SADDAM ASKED THAT CHARGE CONVEY TO THE U.S. THAT "YOU SHOULD REFRAIN FROM BEING PUSHED INTO TAKING AN ACTION ON WRONG ADVICE AFTER WHICH YOU WILL BE EMBARRASSED. IF WHAT PRESIDENT BUSH WANTS IN FACT, IS THE PRESERVATION OF U.S. INTERESTS AS HE HAS DESCRIBED THEM, THEN ESCALATION OF TENSION AND THE MILITARY ALTERNATIVE IS AGAINST THESE INTERESTS." "I WILL TELL YOU HOW YOU WILL BE DEFEATED. YOU ARE A SUPER-POWER AND I KNOW YOU CAN HURT US, BUT YOU WILL LOSE THE WHOLE AREA. YOU WILL NEVER BRING US (IRAQ) TO OUR KNEES. YOU CAN DESTROY SOME OF OUR ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL BASE BUT THE GREATER DAMAGE YOU CAUSE THE GREATER THE BURDEN TO YOU. IN SUCH A SITUATION (MILITARY), WE WILL NOT REMAIN IDLE AGAINST YOUR INTERESTS IN THE REGION."

SADDAM MADE IT CLEAR THROUGHOUT HIS PRESENTATION THAT KUWAIT HAS BECOME EFFECTIVELY AN APPENDAGE OF IRAQ. TO CHARGE'S REQUEST THAT SADDAM CLARIFY HIS STATEMENT THAT "KUWAIT IS PART OF IRAQ," SADDAM'S REPLY WAS, "YES, THAT IS AN HISTORICAL FACT." AT ANOTHER POINT, SADDAM SAID, "CONVEY TO PRESIDENT BUSH WITH MY REGARDS, THAT HE SHOULD REGARD THE KUWAITI AMIR AND CROWN PRINCE AS HISTORY." AT ANOTHER POINT, HE SAID, "WE WILL NEVER LEAVE KUWAIT FREE FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO TAKE. WE WOULD NEVER LET KUWAIT..."
BE AN EASY BITE -- EVEN IF THE WHOLE WORLD
WERE AGAINST US. WE WOULD FIGHT ON. WE WILL
DEFEND OUR RIGHTS, WE WILL NEVER GO HUNGRY AGAIN.
WE WANT TO LIVE IN PEACE AND PROSPERITY. WE
KNOW YOU ARE A SUPERPOWER WHO CAN DO GREAT
DAMAGE TO US, BUT WE WILL NEVER CAPITULATE."

5. ....BUT WE ARE NOT GOING TO ATTACK SAUDI ARABIA:

SADDAM MADE A POINT OF TELLING CHARGE THAT IRAQIS
WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR CREDIBILITY AND,
THEREFORE, HE WANTED TO CLARIFY ONE PIECE OF MIS-
INFORMATION THAT HAS APPARENTLY REACHED U.S.
EARS; SPECIFICALLY, SOME ARAB LEADERS WHO HAD
SOUGHT HIS ASSURANCES ON HIS INTENTIONS TOWARD
KUWAIT HAD CONVEYED THEM INCORRECTLY TO
US (HE DID NOT REFER TO HIS ASSURANCES TO
AMBASSADOR GLASPIE). HE SAID, WHAT HE HAD TOLD
HIS INTERLOCUTORS WAS THAT HE WOULD NOT ATTACK
KUWAIT DURING THE JEDDAH SESSION. COMMENT:THAT
AND OTHER SIMILAR REMARKS MADE DURING THE
INTERVIEW AND THE NEAR ABSENCE OF REFERENCES TO
EITHER REVOLUTIONARY KUWAITI YOUTH OR THE FREE
INTERIM GOVERNMENT OF KUWAIT EFFECTIVELY UNDER-
cuts the elaborate "REVOLUTIONARY" SCENARIO
SADDAM'S FOREIGN MINISTER AND PUBLIC RELATIONS
PEOPLE HAVE CREATED TO EXPLAIN THE INVASION.
END COMMENT.

6. HE THEN ASKED ABOUT U.S. INTENTIONS IN SAUDI
ARABIA. SADDAM SAID, "THE SAUDIS ARE OUR BROTHERS
AND THEY HELPED US IN THE IRAN/IRAQ WAR. IT WAS
THEY WHO BUILT THE OIL PIPELINE. THEY EXTENDED
GRANTS, NOT LOANS. IF THINGS REMAIN AS THEY HAVE
BT
#4566
BT
6 B-C R-E T SECTION 02 OF 03 BAGHDAD 04566
NODIS
FROM CHARGE
E.0 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PREL MOPS I2, KU SA
SUBJ: MAIN POINTS OF CHARGE'S MEETING WITH
BEEN, THEY REMAIN OUR BROTHERS. IN LIGHT OF
THIS, WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND U.S. STATEMENTS
ABOUT FEARS FOR SAUDI ARABIA. WE DO NOT
UNDERSTAND THESE CLAIMS THAT THE NEXT STEPS
WILL BE AGAINST SAUDI ARABIA. WE WONDER WHETHER
YOU ARE TRYING TO INCITE AN INCIDENT STARTED
BY SAUDI ARABIA AS A COVER FOR U.S. ACTION
AGAINST IRAQ. IF YOU GET THEM TO INCITE
US, ATTACK US, TAKE SOME SORT OF ACTION
AGAINST US, THEN WE WILL RESPOND."
AT ANOTHER POINT IN THE CONVERSATION, SADDAM
REFERRED TO HAVING SEEN THE AMIR BEING HOSTED
BY KING FAHD. WE UNDERSTAND FAHD RECEIVING
SABAH--IT IS THE ARAB WAY - SO LONG AS THEY
DON'T ALLOW HIM TO USE SAUDI ARABIA AS THE
BASE FOR AGITATION AGAINST IRAQ.
7. TO CHARGE'S QUESTION, "I ASK YOU DIRECTLY IF YOU WILL GIVE ME YOUR ASSURANCES THAT GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT EXIST ON THE GROUND TODAY THAT YOU DO NOT INTEND TO TAKE ANY MILITARY ACTION AGAINST SAUDI ARABIA?" HIS REPLY WAS, "YOU CAN TAKE THIS ASSURANCE TO SAUDI ARABIA FIRST, THEN TO EVERYBODY IN THE REGION. WE WILL NOT ATTACK ANY PARTY THAT DOES NOT ATTACK US. WHOEVER WANTS OUR FRIENDSHIP WILL FIND US EAGER."


9. OPENING OF THE BORDERS:

CHARGE CONVEYED TO SADDAM OUR DEEP CONCERNS THAT THOSE AMERICAN CITIZENS CURRENTLY IN KUWAIT AND IN IRAQ, WHO WANT TO LEAVE, HAVE NOT BEEN PERMITTED TO DO SO. CHARGE SAID HE HAD SPOKEN TO SECRETARY BAKER THE PREVIOUS EVENING AND THE SECRETARY HAD REINFORCED THE CONCERN OF THE PRESIDENT AND OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. SADDAM REPLIED ONLY THAT WE ARE STUDYING THAT AND WE WILL BE MAKING A DECISION SOON. CHARGE ONCE AGAIN URGED THE PRESIDENT TO ACT QUICKLY TO PERMIT AMERICANS TO DEPART. SADDAM REPLIED WITH A SMILE, "ARE YOU SO ANXIOUS ABOUT AMERICANS DEPARTING BECAUSE YOU ARE GOING TO ATTACK ME?" CHARGE REPLIED THAT OUR INTEREST WAS IN ENSURING THAT THOSE CITIZENS WHO WANTED TO LEAVE BE PERMITTED TO MAKE THAT CHOICE, AND NOT BE OBLIGED TO REMAIN AGAINST THEIR WISHES. CHARGE THEN REPLIED THAT HE INTENDS TO STAY. SADDAM SMILED AND SAID HE HAD BEEN MAKING A JOKE. (ON LEAVING THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, CHARGE RAN INTO THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PROTOCOL, WHO SAID THAT DIPLOMATS MAY NOW BEGIN LEAVING AFTER TRAVEL PERMISSION IS GRANTED. THIS WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF ANOTHER TELEGRAM.)

10. VIOLATION OF DIPLOMATIC PROPERTY:

SADDAM MADE A POINT OF SAYING THAT THE IRAQI TROOPS HAD BEEN BEHAVING WITH GREAT DISCIPLINE
AS THEY HAD BEEN SO INSTRUCTED BY THE GOVERNMENT. CHARGE REPLIED THAT SINCE THE PRESIDENT HAD RAISED THE SUBJECT, HE WOULD BT #4566

SECRET SECTION 03 OF 03 BAGHDAD 04566 NODIS FROM CHARGE E.O 12356: DECL:OADR TAGS: PREL MOPS IZ, KU SA SUBJ: MAIN POINTS OF CHARGE’S MEETING WITH LIKE TO SHARE SOME INFORMATION WITH HIM. NOTING THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD CONVEYED THE SAME MESSAGE TO THE CHARGE THE PREVIOUS DAY, THE SHARING OF INFORMATION ON POSSIBLE ABUSES BY IRAQI SOLDIERS WAS OF MUTUAL CONCERN. IN THAT SPIRIT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THE RESIDENCE OF OUR COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY IN KUWAIT HAD BEEN BROKEN INTO THE PREVIOUS NIGHT BY IRAQI SOLDIERS. IN ADDITION TO BEING A VIOLATION OF ONE OF THE MOST BASIC IMMUNITIES PROVIDED TO DIPLOMATS UNDER THE VIENNA CONVENTION, THIS ACT WAS IN DIRECT VIOLATION OF THE PRESIDENT’S INSTRUCTIONS TO HIS MILITARY FORCES, CHARGE CONCLUDED. SADDAM TURNED IMMEDIATELY TO HIS CABINET SECRETARY, AND ORDERED AN INVESTIGATION, THEN TURNED BACK TO THE CHARGE AND PROMISED THAT HE WOULD CONVEY THE RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATION TO US AND TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTION TO PREVENT ITS HAPPENING AGAIN.


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