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the farm and two hours to get back, due to the fact that the road was old, narrow and passed by many cities and villages making speeding not possible. We began working in the farm, which was complete and working at its full designed capacity, producing a hundred and seventy five million eggs per year. Therefore, this yielded a very handsome sum of money at that time. I remember our income, during the years before 8/2/1990 when everything was destroyed, it was (---). This was because two or three months after starting I got the hang of it and gained the courage in this field. Mr. Ahmad Isma'il sold me Al-Tuz farm that also produced eggs at a capacity of a hundred and twenty million eggs per year. Therefore we began to receive huge income at that time. Before all this had materialized, Shajarat al-Dur used to tell me. "You never feel that you own anything in this country under such regime and its ruling mentality," and added, "You may own millions in the evening but you are very likely in a wink of the eye, to lose everything in the morning for no reason but envy or ill will etc." She used to conclude her talk by saying, "There are lots of such reasons; there is no respect for the personal ownership or human rights. Unfortunately, the law is absent in Iraq." I used to agree with her because what she said was true, however, I used to tell her that we have nothing to worry about at that time. But when our income began to increase, thank Allah, she told me that now we must think of saving our surplus money abroad as soon as possible. This was because you could never tell how things would be at the general or private levels and she also added that those guys could not live without creating problems. I said, "You are right."

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With the help of some friends and relatives, I was able to save this money abroad. Some of them needed money in Iraq, so I gave them the money they needed and they gave me the equivalent of that money abroad after I had arranged the administrative issues with the help of other friends. Some others were professional in getting money out of Iraq; a group of them was put to death at that time, such as Hazim Yasawi, Sami Yasawi and others. I had the help of many friends, most of them lived abroad although some were frequent visitors but lived abroad too. They were not sorry for doing so I think, and I say that they did good as they had a future vision. I forgot to mention the way the government sold its factories / farms, they were a 20% down payment and the balance was to be paid by ten equal payments.

During the two or three days after an order was issued to appoint me as an ambassador in the European HQ, the mother of `Uday called us many times, both Shajarat al-Dur and I. She also came to our house without prior call, she was persistence in pushing me to accelerate the procedure and travel saying that `Uday could do something and mess the whole thing up, as she put it.

We departed on 12/18/1988, three days before the birthday of Shajarat al-Dur, it was her 31st birthday. Even still she is beautiful at any age, and her beauty was calm but very elegant of a special kind. One would daily discover something new about her and her noble characteristics. She is very beautiful, very wise and has deep vision. She grows more beautiful every day, therefore, I say that her beauty and wisdom could not be resisted. During hard times, she is as solid as diamond

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and as decisive as a laser. I was hoping to travel after the new year's day and after we celebrated her birthday, but she said, "No, let us go as soon as possible because we do not know what could develop that may negatively affect this issue. Because all the parties involved are not normal and deal with things irrationally and with a revenge attitude for unknown reasons. Allah willing, we will have many other opportunities to celebrate."

`I.Tday and his mother came to our house so that we could go to the airport that had received an order from the president to prepare an airplane to take us to Geneva. Also my brother Sab'awi came to the airport to say goodbye. I said goodbye to Shajarat al-Dur, the children and the mother of `Uday.

At the airport, the plane was a Boeing 737 and the name "Salah al-Din" was written on its front. While on our way, Sab'awi told `Uday not to create problems because we do not agree with you and the care you receive from us is not for your sake but rather because you are our brother's son. He also added by saying that we support our brother against `Iiday and that we do not support Iiday against our brother. It was after five O'clock in the evening when we arrived to Geneva, and about ten O'clock in the evening when we arrived to where the embassy employee and the in charge, Dr. `Abd-al-Mun'im al-Qadi were waiting for us. They took us to the ambassador's residence, which was an apartment on the upper floor of our legation's building. What I noticed was that 'Iiday, despite his huge arrogance, was carefully carrying a medium sized bag that was obviously heavy but important to him. Also there was another bag that was carried his friend `Abd-al-Wahab Kamal, who was nick named Kabi, and who used to perform special services for `Uday in Baghdad

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and Geneva and who later escaped to the United States of America. Once he returned to Iraq, due to a scandal committed by `Uday in Geneva, he began to speak of the events of 8/2/1990 and what followed of `Uday's affairs and actions. `Abd-al-Wahab (Kabi) was one of the bad friends that were present and still surrounding `Uday. They were the reasons for his fall and his destruction as far as health, social affairs, professionalism and intellectuality go. They were bad because they lived the same way that Kamil Husayn designed for them, to realize his strategic objective and destroy `Uday first and Qusay later. Indeed, what he planned for `Uday was 100% realized but in the case of Qusay the percentage differs.

It was later found out that those bags contained a sum of money in dollars, his friend `Abd-al-Wahab told me so. `Uday brought with him more than fifty suits, more than ten fur coats and hats that attracted the attention he wanted. In addition, because men in Europe do not put on fur coats and hats, people used to stand there looking at him whenever we walked the streets and went into to a restaurant. He enjoyed that and used to say, "Oh uncle, they recognized us" and I used to tell him that they did not recognize us. What it was is that your clothes caught their attention, to which he used to say, "Yes of course, they could not buy such clothes." Sometimes I kept silent and sometimes I was too annoyed so that I told him, "No son, it is different here, they do not care. But they think you are from one of the African countries, perhaps from Congo?" He was behaving in a disturbing way that attracted attention and did not make any sense. Imagine, he used to go to the night clubs and take the hookah along with him so that he becomes ...

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something for the people to look at. Some other people thought that he was smoking Hashish.

One night he was at a famous night club called al-Kriflor, and he went to the bathroom along with one of his friends and began to talk about another person who also was in the bathroom. The talk was all hard sarcasm and coincidentally, that man was an Arab too. All of a sudden he spoke in Arabic and reprimanded them. `Uclay reacted by drawing his handgun and attempted to hit that man on the head. However, `Abd-al-Wahab held his hand and stopped him. The club administration interfered and did not call the police. However, the police were well informed the next day. There were the traffic violations and the smuggling of a vehicle, which specifications violated those of Switzerland. All that also caused a crisis, but the Swiss, uncharacteristically, put up with all those behaviors and violations because the status of Iraq at that time was different. Its capabilities and ability to influence other countries was huge due to the interests that those countries had in Iraq.

As for the Arab and foreign businessmen who surrounded him, they were a surprise to me because I never imagined that this young man had such ambitions and relations. However, the more important and more dangerous of all is that when `Uday shot Walid, the delegate's guard, twice the bullets entered his chest and exited out of the back. The reason for that was, the guard called to inform me that `Uday and `Abd-al-Wahab began to gather their belongings in the apartment and place it in the car. I quickly put on my clothes and went downstairs when I found their bags and belongings by the information desk. `Uday was out to bring the car and when he came back and saw me, I asked him, "Where are you going?" I was talking to him while

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I was emotional and instead of answering me, he walked towards the guard and shot him twice in the chest. To me such behavior was barbaric and indescribable. At that moment Dr. `Abd-al-Mun'im al-Qadi, who I called on to come there, came down and I asked him to help me take Walid to the hospital. At the beginning, Walid was screaming so I tried to calm him down. I was fearing that the building residents and the guards of the German Mission, which was located across from the Iraqi Mission and just meters away, may hear the noise and which in turn the news may reach the media and cause a scandal that we did not need. At this time the first scandal was still spoken of and in the papers. We took Walid to the hospital and immediately he was placed in the operating room where he had a three and half hour long surgery. I remained with Dr. `Abd-al-Mun'im at the "Continental Hospital" until seven O'clock in the morning. When the guard got out of surgery and his condition became stable, he was asked about the incident and how it happened. The hospital's security had invited police investigators. However, I asked `Abd-al-Mun'im al-Qadi to tell them that the incident was a result of the guard's negligence and not paying attention to his weapon during the cleaning process. The case was closed despite the fact that the Swiss police were not convinced by our claims, again because of Iraq's status at that time as I have mentioned before. The guard remained in the hospital for three weeks, during which time I was visiting him twice a day and brought with me the food I ordered the cook to prepare especially for him. Of course there is a story that has to do with the cook. When we arrived to Geneva, we did not find either a cook or butler in the ambassador's home because there was no ambassador there. After the late ambassador `Abd-al-Jabbar al-Haddawi left, the cook and the butler were let go. Therefore, `Abd-al-Mun'im

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hired an Egyptian lady to cook for us. However, we could not eat the food that she prepared for us. Therefore, `Uday called his mother and described this condition to her, She in turn, immediately, sent a cook and a butler to serve us in Geneva. However, they arrived to Geneva with only a two weeks tourist visa which had to later be extended. Along with them on the same plane, she sent all that one desires from readymade and fresh foods, fruits, fish, meat etc., the things that one could not find in Geneva. Therefore, we lived as kings for a month, unfortunately however, all this came to a quick end when `Uday decided to return to Iraq on 1/19/1989 after his new scandal. Therefore, they withdrew the cook and the butler, we really suffered until I was joined with a Lebanese cook from Baghdad who I have known for a long white back, since the year of 1972 in particular. I met him at the house of the Iraqi ambassador in Italy, Mr. Tahah Ma'ruf. He was looking for a job because of the conditions in his country which were worse than those of Iraq now. Along with him a young man, "Isa Habib, the butler," came and began working for me at the house. After that things were somewhat stabilized.

I called Shajarat al-Dur and explained to her that it was necessary to let the president know that his son left Geneva and was heading to Baghdad. Since the relations between the two of them were strained, I was afraid that something bad might happen to the president at the hands of his son. She informed the president however, the president did not object to his son's return without permission since the son was out of his father's control. After awhile `Uday was restored as the chief of the Olympic Committee and therefore, restored all his powers and position that his father ousted him from after his first scandal.

A month after the scandal and the departure of `Uday from Geneva, the mother of `Uday came

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along with Saddam Kamil to deliver the president's greetings for me. Saying that `Uday had bothered me and that they and Saddam were thanking me for what I did. They also said that it was up to Barzan whether to stay another period in Geneva or return to Baghdad. I thought, I just got out of that swamp, therefore, how could I go back to it? Shajarat al-Dur was there, she had come to visit us, as she stayed behind with Muhammad who was a senior high school student. Therefore, I said to her, "First ... I was hoping to straighten up your son and help him benefit from such a rich experience and unlimited knowledge in a country at the heart of Europe. A country that is known by its culture and organization however, not only *he* did not help me do that but also did not help himself. This is because you did not pay attention to raising him from the beginning. As to whether we stay here or not, we will stay because we registered our children in the boarding schools and we have a strong desire to educate them right here. To gain the science, language and knowledge in this country, the other thing is that it is hard for me to hear that Barzan went with `Uday and came back when `11day had returned. As if I am the bodyguard of `Uday, while 11day was the one who came along with me."

Of course, `Uday was appointed as a first secretary of the mission and I tried to convince him to join the university in Geneva. But he refused because he was not fond of the education and serious life. Instead he got his degree from Iraq by known means that his father admitted when I suggested that `Uday should join the university in Geneva. He said, "You would do him good if you could push him in that direction because he would discover himself, his value, how he got his degree here in Iraq and how the hypocrites here in Iraq were giving him full marks he did not deserve."

Two days after the mother of `Uday arrived to Geneva, Mr. Tariq `Aziz arrived in his way in New York to hold talks with

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an Iranian delegate under the supervision of the Secretary General of the United Nations, "Javier Perez de Cuellar." This was in an attempt to reach an agreement to apply the resolution of the Security Council number 598 which was issued at the beginning of the war with Iran. However, Iran did not accept that resolution until 8/8/1988 when al-Khomayni made his famous speech accepting the resolution by saying: "It is worse than poison etc." Tariq `Aziz said to me, "You must come with me to New York to meet with the Iranian delegate." Therefore, I went along with him and during the trip from Geneva to New York we had a conversation which summary is as follows: The mission of the delegate was to lower the curtain on the sixth item of the resolution, which requires the determination of who started the war and then not return to the accord of Algeria. I told him that achieving both goals will be difficult and requires certain circumstances and aids to help us reach those goals. Among which, the continuation of support from the West and especially, the United States of America, and added by saying, "In my views, we are now under the microscope of the West because they want to know our new directions that they believe Iraq will begin in the period after the war." Tariq asked, "What do they want to know?" I said, "First, they are watching Iraq and want to know what Iraq would do with this huge army that was formed during the war. Because it is known to whole world that the first thing the fighting countries would do, after the war ends, is to let go of the surplus troops. As they are needed in the factories and farms to begin the rebuilding of the economy and services etc. The country would be in need for those who joined the army to rebuild however, almost six months after the ceasefire, there is not a single sign that indicates the leadership intends to go in that direction. The other thing that the West and the Iraqi peoples are waiting for

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is there to be an announcement of a permanent constitution that would respond to the needs and ambitions of all classes of the Iraqi society, one that also aims to activate a civilian life and a civilian society." Tariq gave a brief answer and said that it was not the time to work on those issues.

We arrived to New York where Mr. Ismat Kinani, the Iraqi ambassador to the United Nations at that time, was in our reception. We held talks with the Iranian delegate, with the attendance of the Secretary General and his two assistants Mr. Pico and Mr. Yan Alyson. But we did not make any progress worth mentioning however, we did agree that the second meeting would be in Geneva. Some members of the Iraqi delegate tried to signal the Iranian delegate indicating that they wanted direct face to face talks without the attendance of the Secretary General, the Iranian delegate did not pay attention to those signals. Mr. Tariq `Aziz also tried to send them signals via friends of his and Iraq, including Arabs and Americans and again they did not give importance to such signals. We departed from New York and headed to Geneva where the plane landed and I left while the rest of the delegate continued their way to Baghdad.

My first visit to Baghdad was on 2/10/1989 when the Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent for me in compliance with an order from the president. I did not know the reason then but afterwards I knew that the reason was a message that I sent to the president that had to do with the conduct of his younger son. I was informed by Mr. Hushnik Sayyid Ahmad, an Iraqi Intelligence officer, who was responsible for the Iranian division that I was at the helm of. He was a smart hard working officer, especially when under the supervision of a strong boss. After that, he was appointed to work under the diplomatic cover of our embassy in Bonn. He paid me a visit in the beginning of the first month of 1989 and told me that Qusay was in Bonn along with a group of

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Iraqi businessmen, of whom included As'ad T'iymah and other frequent visitors of Iraq, also some who did not visit Iraq for a long time. The intelligence officer said that when they were in the hotel, one of them asked him if he could bring them something to inhale. Obviously, he was asking for drugs to which the nervous intelligence officer told him that he does not deal with such things and warned him that Qusay might hear him asking for drugs. But the man told him not to worry because they inhale drugs all the time. Therefore, I wrote a letter to the president in that regard to tell him it was necessary to pay attention to his children before he loses them and citing the intelligence officer. I told the president that Husayn Kamil was trying to destroy his sons because he facilitate everything for them including drugs, for that reason, they sent for me.

I arrived to Baghdad on February 10th, 1989. This is when the family of my sister, the wife of Mr. Arshad, informed me that my letter to the president caused a huge problem and all they knew was that I sent a letter to the president telling him that Husayn Kamil provides his sons with drugs. As a result, the mother, the children and the women were enraged. How did they know that? They knew that because Saddam Kamil was the president's companion and beloved friend and therefore, was able to read my letter without the knowledge of the president and informed Husayn Kamil. In his turn, Husayn Kamil launched a propaganda campaign against me telling everyone that Barzan was accusing him and the children of the president of being addicted to drugs. The president heard this noise and when investigating the issue, found out how they knew of such information. Saddam Kamil was the one who told them after reading the letter that was on the desk of the president but without the president's knowledge?!

I tried to clarify the facts about what I had mentioned in my letter, from very serious and significant information that I have received from the intelligence officer who came

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to Geneva. He came, especially, to provide me with that information which compelled me to write to the president. As that was one of my personal and national duties however, no one wanted to understand the truth?!

Anyway, on 2/15/1989, the president summoned me to his palace at Al-Radwanayah Area. I went there and found him sitting in one of the palace's rooms and a number of files before him that he was reading. Arshad was there, and later to arrive were each of Hushnik Sayyid Ahmad, and an individual who was with the president's son in Bonn when the other Iraqi spoke with the intelligence officer. At that time, the president asked the switch room operator to connect him with Husayn Kamil. I noticed that he meant to tell the switch room operator to connect him with Major General Husayn. I was confident of what he meant because I know he means every word he says, his goal was always to show Husayn as a man of great value and rank, especially in front of me because he knew my opinion of Husayn Kamil. Indeed, a few minutes later, the president spoke with Major General Husayn and asked him to come over to where we were at. Husayn arrived in a half an hour or so. The president began talking about the problem and said that he received a letter from me saying so and so and added that, doing so, Barzan had performed his personal and occupational duty. Then he looked at the intelligence officer and asked him, "Is it true that you informed Barzan with what I have heard?" To which the intelligence officer said, "Yes, I informed Mr. Barzan with all I have heard because such issues are serious and Mr. Barzan is loyal to the president and his family. Therefore, I thought it was my duty to inform Barzan because he is considered as one of the family and could relate the information to your Excellency." After that, he looked at the Iraqi, who was Mr. Husam Rassam and asked him, "Did this happen when you were with them in

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the hotel?" To which he answered, "Yes. But we were talking about these issue in general and not as he mentioned." The intelligence officer, then, answered by saying, "No, the issue was definite and it was a request and was not a general conversation. I noticed the president was convinced with what he has heard and then asked Mr. Rassam and the intelligence officer to sit in another room and we remained alone with the president, Husayn, Arshad, and myself. Then there was a conversation about the relation of the president's sons with individuals who were away from the official and Party's stance and that it was very likely those would take advantage of such relations for their own interests. Husayn began to speak irrationally trying to cast a doubt of what I said to the president. I had had a serious conversation with him before the president. However, he did not care the president was there and actually was rude before the president. The president's reaction was less than appropriate so that it was disappointing and painful to me. This compelled me to speak in the same manner as that of Husayn and told him that he was randomly wasting the national wealth without planning and the businessmen he had relations with were the beneficiaries. He denied these things and said that was not true. I said, "No, it is true and I will tell you an example. The agent of the Mercedes Company attends the talks between you and the delegation of the Mercedes Company, how do you explain this?" To which he answered by saying, "We benefit from him as a source of information." To which I replied by saying, "The source of information supposedly should not attend the talks and should not be an agent of the company itself because the agent is only interested in selling and even if he was providing you with information, he would not do so to delay the deal." Husayn was enraged and said, "The agent of the Mercedes Company is your friend." I replied by saying, "No, that is not true and that I have never met with him or went to his house until this moment." Allah as my witness, I was truthful. After that we moved to

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the dining room and ate there with Mr. Rassam and the intelligence officer. While we were eating, the president said to Mr. Rassam, "Brother Husam, what is your relationship with these young people? You are of their father's age and should get away from them." To which Mr. Rassam said, "Sir, I love those kids and respect them because they are your children. However, since you prefer that I get away from them, I shall do so." After dinner, we left and a vehicle was waiting for the intelligence officer. Not to take him home but rather to take him to the military intelligence, where Brother Sab'awi was asked to interrogate him. A few days later, the intelligence officer was put to death. However, I do not know what was the charge that lead him to death or why he was sent to the military intelligence. Perhaps to make sure the news about his arrest would leak out, because he knew of no one in the military intelligence.

On 2/25/1989 at one o'clock PM, as I remember, I was visiting the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and when I went back home I found what I believed to be normal conditions. But when I saw Mr. Boutros, who was working for us at the house, sitting in front of the house crying I thought something unpleasant had happened. Therefore, I asked him what the problem was, to which he said that Hammudi had been in an accident while driving the motorcycle outside of the house. I asked him, "And where is he now?" to which he said, "An individual from the area took him to the hospital." I said, "Which hospital?" Without giving him a chance to respond, I replied by saying that he did not know perhaps in the area of Al-Atifiyah. I quickly went back to the car and drove to the emergency hospital at the area of Al-`Atifiyah. I do not know how I got there. I enquired there but the answer was that he did not arrive to that hospital, so I thought that perhaps he went to the Bin Sinai Hospital because that hospital was nearby

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the location of the accident. I drove to Bin Sinai Hospital and when I got there, I noticed many cars and more than normal traffic. When I entered the hospital, I found a number of the president's security details and one of them approached me and said, "Sir, he is fine." I entered the hospital room where Hammadi was on a stretcher and the blood covered his face to an unrecognizable condition. Two or more physicians were around him, the president and his wife were standing by him, and Saddam Kamil, the president's bodyguard and husband of his daughter was there too. Thanks are due to Saddam, he gave blood to Hamudi because he had lost a large amount of blood. After that they sent him to the operating room to perform several surgeries on him because he suffered from two fractures in his foot, a fracture in his hand and a broken jaw. In addition he had lost a number of his teeth and was unconscious. He remained unconscious for a week and almost gave up on his life. I was completely exhausted and because I did not want to relate such bad news to Shajarat al-Dur, I refused to talk with her on the phone. She was too smart and had the feeling that something bad had happened but she did not know what. Therefore, she began calling her sisters from Geneva in an attempt to know what had happened. After few attempts she actually knew what had happened and she came to Baghdad along with the children. Thank Allah, by the time she arrived Muhammad had regained consciousness and begun to move. The president was concerned and visited him daily during the first few days. However, when Husayn Kamil noticed his family and himself becoming annoyed, Husayn informed the president that Muhammad was treating the nurses badly causing the president to get angry and no longer visited him?! At that time a delegate headed to New York to hold talks with the Iranian so the president asked

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me to go with the delegate. I declined because my mental condition was not helping me and Muhammad's condition requires me to be next to his bedside. The president accepted my reasoning for not going.

Muhammad remained four weeks in the hospital. His jaw was fixed in place so that he could not eat anything except liquids through a straw. He lost a lot of weight and was in very critical health and poor emotional condition. I decided to take him to France because he needed other surgeries and physical rehab in a center where the necessary treatment equipment was available. Before we left, I asked the president, via his secretary Hamid Hammadi, to allow us to take along Mr. Tiymah the nurse who had been helping Muhammad with his needs. I told Hamid Hammadi that Muhammad was in bad shape and needed someone to care for him. However, the president denied my request. I also asked for a small plane to take us to Paris because Muhammad conditions would not allow him to sit in a seat of a commercial plane, and this request was denied too. So I asked Hamid, "Why all that disaffection towards me?" To which he answered, "I do not know." I replied, "Was it too much to ask for a small plane to transport my son and nurse to care for him, especially when he is in such a condition that it is necessary to have special planes to transport him. The vehicles are used for the president's son to go from Baghdad to Paris and from there to anywhere else he desires. They are used to transport him, along with his bad influencing friends, so that he can just use them there to show off among the children of the Gulf kings and Princes?" He said, "Just calm down there is no need for all that talk, no one here cares or understands".

I took Muhammad to Paris via a commercial plane. My brother Sab'awi was at the airport to send me off, told me to be strong and handed me an envelope to which I did not pay attention at that time. I opened the envelope while

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on the plane and found inside three thousand dollars. As for my other brother Watban, he was busy with his wife because she recently gave birth.

We arrived to Paris after a long tiring trip, due to Muhammad's very bad condition he spent three months in the rehab center before he began to regain his health, thank Allah.

On the morning of 5/5/1989, I woke up when the telephoned rang. I picked up the phone and Dr. `Abd-al-Mun'im al-Qadi, the Mission's second in command, was at the other end of the line. He said, "Pardon me Mr. Ambassador, we have received an important coded telegram and it is necessary for you to review." I got out of bed and went down to the living room, as we were living in a two story apartment where the first floor was for daily living and guests, and the second floor for the bedrooms. I found Dr. `Abd-al-Mun'im in the living room who in turn handed me a file that included the telegram. In the telegram I read the news that `Adnan Khayrallah was killed in a plane crash and in fact I felt bad about that accident. The telegram was also to ask me if I wanted to go to Baghdad, if so they would send me a plane to take me back there. I asked Dr. `Abd-al-Mun'im to send a telegram telling Baghdad that I wanted to go back there and to send a plane as they said they would. At this moment, I did not know why they were showing me all that kindness and generosity. I had a very difficult job of finding a way to tell Shajarat al-Dur what had happened. When I went back inside and Dr. `Abd-al-Mun'im had left, I found her standing, waiting for me at the door of the bedroom, like one of Iraq's beautiful palm trees. While carefully looking at me she asked, "Allah forbid, what is wrong?" I answered, "There is some bad news." She asked, "What is it?" to which I told her that there was something wrong with `Adnan's plane. She immediately enquired, "Did he die?" to which I told her, "No, but he seemed to be in bad condition." She began crying and I tried to comfort her but she continued crying and became in a very miserable condition.

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After a half an hour or so, I turned on the TV and few minutes later, the accident news and the death of `Adnan Khayrallah was announced.

Iraqis, Arabs and foreigners began to visit us and offer their condolences. Many different people that we had friendly relationships with came to visit and among those were the Poet Nizar Qabbani and other dignitaries including the generous Sheikh Mrs. Fatimah, daughter of Mubarak and the wife of Sheikh Muhammad Bin-Zayd Bin-Nahyan. A friend of Shajarat al-Dur, had visited us along with her son, Sheikh Muhammad Bin-Zayd.

The plane landed before dusk and Shajarat al-Dur, Mr. Hamid al-Jaburi, the Iraqi ambassador in the Swiss capital of Bern, and I headed to Baghdad. We arrived at 12:30 or so, slightly after midnight. I showed Shajarat al-Dur to the house and told her that I was going to the house of Sab'awi to get to the bottom of what has happened. She said that after she freshened up she would go to the president's house.

We left the children, Sajja and Thurayya, behind in the Swiss boarding school in the area of "FLAR" while Muhammad was at the rehab center in Paris. Also we left Norah in Geneva where she went to an elementary Swiss school. We also, left behind with them a maid from Thailand that we brought with us from Baghdad and the Lebanese cook Yusuf Nakhlah and the loyal `Isa Habib Katta.

I arrived to the house of Sab'awi at about two O'clock in the morning and found him sitting by the window. We sat together and I asked him about what had happened and he told me that `Adnan was in northern Iraq in an area that he frequently used to go to, where he owned a retreat. At this time the president was also at an adjacent area in one of his retreats. `Adnan came to Baghdad to take his family there to spend the days of the Tid in the retreat, which happened to begin on the day after he died. There was another helicopter that accompanied him in the area of South al-Mosul.

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His plane crashed while nothing had happen to the other plane. The news reports mentioned that a violent storm caused the crash of the plane that `Adnan Khayrallah was in. Sab'awi said that a committee was formed to investigate the accident. Later on, it was revealed that `Adnan got married with a woman that he knew under ambiguous circumstances. She gave a birth to a child named Muhammad and he went back to Baghdad to take her and the child to visit the president there and tell him all about it. We had an in depth conversation during which I told him that we now were looking like we were driving a vehicle without a spare tire. If something were to happen to the president we would have no one to replace him. To which he said that exactly was the conditions under which we were living.

On the next day, I attended the post funeral reception, which was very official and located at Al-Khuld Hall. Later on 4/7, as I remember, Sab'awi and I went to meet with the president with the intention to openly and honestly speak with him about the conditions we are in and the necessity to put in place measures to be followed in case something happens to him. We met with him at the presidential palace where we had a sad conversation about the loss of `Adnan and then I repeated what I said to Sab'awi when I compared our conditions to those of a vehicle without a spare tire. The president responded nervously saying, "What did you think of `Adnan, did you think he was qualified to rule Iraq?" He continued by saying, "Listen, do you know why people have sympathy to what happened to `Adnan?" And added, "The people have sympathy for him because he was the kind of guy who did not question why people did what they did. Because of this, if `Adnan did ever take over the rule, three months later they would have removed him."

I told the president that I was not talking about that issue and what I was talking about is the necessity of paying attention and being cautious. To which he quickly and nervously answered, "Against whom

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should I be cautious?" Because it was better to try to avoid the president's suspicious analysis which was always based on the conspiracy theory, I was compelled to continue on decisively saying that Husayn Kamil and 'Ali Hasan could arrest or kill him. To which he nervously replied, both wondering and denouncing, "How?" I told him that the Republican Guards, the private security details and the private guards are all under the command of Husayn Kamil and 'Ali Hasan. They are the ones in charge of the military organization and it is well known that they are your spokespersons. They relate your orders to the army and to the rest of the party and official institutions. Therefore, the government agency and the army carry out whatever it is they ask for. He looked at me and his look almost went through my body, but he did not comment about what I just said. Instead he asked me, "Why do you hate Husayn Kamil? Do you not realize that if it was not for Husayn Kamil, Iraq would have lost the war with Iran?" I was shocked when I heard what he said so I answered saying, "By Allah, if that was true, Husayn Kamil then deserves more than what he has now" and added, "Mr. President, now what is your position? Husayn uses your sword to slaughter and if it was not for you he would be worth nothing, all his powers and his very existence is based on you." The atmosphere then became very strained and the president said, "Let us meet tomorrow." Indeed, the next day at noon, he summoned me, along with brothers Sab'awi and Watban to the president's office. Here we found him as a country's president with the whole meaning of the word, and as a president of a country he was very formal. We entered and greeted him however, he did not shake hands with us as he was very rude, he did not greet us or order water or tea for us but rather pointed at a table with six chairs around it and asked us to sit around that table. He sat at the head of the table and began the conversation by saying, "I have sent for you to resume what we started yesterday."

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He looked at me while saying, "You Barzan hate Husayn and I am honestly fearful for my daughters. You have bad intentions towards their husbands." To which I said, "I hate no one. However, I feel that Husayn Kamil and his relatives represent danger for you, for us and for the regime of the Ba'th Party. They are not Ba'thist with the true meaning of the word but they are rather sneaking in to satisfy their own special interests, they are hasty and greedy." To which he asked, "How?" I answered, "I will not repeat what I told you yesterday however, I will say that Husayn Kamil and 'Ali Hasan are not loyal to you." He asked, "How?" I answered, "Because they force you to slaughter more people, even those from your own family and tribe." To which he asked, "How?"

I replied, "All their attempts and forgeries against me that Allah has foiled for them were intended to force you to slaughter me. In addition to what they did to force you to slaughter 'Omar al-Hazza' along with his children, this is the best supporting evidence to what I am saying" and added, "If I was close to you at that time, I would have done my best to stop you from killing them. Not because I loved them but rather because I love you and as a precaution for the future, that no one knows, and what it has for you and for all of us."

At any rate, the meeting was very stormy and the condition of the president was not normal and I did not know why?! I knew he was capable of faking the emotion to cover a certain issue or to frighten whoever he was speaking to however, until this moment; I could not guess the reason for his current emotional state.

At the end of the meeting, I said to him, "You are like a father for us all and in the same time you are the president of this country. Therefore, I tell you that you must fairly give the chance to whomever worthy of such chance." To which he asked, "How?" I answered, "There is no justice in granting your relatives all the important roles in the country." I then kept silent while, in his turn, he did not comment.

Less than one month later, he removed Husayn Kamil from the command of the Republican Guards and transferred 'Ali Hasan from

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the military organization to the civilian organization of the Party. In addition, he appointed Kamil Yasin to replace 'Ali Hasan.

Days after the formal solace of `Adnan Khayrallah, Sab'awi, Watban and I did seven days of our own solace in Tikrit, at our own expense. Despite his rudeness towards us, I went back to Geneva.

Later on, I visited Baghdad several times, after the direct talks with Iran took place, with the mediation of Sheikh Jabir Salim al-Ahmad. I will touch on this issue and other political issues and events, in addition to, what I was commissioned to do and what I did during the period when I was Iraq's ambassador at the European HQ of the United Nation, in another book about the political affairs. Especially the Iraqi regime's decision in regard to Kuwait on 8/2/1990 but here, I will mention one thing about that issue which follows.

In the morning of Thursday 8/2/1990, I was still in bed asleep when Yusif, the cook, forwarded a phone call to me. When the phone rang, I woke up. I was wondering what the purpose was, because it was still 6:30 in the morning but Yusif told me that Abu Yasir was calling. He meant my brother Sab'awi, which made wonder even more because Sab'awi had not called at such a time and before, especially since he became the chief of intelligence. He changed a lot and stopped calling every once in a while and before he was appointed as the chief of intelligence, he passed by Geneva without stopping while on his way back to Iraq from America, where he had been with two of his children for medical treatment. He changed a lot because now most of his ambitions were

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to become the chief of intelligence, it was as if he would become the Prime Minister! Anyway, I picked up the phone to speak with Abu Yasir, as Yusif said, but instead found the president on the line and not Abu Yasir. He greeted me and I answered his greeting and asked how he was doing. After that he asked me, "Did you hear of the latest news?" To which I answered, "By Allah, no ... because I am still in bed." He answered, "We annexed Kuwait." For a while, I did not understand what he said until I remembered a message that I sent, on 7/17/1990, telling him not to rush anymore that it was unnecessary and suggested his rude speech. That sending the army close to the borders with Kuwait would be enough. I told him that anything more that he may do would not be understood by the Arabs and the world and all would stand against us. I told him that all oil pipelines would be shutdown and also told him that time is precious for us because if given time to solve this issue we would be able to clarify the issue inside and outside Kuwait. In turn we would gain personalities, papers, authors and parties on our side inside and outside Kuwait.

After I remembered the message that I sent to him earlier, I fully understood what I heard him saying. He said, "Arshad says hello, he is standing by me." I said hello back. The president continued saying, "I was telling Arshad about a dream of mine where I saw my uncle Ibrahim and told him about my decision to annex Kuwait, he was very happy and began to joke with me using the same jokes that I have included in my military communications during the war with Iran. Arshad said that my uncle Ibrahim was hallucinating and definitely gathered the angels around him." I laughed and ended my conversation saying, "I wish you success." That was Abu `Uday way of

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dealing with issues such as that, he tries to have the maximum number of dignitaries take part so that he has them all on his side by making them feel important by the way of doing such things as I just wrote. However, after he wins the round, his way of dealing with them would change.

Shajarat al-Dur and the children were in southern France, while I remained in Geneva because the Human Rights Branch Committee holds its meeting in August and I must attend the opening session. I made an agreement with Shajarat al-Dur to join them after I attend the first few days of the meeting.

It was early in the morning so I did not call Shajarat al-Dur, instead I waited until nine O'clock to call her because I did not want to disturb her and in the meantime make her worry if I called her at such early time in the morning.

I called her at nine O'clock and asked her if she knew what happened to which she answered "no" because she just woke up less than half an hour ago and during that time she was preparing breakfast for the children. I told her of what I have been informed with. I felt she was stunned and after a while of silence, she asked, "What are you saying?" To which I answered, "This is what I know from Sammy," meaning Saddam because when we talk about him on the phone or write about him in messages, we call him Sammy. She asked, "Did he call you?" To which I answered, "Yes" She did not comment but rather shouted, "Allah forbid" She told me that she would return to Geneva today or tomorrow but I said, "No" and suggested she would stay there because there was no need for her return to Geneva. She agreed and said that now she understands that I will not be joining them, to which I said, "After such developments, I could not join you at this time." She said, "I understand that." A week later, as I remember, Shajarat al-Dur and the children returned back to Geneva and the events began to escalate. Sheik Zayd Bin-Nahyan and his spouse Sheikh Fatimah had a huge role in containing the issue unfortunately, the president rejected everything.

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He was rude, and I will explain this brief role in greater detail in the section that includes the political side of my life.