

1988**Saddam Hussein and High-Ranking Officers
Discussing the Liberation of Al-Fao****Citation:**

"Saddam Hussein and High-Ranking Officers Discussing the Liberation of Al-Fao", 1988, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Conflict Records Research Center, National Defense University, SH-SHTP-A-000-568. Contributed by Steve Coll.
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Summary:

This file contains an audio record of a meeting between Saddam Hussein and other unidentified Iraqi high-ranking officers. They discuss the Iran-Iraq War, the battle for al-Fao in 1986, the importance of the Republican Guard, the enemy's organization and strategies, and issues pertaining to weaponry. The officers conclude the meeting by congratulating Saddam Hussein for victory in liberating al-Fao.

Original Language:

Arabic

Contents:

Transcript - Arabic

Full Translation (Audio File)

Start: 00:00:00

End: 01:00:19

File Type: Audio (Meeting)

00:00:00 to 00:01:36 (Inaudible) Noise

00:01:30 to 00:02:13

Saddam speaks:

Good morning, Good morning, is Shaykh `Izzat with you? ...What do you think if we paid a visit to Mecca?

00:02:14 to 00:02:16

Another person says:

Excellent idea Mr. President

00:02:22 to 00:02:27

Saddam speaks:

Good, so tomorrow God willing, prepare your luggage, good things may happen by God's orders

00:00:28 to 00:02:29

Another person says:

One day for each group

00:02:29 to 00:02:31

Saddam says:

What?!

00:02:32 to 00:02:33

The other person says:

In groups, Allah protects you sir

00:02:34 to 00:02:37

Saddam says:

Yes, decisions should have been taken

00:02:44 to 00:02:46

Another Person says:

Any one absent will miss it

00:02:47 to 00:03:39

Saddam Says:

All, even who is absent will come

I had this idea in mind since the battle of Al-Faw. I had the intention in 85 (TC: 1985) we will all perform APUmra (TC: Minor Pilgrimage). Now the battle is over but in 88(TC 1988) (TC: Saddam laughs). A great battle, **I** will let Abu-`Ali to tell about it.

00:03:40 to 00:03:49

Abu`Ali says,

Mr. President, after the battle of Al-Faw in 1986

00:03:50 to 00:03:51

Saddam interrupts:

85 or 86

00:03:52 to 00:04:01

Everybody says:

No, 86... 86, 86 (Saddam laughs)

00:04:02 to 00:10:28

Abu`Ali proceeds:

Circumstances, Sir, were mentioned by the command. Defeat, Allah forbids it happened once while teaching our men. Thanks to your instructions, long meetings were held in the General Command to discuss the reasons behind failures and tackle it. We got a lot of lessons. Instructions were given by you Mr. President and the General Command complied with it and transformed it into a working system. Among these instructions, we set up new formations in the Republican Guards and in the army. Mr. President assured us the importance of training and the good choice of commanders and chiefs. We worked hard after Al-Faw battle throughout the last year in line with the instructions of the President who advised us to depend on God and start in the last March in spite of all the indicia and intentions of the enemy in this and that place. Therefore, we had the battles of Al-Yawm Al-`Azim (TC: the Great Day), Al-Hasad Al-`Akbar (TC: the Biggest Harvest) and Al-Milad. They started on 1986/12/24 and lasted in the southern sector until Al-Milad Battles on the 17 or 27th of April. At that time, we announced the good news about the end of the battle to the President. We received a telegraph from the intelligence service saying that there is a possibility of big exposed in the northern sector. Then, the advanced headquarters was divided into two parts; one part continued the fight in the sector and another supported the commander of the first corps. I visited brother Nasir, when he was the commander of the first corps, to discuss with him what should be done and returned. On the same day, around 2:15 A.M Bawrti sector was attacked. The fight, Mr. President, lasted until, if my memory serves me well, the 26 or 28th of June. The enemy observed our movement; their hope, in addition to their ill ambitions and greed, was to exhaust all our reserves, with their tyrannical power, so that we have no time to rest or restore our power. After a period, there was the battle of Sayf Sa'd and the battle in the sector of the second corps, when brother Nasir was training the army for a short period. The opportunity that we hoped to seize in March after the instructions and decisions of the General Command that divisions should be divided by him; so, the Command received blame from the President because it was supposed to immediately put the instructions into practice, and your Excellency had knowledge about this. In this case, we had to start again and concentrate on two things Mr. President; completing the formations newly created for the units of the army and the Guard's command, and freeing the biggest number of formations for the coming work. Actually, Mr. President, we managed, up to the present moment, to create fifty trained formations or got enough training sessions that we were devoted to the work in the southern sector. Pressure lasted in Maghat until the operation of First Al-Anfal was completed in the Jalal Headquarters (the fourth force). In order to reduce the pressure on Jalal Headquarters, the operation of Halabjah (cough...) took place in circumstances similar to that of Al-Faw in 1986. There were five Guard Regiments for protection and defense, distributed along the barriers surrounding Halabjah to the barrier opposite to Al-Bandakhah Dam. The operation was

bitter itself; it happened in a way expressing (Inaudible) and did not give chance to the General Command or the field commander to prepare his forces and account for the reaction. After that, they failed and the gap between Dukan Dam and the enemy's activity in Mawat widened, they moved from Halabjah to Darbandakhan with a destruction force in Qardan sector. With the second day of Al-Anfal operation, the attack started on Al-Randakhan Dam; information from the intelligence came before, saying that five or six hundred from Shandary High Assembly and groups go back to Qardan, with exploration of the southern part of the Dam, that is behind the dam.

00:10:29: 10:40

(Saddam interrupts: Bring tea...)

00:10:41: 11:40

Abu`Ali Proceeds:

Therefore, the battles of the 36 division started with some surprise and clear planning; the division is fighting from the front, from the sides and others organized and came from behind Qardan organized hits and blocking the supply road of Jalalabad to Darbandakhan. However, this second stage of the second Al-Anfal battle continued successfully, we captured 19 Strella anti-aircraft launchers, 11-rocket launcher 107 mm Chinese, cannon 120 DCRT, and many other arms, in addition to the captured and the dead. This weakened the enemy plans of targeting the dam because the conditions and ambitions of relating to reaching Dukan Dam, the sabotage pocket and...

00:11:41 to 11: 50

(Saddam interrupts, draining water from the dam also,)

11: 51 to 13-37

Abu`Ali Proceeds:

And, the drainage of the Dam water. All this work, Mr. President, and after discussion with your Excellency, the decision was that the Republican Guard is to be kept out of the game and remain in the southern sector. This obliged us to withdraw many of our reserves prepared for the operations of the Holy Ramadan.

Before the enemy exposure in the north, and while we were planning for the operations of the South, your Excellency addressed to the General Command and said, "while you plan for the work in the South, expect something to happen in the North. This may create a psychological situation that might serve the enemy in his future work in the South." After the last instructions, we started working with more seriously and secretly. As per the instructions of you Excellency, detailed plans were made, sectors were named,

battlefields similar to the coming ones were created for the sectors which were assigned for duties and a general deception plan was made, your Excellency gave final touches to it. Therefore, we started the work accordingly in consecutive and gradual steps. The last step was our visit to the North and broadcasting it in the media to show that we are ready in the northern sector, and other detailed matters that indicate that we are preparing for an attack from him not by us and he was convinced that things coming this way.

00:13:38 to 00:14:07

Saddam says:

He (TC: The enemy) moved unreal dispatches to convince us that they had work in the south, He wanted to delude us, but this happened the way we wanted it to happen.

He moved the dispatches at night trying to assure us that he would attack Al-Faw, thus this formed complete covering of our concentrations.

(00:14:08 to 00:17:08)

Abu`Ali says,

Two consecutive meetings were held at the General Command in the last week or ten days ago before the start of the operation; it was accorded that the executive sectors should be aware of their duty to the details. Therefore, the required effort of cannons was accounted for and the operation was distributed between the seventh corps and the Guard command in that place. It was decided that 15 April would be the day of the attack. However, to complete the deception plan, you Excellency postponed it to 17 April. We continued in the deception plan till the night of 17 April. The general command made recorded and televised visit to the north sector assuring that our interest is there. Therefore, we were divided into two parts, one part went at night, and I joined them in the morning. We waited the phone call of your Excellency in the morning which was very important. In fact, my movement was visible, as I was taking rest after the visit. On the morning of the 17th at 6:30 Mr. President, the sectors moved towards the targets. In our way between Baghdad and the arrival, we had some prepared attacks but we did not shell because of the speed and velocity of the wind. We care for the conditions of the work for the comrades in the Command said that we should depend on deception more than perfectly carrying out the plan. Therefore, we did not use a part of the weapons for this reason. After discussion with the President (God protects him and you), he told us to go ahead and depend on Allah. It is hope that the first stage represented in the first lines in front of the Republican Guard and the seventh corps. Behind it about one kilometer, there was an artificial canal made by the enemy and takes water form Shatt Al-Arab by using pumps and extended onwards in front of the coastal road sector and prolonged to the project 81, surrounding in the form of a rectangle, and curved in the form of a dam on the sea.

00:17:09 to 00:17:12 **Saddam intervenes:** And you did not see if there were any cannons they might hit Kuwait with... (Inaudible)

00:17:13 to 00:17:27

Abu`Ali Proceeds:

Oh sir, I could not see that from the plane; I saw engines for illumination and I saw a guidance device. I could not descend for the area was elevated and they did not let me go down. In my opinion

00:17:29 to 00:17:30

Saddam interrupts:

I believe they knew

00:17:31 to 00:17:32

Abu`Ali says:

I think they knew because I saw cannons left there

00:17:33 to 00:17:47

Saddam intervenes:

The Guard does not care about that, they still continue on their objectives and have instructions to let every thing as it is and not to pick up in thing.

00:17:48 to 00:19:09

Abu`Ali Proceeds:

At 1030 on the morning of the execution day, I visited the Guard's commander and contacted the commander of the seventh corps; I found that they both surpassed the three defensive lines and arrived at a flooding canal made by the enemy. In front of the seventh corps was a swamp area, so we attacked the strategic roads which separate the Republican Guard forces and the seventh corps. After it we gained three successive shields in the limit of 450 Km and reached the area covered with trees and stopped because its movement was slow. Therefore, to avoid risking losses for no reason, it was necessary for it to stop especially because the area was full of fields and trees. After half an hour, the Guard sectors canceled this canal and occupied the two bridges over it which the enemy did not have time to explode. . At 11:45, they arrived to the second phase which was in a distance of 3 Km from the canal.

00:19:10 to 00:19:11

Saddam intervenes

What second phase?

00:19:12 to 00:19:14

Abu`Ali says,

Sir, the first stage was

00:19:15 to 00:19:18

Saddam says:

The first phase that is the first canal

00:19:20 to 00:19:50

Abu`Ali says,

Yes Sir, the first, they arrived to `Ardaniyyah Dam which represents the first stage of the work of that day. Therefore, there were sectors replaced by other sectors that came after and continued the duty. The sectors of the Guard reached what the brothers in the sector call "Uqdat Al-Faw" (TC: the knot of Al-Faw).

00:19:51 to 00:19:56

Saddam intervenes

They crossed the second canal and reached the knot of Al-Faw which is near the city of Al-Faw.

00:19:57 to 00:20:13

Abu`Ali says,

This knot is the crossroad between the coastal road and the strategic line coming from the extreme north with the road coming from Basrah to Al-Faw. It represents a knot with the northern border of the city of Al-Faw that reaches the battle stage.

00:20:14 to 00:20:15

Saddam intervenes: This is before the

last light of yesterday

00:20:21 to 20: 22

Abu`Ali says,
The road was

00:20:23 to 20-25

Another person says:
Mr. Tariq

00:20:26 to 20: 30

Saddam says:
Welcome...welcome

00:20:31 to 20: 31

A different person enters saying:
Good Evening Sir

00:20:32 to 20: 33

Saddam says:
Good Evening

00:20:34 to 20: 59

The person says: Allah glorifies you, sorry for being late. We were told a different timing
21: 00 to00:21:08

All the attendees greet each other

00:21:09 to 00:21:59

Abu`Ali Proceeds:

In the training, the commander of the Republican Guard drew the battlefield for them on earth, with its canals, shields, and barriers. Every brigade under his command was motivated and told to operate within the plan and the duty. The plan was that he should fight span by span through replacement technique. We discovered on the first day that the enemy set up three successive defensive lines. In the first phase, it was not possible to let organized sectors in these sites, with force that able to attack. Therefore, there was retreat in the fight. We can say

00:22:00 to 00:22:02

Saddam intervenes:
Not organized

00:22:01 to 00:22:30

Abu`Ali Proceeds:

...unorganized and depends on personal effort. They, sometimes, do not even tell their soldiers whether to withdraw or remain... (Inaudible)

In the last two hours of the last light, the right of the coastal road which represented the right flank of the Republican Guard forces. There were some resistance groups; they were very simple and scattered but they were surpassed. In the first stage, it was expected

00:22:31 to 00:22:41

Saddam intervenes:

it was supposed that you encircle this resistance and designate a small force to engage it and not to let the whole force face it.

00:22:42 to 00:22:51

Abu`Ali Proceeds:

The project 71 was is in two parts, one part in the north of the coastal road and the other in the south of the coastal road along a distance of 2 Km.

00:22:52 to 00:22:56

Another person speaks:

At the same time, placing our missiles to hit the Iranian ships

00:22:57 to 00:23:00

Saddam speaks:

That is a concrete frame

00:23:01 to 00:23:33

Abu`Ali proceeds:

From the experience of the fight of Al-Faw in 86, the enemy expected that we will attack from the general road to fight him. Therefore, he concentrated five defensive sites and sites in the inmost. What happened after that reached "Al-Mamlahah" the command had two forces; Baghdad Force Command and Al-Madinah Al-Munawwarah Force Command? Both forces benefited from the work of each other and went beyond the road where the defensive sites were situated and directly reached

00:23:34 to 00:24:05

Saddam interrupts: They waded into the mud, Abu-'Ali, the enemy is habituated to the Armies techniques that the soldiers move on roads and they prepare his defenses according to that. However, our soldiers at the road were trained to wade into the mud and they even swam in the canals.

00:24:06 to 00:25:01

Abu`Ali proceeds:

The enemy created with the defensive sites, refuges, and communication service. The fighter walks along them, protected along the roads. These refuges had openings not in direction of our sectors but behind direction for ventilation and as entrances and exits. Therefore, the soldier can move from one site to the other and enter the front side without being exposed to any bullet or splinter. What happened to these 6 successive defensive sites is at the curve of the street that goes to the Knot of Faw. This was around ten o'clock in the morning. So, one of the commandos brigade that belong to the Command crossed this canal, altered the canal master towards the sea, and prevented water from going to the enemy force, Mr. President

00:25:02 to 00:25:04

Saddam says:

They stopped it

00:25:05 to 00:26:03

Abu`Ali proceeds:

They stopped it sir, while the rest of the rest of the brigade continued on its objectives. They fought in the site of the project 71 and the completed cleansing continued. The other part, near to the coast, was disregarded and cleansed by the cooperation of those who crossed and those who remained behind.

Therefore, we asked that the project which became in the form of a rectangle of 2 km length and 5 Km width near the city of Al-Faw, exactly at the west south of Al-Faw. The knot of Al-Faw is near the battle stage and the city of Al-Faw as it is. The plan of the commander was hindered by the difficulty and slowness of the arrival of sectors to the battlefields.

00:26:04 to 00:26:28

Saddam intervenes:

You had a problem with the sectors. Two formations of the Republican Guard did not participate in the fight. The problem was in the arrival of sectors to the operations place because the infantry had to walk 9 Km in the mud and clash with enemy. After waling 9 Km, they clash with the enemy.

00:26:30 to 00:26:47

Abu`Ali proceeds:

There were thirty-five artillery battalions in the sectors, almost 1400 cannons of the Guard.

00:26:48 to 00:26:49

Saddam says:

Sixty-seven artillery battalions

00:26:50 to 00:27:09

Abu`Ali says,

The total, yes, Mr. President

Divided by 18 it will be 1400 cannons, except the tanks bombardment. We tried to discuss

00:27:10 to 00:27:11

Another person speaks:

(Far voice)

00:27:12 to 00:27:49 (Inaudible and noise) (TC
it seems that a new corner joins the meeting)

00:27:50 to 00:53

Abu`Ali proceeds:

So, the day work was accomplished when we crossed the second canal which is at the distance of less than 1 Km from the knot of Al-Faw. To Guard ourselves against the night operations, we protected our left flank from the starting point, and the side opposite to the area full of trees to the area near to Al-Faw and which was named Al-Faw Knot to the left. The brigade that arrived and crossed in front of the canal stretched its flank on the project 81 to the coast. This problem was solved before two hours of the last light; the road on which fight lasted until 01:30, one of the brigades, subsidiary to the Guard could

not penetrate along the main road, till it was surpassed and the men started fighting from behind; some were killed and some surrendered.

00:28:54 to 00:30:28

A blank period

00:30:29 to 00:32:00

Abu`Ali proceeds:

Mines and barbwire on the coastal road; at the last moments of the daylight, around one or one hour and a half (another person says: one hour and a half), two brigades passed On the right of the main road and occupy the project 81, in coordination with the brigade that crossed the last canal to form a foreclosing line and reach the city of Al-Faw. Additionally, to reach the flank stretched on the surface of 8 Km towards the coast that correlated to Ra's Al-Bishaha, the extreme far point of the Iraqi land. Because of this situation, the seventh corps did not evaluate and remained as it is. We asked that it invest the success that we achieved on its right in the Guard sectors and change the direction to Shatt Al-`Arab. It seems that it was hopping to receive a supply of mechanized Infantry to be able to enter this farmlands area. In the morning, the force continued; but before that at night, we discussed whether to stop and cross the other day or continue at night in spite of the negative sides of working at night because the area is full of cultivated lands.

00:32:01 to 00:32:14

Saddam interrupts:

Therefore, the plan was that the sectors stop at night (Abu-`Ali says: that to stop) but the decision was that they should continue at night since the enemy was exhausted, we should not give him a chance. They fought at night

Go ahead

00:32:15 to 00:32:23

Abu`Ali proceeds:

So, the brigade 19 of the Republican Guard was in charge. Actually, at night, one of the regiment entered the regions of

00:32:24 to 00:32:42

Saddam interrupts:

Regiment..., a regiment from the Special Forces entered the city of Al-Faw, today morning and surrounded it from the south before regiment 19.

00:32:43 to 00:33:30

Abu`Ali proceeds:

Today, around twelve thirty or one o'clock, movement was not in the required rushing we wanted and the reason is known; it is true that these sectors fought a lot but they were standby from the sunrise, their hands on their arms from the sunrise. The sectors that started the fight used to arrive at the main road and then prepare for fighting. They walked 11 Km carrying their needs, in a muddy phase characterized by bombardment in addition to stay up for a long time.

00:33:31 to 00:33:33

Saddam interrupts:

This situation and the fight

00:33:34 to 00:34:51

Abu`Ali proceeds:

Yes, Sir, it was two nights, the forces did not have time to sleep. Every time there was firing and they had to intervene and the fight was continuous.

Mr. President, May Allah protects him and you, came to the Guard Command to see the situation and discuss what should be done. Written orders were issued by him at every phase. The question was whether we announce the achievement of our objectives, entering to the city or surrounding it. Sometimes, we hoped to continue but for psychological factors of Mr. President and his wisdom, he said that Iraqis want from us. Moreover, they could not bear that we stay silent for 48, 24 or 36 hours or more. Our knowledge of the enemy made us hesitate to announce things like these. He would try to deny and it would seem that the front lines are lying to their leaders. Therefore, we invested the situation.

00:34:52 to 00:35:13

Saddam interrupts:

The remark of Husayn from Al-Faw

(**Abu`Ali says:** Yes Mr. President)

Saddam: so, let them in their command telling lies to each other and (Inaudible)

00:35:14 to 00:36:14

Abu`Ali proceeds:

Thus, the decision was that we announce the good news at the end of all stages to our people and nation.

We had a brigade that was not of the specifications of the men of the Republican Guard. The sectors of the second phase started on today afternoon with activity. Three brigades stepped into the arena; the brigade 19 encircled the city from its southern borders, the brigade 12 of the Republican Guard entered from the northern borders of the city, it advanced a distance of around 1 or 2 Km in its north and settled in Shatt Al-`Arab, while another brigade on its left.

00:36:15 to 00:36:16

Saddam interrupts: The third was Special Forces

00:36:17 to 00:37:23

Abu`Ali proceeds:

Yes, the third was Special Forces; it became the separation point between them and the seventh corps. This way, we cleansed the entire city and controlled the six first kilometers that represented the most dangerous phases between the bridges that were put up and the steady bridge that was difficult to be destroyed because it was built by the Germans or with German technical help using concrete pipes. Therefore, the instruction of Mr. the President was that, if Allah enabled us to reach our targets, we blow up this bridge and stay in the far riverbank and cut all that is south of it and it is better if we can stretch

north. This way, we will show to the world and the Iranians that this is Iraq and these are the men of Iraq, and that we can enter, stay and withdraw by a possible decision; that is, we stay the time that the Command sees enough, we may even leave the bridge but come back to it many times.

00:37:24 to 00:37:25

Another person says:
The eastern riverbank

00:37:26 to 00:37:37

Abu`Ali proceeds:
Yes, the eastern riverbank, while we were exultant by the delightfulness of the victory and the quick investment with the sectors and the phone calls

00:37:38: 00: 37: 42

(Both Abu`Ali and Saddam say at the same time)
We forgot to destroy the bridge

00:37:43 to 00:38:25

Saddam keeps on:
The duty of destroying the bridge was not performed. Our forces cut the bridge from three sites by using heavy bombs. As the men came to me, they told me that the bridge was cut at three points, so what do you think. I said ok, no problem.
In fact, there are psychological factors because for 48 hours we will stay there to take photos and tell them that this road will not obstacle us. Not only we restored Al-Faw, but also we crossed to the other riverbank of Shaft Al-`Arab and we will retreat at the right time.

00:38:26 to 00:38:33

Everybody speaks:
Good

00:38:34 to 00:39:21

Abu`Ali proceeds:
We, in this case, discussed the Political Guidance (Inaudible). The Iranians warned, sorry it is the Americans who warned the Iranians that if they do not evacuate Sasan field in 5 minutes, the Americans will hit it. Mr. President told us to contact the comrade the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The minister of Information believes that this was done on purpose; first, they wanted to spoil the achievement of Al-Faw, second, they wanted us to seem as if we were coordinating with the Iranians.

00:39:22 to 00:39:23

Another person speaks:
To seem that they cooperate with us

00:39:24 to 00:39:35

Abu`Ali proceeds:
So, the director of Political Guidance got information that the reason was the Iranian exposure to the American ship happened on Thursday

00:39:36 to 00:39:38

Saddam interrupts:
It seems they hit it

00:39:39 to 00:38:45

Everybody says:

Yes, yes...

00:38:46 to 00:40:53

Abu`Ali proceeds:

Yes, he said that we should linger. The Iranians knew that the situation was out of their control, so we asked political Guidance. That is why we could take our time. After the instructions, however, it was decided that we advance as quickly as possible to finish the last stage. Actually, three brigades advanced and finished the project 81, and rushed to the east towards the east of Ra's Al-Bishah, this occurred around 3:30 or 3:45 today. At 4 o'clock, Sir the director of political Guidance said that the Iranians gave sleazy announcement, really, it is sleazy however, it mingles between the developments as President deduct. We also want to give our announcement but I told him we can delay it one our no problem till we meet with the President.

00:40: 54 to 00:41:02

Saddam interrupts:

Abu-'Ali, Al-Faw, nothing can jumble it up, not any announcement, it is a huge bomb.

00:41:03 to 00:41:29

Abu`Ali proceeds:

They issued communiqué saying the force of the Kuwaiti, American attacked, (Saddam comments Iraqi-American-Kuwaiti Army (TC: all attendees laugh)

00:41:30 to 00:42:43

Abu`Ali speaks,

Today around 6:15 or 6:20 more specifically, the sectors finished all the phases in Al-Faw; in the north of Al-Faw towards Ra's Al-Bishah. The strangulation of the seventh (TC the seventh corps) was resolved and it advanced to Shaft Al-`Arab. Mr. the President gave us instructions before he left. His instructions were that the defensive sites should be reorganized, the battlefield should be prepared, and that more sectors are to be called for, lest the Iranians might wake up and spoil this wonderful victory with their bombs and mortars. Of course, in our plan we depended on using special ammunition as much as possible if the circumstances allowed us. However, it was Allah's will that the wind was very strong and its speed reached forty knots per second. That is your Excellency arrived at 4'oclock.

00:42:44 to 00:42:45

Saddam says:

May be three hours and forty -five minutes

00:42:46 to 00:44:58

Abu`Ali proceeds:

Three hours and forty-five minutes after the plane took off (TC: Inaudible). So Mr. President, we thank Allah for this victory that was not only due to the determination of our men and soldier but also, like what General Shibat did in the war of the Germans against the Soviet from which important lessons were drawn. This victory was due to the high level of discipline, the well-drafted plan, and the required training and practice. The training and exercise were practiced with real and live weapons by the two teams of training. A group of the captured (Prisoners of War), who were interrogated, said that they did not use to bombard and that (Inaudible). There was a big rushing and the

Republican Guard forces performed their duty in a perfect way. Their comrades at the 7th

Corps were not less intrepid, but they were in a difficult sector with Shatt Al- Arab at the left, in addition to an area of swamps and cultivated lands. Therefore, in thirty-six hours, we achieved a phase nearer to imagination than to reality; in terms of timing, performance and the realized results. **In** the whole operation and up to today afternoon, we had around sixty-four martyrs may be they eighty-four and more than one thousand injured. We used to have this number on a daily basis in the northern sector.

00:44:59 to 00:45:08

Saddam interfered and said:

All the martyrs and the injured at the Republican Guard and the 7th Corps were less than three thousands.

00:45:09 to 00:45:10

An unidentified official said:

What were the casualties?

00: 45:11 to 00:45:13

Saddam replied:

What?!!!

00:45:15 to 00:45:16

Another unidentified official said:

What are the casualties of the enemy?

00:45:17 to 00:45:26

Saddam speaks:

In fact, Abu-Samih- we did not ask about that; weapons, neither casualties nor Prisoners of War of the enemy. The only thing we ask about is what did we achieved and what are the plans of enemy?

00:45:27 **another person speaks:**

The count and statistics will be later

00:45:28 to 00:45:45

Saddam speaks:

We are asking about how the resistance of the enemy is. Where it is situated? What is its force? This is what we should look for. Even the Republican Guard does not ask about these things; they think only about their objectives.

00:45:46 to 00:45:48

Another person speaks:

(Inaudible) quick

00:45:49 to 00:45:51

Another person speaks:

Speed is an important factor

00:45:51 to 00:46:39

Saddam speaks:

(Laugh) congratulations, yesterday at night when Mahir saw the guards got near to the city (Inaudible) and he said that I would go and take the Iraqi flag. (Everybody laughs) congratulations

00:46:40 to 00:47:31

Abu-`Ali resumed saying:

Therefore, Mr. President, we thank Allah for all great results we achieved and as your Excellency said yesterday and today, that Al-Faw was cushion or a base for the Iranians, and that this hit will put them in a situation of military and political unbalance. I commented on this saying that if there were two steps towards peace, we achieved fifty percent of this because we solved an important issue that the Iranians in addition to many other parties used to focus on.

00:47:32 to 00:47:35

An unidentified person interfered and said:
International parties

00:47:36 to 00:48:41

Abu-`Ali proceeds:

Therefore, Mr. President, your sagacity and your presence at the head of all the sectors, as well as the good efforts made by the Command, all this is a source of pride and can be a model in the battles of exposure. This planning, perfection and the performance of all types and branches should be taught in the Iraqi and foreign military institutes. Therefore, our expectations remain with the presence of your Excellency and your care about your comrades at the Armed Forces and of this great, firm and faithful Iraqi people, as well as your comrades in the command. This, Allah willing, is the opening of a clear victory and at the same time a conclusion with a complete victory of a war that lasted for eight years.

00:48:42 to 00:48:43

Saddam speaks:
Allah willing

00:48:44 to 00:49:02

Abu-`Ali resumed his speech:

So, congratulations Mr. President, we pray for you good health, safety, patience and fidelity. Iraq, Allah willing, will get out of this with safe men, land and sky since your Excellency is at its leadership along with your good comrades. May Allah protect you Mr. President

00:49:03 to 00:49:04

Saddam speaks:
Thank you

00:49:05 to 00:49:10

Another person speaks:
Your Excellency and him, I am only

00:49:11 to 00:49:13 Saddam
interrupts: No, you have covered
everything

00:49:13 to 00:49:22

Are a blank period

00:49:23 to 00:52:19

An unidentified official interfered and said:

I just wanted to say one thing; I do not believe that any one of us had experienced something better than the sweetness of liberating the land. I consider liberating Al-Faw is liberation for all Iraq. If there was any doubt due to the darkness that surrounded us, may be this was a hope that required a long time to be realized. All this doubt and illusion were removed after the battles of the Holy Ramadan. I would like to focus on the communiqué that included some expressions that we need to emphasize, not only because this victory enables us to be at the level of our commitment of peace, but what interests

us and requires our vigilance is not Al-Faw front. It is in any other front that they might belittle this victory; even though, I believe that the high spirits this victory triggered in every Iraqi makes the fighters stronger and creates in them the aptitude to fight with ferocity. However, it is good to know that the force and ability of the enemy along with other hostile parties can belittle all what we did in any other small battles anywhere these days.

I think it is a good start towards a big and essential objective after the battles of Al-Mihammarah. The rest, I believe, may be withdrawn by a political decision on their part or by an effort from our side. Just as the Minister of Information said, before your Excellency intervened, Rafsanjani and Khomeini said that if the Iraqis restore Al-Faw, how will they able to go back to Baghdad to congratulate Saddam Hussein. That is, they considered this as something impossible. Now, we are supposed to tell them come.

00:52:20 to 00:52:22

Saddam intervenes: We are brothers (inaudible)

00:52:23 to 53: 50

The other person proceeds:

Therefore, Al-Faw- regardless achieving victory or not, was a political case more than it was a military one. It is a very small part of Iraq so it is a political case more than it is military, geographical case. I understand from the communiqué that was issued that the General Command and the Iraqi people, along with the joy and enthusiasm, are vigilant as to all the confrontation lines with accuracy and strictness as to the issue of peace in accordance with principles that rejects any betrayal or trickery. We witnessed this even in the battles; the movement of the Americans, in spite of the issue of Frigate four days before, was not free of deception. Therefore, we congratulate your Excellency and ourselves as well as the Iraqi people in this great event, although we are confident about our ability of victory, the occurrence of victory has more influence on us.

Thank you Mr. President

00:53:51 to 00:53:52

Saddam speaks:

Yes Comrade `Izzat

00:53:53 to 00:56:28

`Izzat speaks:

We realized what is difficult. I seize this moments of joy to congratulate Mr. President and all the men who worked with him and under his instructions and direct command in realizing this great achievement. I assure that we had no doubt about the ability of the Armed Forces, the army or the Iraqis in achieving this victory, since you still lead and give them from this huge and stored genius and intellect. I am certain, just like the certainty of this day, that the way the communiqué was issued days before the attack showed that Al-Faw was liberated and everything was over. This is supported by laws and historical evidence. History witnesses this, and there are many examples of divine evidence, such as when our Master `Umar wanted to preach on the platform in Al-Madinah and started yelling: the mountain, the mountain. Khurasan (TC: a name that was assigned to a part of the USSR) in the far areas.

00:56:29 to 0:56:34

Saddam intervenes:

Near to Sarbiza (Inaudible)

00:56:34 to 00:57:31

`Izzat resumed his speech:

So, our Master 'Ali asked him (TC: Our Master `Umar) after he finished what was that nonsense he said, that was non related to the subject of the sermon and that just confuses the people praying. So, he told him: you heard me? He said: yes, I heard you. So he said: (Inaudible) the Muslim army in one particular place and the Persian army in a particular place; if the Persian army attacks the Muslim (inaudible) so, they should go to upland, so as to close the area (inaudible). There many other incidents like this one, but this is one of the confirmed incidents in the Islamic and Arab History. That is Mr. President; before the attack started, I felt that Al-Faw would be liberated this time.

00:57:32 to 00:57:37 **Saddam interrupts:** (Inaudible) Ahmad is very optimistic as if Al-Faw was restored already

00:57:38 to 00:59:48

`Izzat proceeds:

I said Al-Faw was liberated and everything is finished. I did not ask what the timing of the attack is, or what is to be prepared for it. I just said that Al-Faw is liberated. When your heart feels that Al-Faw is liberated; it is because you are the man who lives the conflict of Al-Faw with his heart and consciousness. It is very rare when your heart is strained, and the devil has no power over it. This is the power of the Faithful; he sees with the guidance of Allah. I would like that we in the Command make the teaching staff and the people understand that this is the war and that our principles have been practically displayed in Al-Faw. We, in our teaching with the higher teaching staff in the party, tell them that if we arrived at Al-Ramadi (inaudible), we will take them out to the frontiers. What is important is not invading a city or taking hold of an economical target or any other target, but what counts is how the conflict ends. The one who gives the lesson is the one who sticks to his principles, and defends his rights, honor and dignity. The operation of Al-Faw means that if any other part of Iraq is invaded, the Iraqis will definitely liberate it one day. They will liberate it with the same ease and the same intrepidity and manhood. However, just so as not to precipitate and the conflict is still ongoing.

00:59:49 to 00:59:51 Saddam
interrupts: They can invade another part
like Al-Faw

00:59:52 to 01:00:19

`Izzat proceeds:

Our victory in Al-Faw does not mean that Iran gave way or fall down and the conflict is
still ongoing (Inaudible)