago -- [Interrupted]

Saddam: They must have seen your water [tankers] at the international organizations' [locations] and thought that your water was taken from them and not the other way around.

Dr. Walid: Also Sir, with regard to the service units in the Governorate of Basra, we conducted comprehensive maintenance on the governorate's water purification plants, which are in bad shape and out of order. They include a plant with a capacity of 25 million gallons and other plants. So far, we still have one or two plants. We brought these plants to their normal capacity and repaired the previous technological method by which the water is properly filtered and pumped to citizens. This was not the case, as citizens used to receive water that was not fully pure and sterilized. We repaired water plants in al-Shu'aybah and Baradi'iyah. The al-Husayn neighborhood's purification unit, which had a capacity of 20 million gallons, was out of order and so was the unit in al-Hartah, which the brothers left ten days ago. We also repaired sewage stations. Some time ago they broke and the whole of Basra was flooded. We conducted comprehensive maintenance for them. This was done through the support of the [inaudible], which allocated some allowances to us to cover our expenses to have these services up and

running. The comrades have worked night and day and use the same equipment and allow room for other persons to work with them. Indeed, groups of the brothers have tried -- *[Interrupted]*

Saddam: You should have them work with you so that they will find maintenance easier later on.

Dr. Walid: Sir, we will continue to work with them and will follow up on their work. We do not leave a major plant that supplies a whole area with 300,000 citizens. We go back to check on their work after we ask them to do something. We told them that we would help them if they have problems. Sir, this was on one hand. On the other hand, our facilities worked in the electricity sector and in installing electricity towers.

Saddam: Sorry *[for interrupting you]* Dr. Walid. Ahmad.

Ahmad: Yes, Sir?

Saddam: You need a certain kind of people who are specialized in tanks. They should join the tanks crew and not the people who work in the electromechanical engineering department, but from tank crews. It might be sometimes the tank drivers or tank crew. Take ten tanks from each place and ask them about the tank crew and let them work with you. This will considerably improve the way they deal with tanks and maintain them. Even their combat performance while using tanks will improve considerably. Be patient with them, and let them even see their colleagues. As long as they want to manufacture tanks, ask them to send you tank crews.

Ahmad: At your orders, Sir.

Saddam: And Colonel Abd *[Abd Humud]* will inform the Defense Ministry and the Republican Guard of the matter.

[Time Stamp: 57:15]

Dr. Walid: Sir, regarding the reconstruction projects of power lines in al-Mushahidah, we implemented a large number of projects in this field, in addition to power stations. We have major work going on in the power station, as well as the fuel tanks network supplying fuel to the stations. We also worked with oil specialists from the Bayji Oil Refinery down to Basra Oil Refinery, as well as in the South Oil Company. We now have an action team operating at the al-Bakr oil terminal to restore *[inaudible]*.

Your Excellency asked at the beginning whether there were any new products. Yes, at our establishment we prepare raw materials for the Hittin Facility for Heavy Ammunition. We began production as of the date of the providing of power supply to the two projects. One of the reasons we contributed with the al-Khariyyah power station to the reconstruction projects and the erection of power towers is for us to receive power supply through al-Nasiriyah. At first, we began by production for the Hittin facility. We began by producing 105 mm shells. They were produced within the past two months. We also produced 115 mm, 120 mm, 130 mm shells, 140 mm, as well as 152 mm or 155 mm shells, which was an extremely exceptional achievement. We

also produced 105 mm shells for tanks. I believe we fulfilled the agreement with the brother director generals in the presence of Major General Ahmad. We fulfilled and surpassed the agreement to produce 10,500-11,000 tons this year. A Baghdad-Basra train was also put back to service. A few days ago, we transported 40 railroad cars carrying 1,400 tons to the Hittin facility, and we will continue to do so, in order to reduce the transportation costs and to transport scrap [metal] in the opposite direction.

The second thing we have today, Sir, today we have the first body cast of Asad Babil [*Lion of Babylon tank*], a special nickel-chrome mold that will later be pressed at al-Qasr facility into the thicknesses that can be used for the front triangle and side armor. I believe that the first 60-ton steel magma will be produced today. It will be followed by other steel magma later.

That was regarding the new products. As for other products, once we began to receive power supply, we began to produce ovens, [*inaudible*], tubes, and supplied other installations, which are part of the reconstruction campaigns. This is not to mention our contribution to the Salah al-Din facility at al-Qa'qa and the reconstruction of our own facilities. We supplied them with over 20,000 tons of tubes, metal parts, and various products, in addition to the products that go to the Hittin facility. We adopted a new approach after the reconstruction of the sites that were damaged as a result of the enemy bombardment. In this approach, we made use of the students at our vocational training center. The students are about 17 years old. We sent them in work teams to Bayji. We told them to cut the destroyed storage tanks, which were about 8,000 tons, in three months. They went there and some of them came back and resumed work. I believe that thanks to Your Excellency's guidance, our teams, both old and young, can be considered Mujahideen. Thank you, Sir.

Saddam: Thank you Dr. Walid. Yes?

UM2: Sir, I have an observation regarding electricity in the southern area. The destruction of the networks in the southern area was great, especially in the 400 kilovolt-line extending from al-Nasiriyah to Khawr al-Zubayr. This line is necessary to operate the iron and steel factory in Khawr al-Zubayr. About 50 large towers were destroyed along this line. In the past, the electricity cadres had no expertise in erecting and wiring this kind of -- [*Interrupted*]

Saddam: Was the destruction caused by air bombardment?

UM2: Yes, Sir, air and ground bombardment as well. Some areas under the line were planted with mines. About four persons from the Armed Forces landmine clearing groups were martyred during attempts to remove mines from underneath these towers. This line is necessary for the iron and steel facility. This facility's use is as much as Karbala Governorate's use of electricity. For the factory to operate, at least two units from al-Nasiriyah power plant must be operated. The power stations in al-Shu'aybah, al-Najibiyah, and Khawr al-Zubayr are not enough to operate the ovens [*inaudible*]. Therefore, either al-Hartha or al-Nasiriyah power plants must be available to strengthen the power network to make it possible to operate the iron and steel factory in Khawr al-Zubayr. Therefore, it was necessary to have this line and to operate the al-Nasiriyah power plant so that the establishment could work.

Saddam: Let's take a break of five to six minutes and then come back. Safa, they didn't put you in prison? *[Laughter]*

Safa: No Sir, thank God. *[Laughing]*

[Time Stamp: 01:03:44]

[From 01:03:44 to 01:05:35, attendees are speaking in a low voice and the content is inaudible.]

End of Recording