

## **Date unknown**

# **Saddam Hussein attending an Iraqi government meeting with Ba'th Party members regarding the use of chemical weapons.**

### **Citation:**

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### **Summary:**

Saddam discusses chemical weapons and world politics with his advisers. He mentions that Iraq may teach the Arab countries how to manufacture chemical weapons technology. He discusses his threats against Israel and that country's weapons program. He discusses Iranian military programs and cooperation with China and North Korea.

### **Original Language:**

Arabic

### **Contents:**

Transcript - Arabic

[REDACTED]

**Saddam:** The parties distributed [UI]

**UM1:** [UI]

**Saddam:** Dangerous situation... I would love to see someone going crazy and launching 100 missiles on Tel Aviv [UI] statement. God damn them, what dangerous situation they are talking about! We stand together on one side and [UI], OK, what's your problem if I declared and... and we will discuss this with the minister or we did discuss this with the American Secretary of Defense, we have to tell the Americans, "What kind of a statement is this... what do you mean by you are going to discuss this matter? Explain to us.

[Unintelligible background talk]

**Saddam:** what dangerous situation? We should teach all the Arabs how to manufacture the chemicals to the last phase we reached. [Unintelligible background talk] by God, whatever we have available we should give to the Arabs and teach them how to manufacture it... let the range be expanded. [Unintelligible background talk] huh? [Unintelligible background talk] no one can use what we have.

**UM2:** Only the Libyans will claim it so that they can use it.

**Saddam:** [Mumbles jokingly]

[Unintelligible background talk]

**Saddam:** Yeah, they cannot in Egypt because the Egyptians... are definitely good.

**UM2:** No, they have it.

**Saddam:** They have it, but they don't have... they are not at the same stage where we are. It is impossible for all Arabs to have... to have reached the stage we did as far as quantity and quality... it is happening by tons, everyday the aircrafts fire 100 shots at a time. I mean this... is a small production, the less the production [UI]. It is normal for any country that is not involved in a war to have a good idea of the size of the need.

**UM3** [Possibly Tariq Aziz]: [Unintelligible talk] we were having dinner last day with a group of ministers, including the Egyptian, Saudi, Bahraini and Kuwaiti and they approached the missile issue saying it is Russian and advanced...

**Saddam:** Yeah, give them the Russian one and let [UI]

**UM3:** No, I told them... I said, "You are brothers..." [Voices overlap]

**Saddam:** What's wrong with that, an advanced Russian!

**UM3:** You know the... [Voices overlap]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

**Saddam:** If they are able to develop the 270 Russian to 850 that means [UI] the missile theory.

**UM3:** Yes, I told them that... [Voices overlap]

**Saddam:** Let's give them one

**UM3:** I said even by saying this is a Russian missile, this... the Iraq developed it in first place... this proves that Iraq is capable of manufacturing this missile because what is a missile? Based on our general reading as educated people, what is the missile? The most dangerous... important part in making the missile is the engine and the fuel that gives it the range. This is number one. Second, the computer that guides it and third the explosive charge. The explosive charge is a bomb like any other bomb wherever it falls it explodes. So, if the Iraq were capable to put the fuel... use the fuel and use an engine to bring it to 650, and were capable to install a controller in it, the bomb will not be something major in this case; we already made bombs.

I told them, "haven't you been following-up on whoever visited the Iraq and watched the opposition the President witnessed? We have been working on the military industrialization for many years and beside, we don't work for four hours and talk for ten hours; when we work, we really work hard day and night. We have the capabilities and we have the [UI, it sounds like "al-Qaeda that produces for us"], not only the missile!"

**Saddam:** [UI] in front of everybody, they call the excellent thing [UI].

**UM3:** Yes.

**Saddam:** What kind of a theory is this? They do not want to say we want to do some serious work... hard work!

**UM3:** Yes.

**Saddam:** I mean... [Other people laugh]

**UM3:** Good. So, why are you surprised that Iraq can manufacture a missile? Any Arab country can manufacture a missile if it wants... if it decides to... decides, work hard, spends money, get things here and there and connects joints [couplings] together. Why not, it can manufacture everything!

**Saddam:** Because it is the strongest Arab country and has military industrialization since the time of Mohamed Ali Basha and the countries... the empires were upset at that time with Mohamed Ali Basha because you know he introduced the military industrialization. Till this day, they talk and talk about the industrialization and say you manufactured Al-Ghazal [Gazelle] aircraft, which is a French aircraft; they bring the parts and assemble them. This is the way till this day... so and so did so and so.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

**UM4:** Their media allegations... [Voices overlap]

**UM3:** But the Egyptians are lazy. I told them... the Egyptian minister was not [UI]  
[Voices overlap] I told him, "Abu-Ghazalah it is." I mean they are willing [UI] they have  
to work for ten hours and that's more than enough.

**Saddam:** Let him work for half-an-hour; just let him work without letting his personal  
interests affect his mind concentration. If Abu-Ghazalah wants to work now for twelve  
hours, eleven and-a-half of it will be spent on his personal interests, such as how to win  
the contract how to make profit and how much and how much of it to save and how much  
to distribute. Whoever is involved in this type of work cannot concentrate.

**UM3:** The area has entered a new phase. This phase [UI], Sir, [UI] peace and stability  
and everyone is sitting in his place even if [UI]...

**Saddam:** [UI]

**UM3:** Yes.

**Saddam:** What matters is that the oak tree is stable

**UM3:** Yes

**Saddam:** Has strong roots. It might be shaken... whoever got shaken... the earth has  
many different things inside it [Unintelligible background talk], but then it will be OK.

**UM3:** What can we do!

**Saddam:** By God, the one Saudi Arabia has is good.

**UM3:** Yeah.

**Saddam:** Spreading the missiles and [UI] [Laughs] people has become [UI] [Laughs]. It  
is going to be such a mess, China came to me hungry and it has a destructive technology;  
it was such a big mess in the world and whoever has dollars gets what he wants from  
China... and it is cheap... China and North Korea... if North Korea advances a little bit it  
will get to that stage also. [UI] they want to buy and sell [UI].

**UM3:** Sir, when people heard that Saudis manufactured missiles they were surprised, I  
mean the Iraqis pushed the Saudis and encouraged them to see what we got.

**Saddam:** But they did buy?

**UM3:** Yeah, they bought it, yes. I mean when they heard, they said Iraq is behind it I  
mean Iraq encouraged it, otherwise, Saudis cannot make it this kind.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

**UM2:** Saudi Arabia has the [UI]

**Saddam:** Yes

**UM2:** But they don't make [UI]... they have Qana [As heard]

**Saddam:** The Saudis might be desperate to have the missiles in Saudi Arabia so that they can use them to strike back should Iran launch their missiles on Saudis because the Iranians threatened the Saudis several times... I mean a defensive position and it is the right thing.

[Unintelligible background talk]

**Saddam:** So, it is this way [Laughs]

**UM3:** As God wishes!

**UM2:** The Saudis are convinced that [UI] to expand it [UI]

**Saddam:** Thank God [Being sarcastic] the Saudis' share in the public media or in the attack following the incidents of Mecca is more than the [UI] of the Russians and Kuwaitis.

[Unintelligible background talk]

**UM3:** [UI] said that he heard [UI] that for us to hold this conference is more important than the [UI] and the [UI] war issue. What important is that he does not mention the [UI] regarding the Hajj issue more than resolution [UI]. Because this resolution [UI] first [UI] is the organization [UI] Iran and [UI]. The second resolution... [Voices overlap]

**Saddam:** I want you to concentrate especially on the resolutions of the Islamic Conference in the guided media.

**UM3:** The second resolution related to defining the percentage [UI]. They said, of course, it is all endowment and [UI]

**Saddam:** This is nonsense.

**UM3:** I told him I said... [Voices overlap]

**Saddam:** The circumstances of the situation, security requirements and organizing the Hajj requires 1, 2, 3... that's it, let it be [UI].

**UM3:** As you know, the politics of Saudis [UI] very flexible side [UI]. I mean when they want to convince [UI]. So, they said there is an old endowment in Mecca that consists of wood houses and [UI]... [Voices overlap]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

**Saddam:** [UI]

[Voices overlap]

**UM3:** [UI] for the pilgrimage. Now we are going to demolish them but we some time. He said, "We cannot get a Fatwa until [UI]. But we are going to demolish them and during building time, which is two or three years to rebuild, so that we can have buildings and expand the area that will more capacity. But the capacity is going to decrease during the two years, therefore, we are going to reduce the percentage and then we will reconsider..."

**Saddam:** That's fine.

**UM3:** This is... I mean the report he submitted so that he [UI] later on. [UI]

**Saddam:** Anyway, the country they want to go to, instead of the name of "Hujjaj" [pilgrims] they can send them for one month under travel... the same way they deal with the Gulf countries or the Arab countries... they can travel and then become Hajji [pilgrim]; he does not need to say he is Hajji... he can travel there earlier and stay in Saudi Arabia for one week or two and whatever happens during that time [UI].

**UM3:** It is the flexible nature of Saudi Arabia that [UI]

**Saddam:** They better let go!

[Unintelligible background talks mentioning China and saying, "He needs to follow-up on the issue so that at least the Chinese General knows that we are aware of the issue."]

**Saddam:** Well, China will not give directly; it will give to Korea and Korea will give it to Yemen.

**UM2:** [UI] whether there is a group [UI] Chinese [UI] and can contract with Yemen.

**Saddam:** I mean to deal in the armament issue.

**UM2:** Military?

**Saddam:** It is not military, I mean this is [UI]; this is a political mission and they want money. Well, we don't know how to manufacture the Chinese weapon, but we [UI] through the military people. I invited the Chinese ambassador and talked to him about the relations between China and some of our Arab neighbors are aware of these relations and know that [UI] we want to be independent, and we know that China gives weapons without any condition at the expense of independence. I had a long talk and he was writing down; Jabbar Shanshal Hamdan was with me.

**UM2:** [UI]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

**Saddam:** Comrade Taha and I. Well, at the end, Jordan and Yemen assigned us to ask the Chinese about the types of weapons they have because Jordan and Yemen would like to buy from the Chinese. Also, the financial guarantee of Iraq... they know Iraq was willing to pay at that time, [UI].

**UM3:** [UI]

**Saddam:** Huh?

**UM3:** Sir, at the beginning your Excellency [UI] immediate [UI]. I mean [UI] one time regarding the details

**Saddam:** Hum

**UM3:** You told me to bring the Chinese ambassador and I did; Abu-Muthanna and I were present. I told the ambassador, "Please relay to the Chinese Command that we want weapons, we would like to establish with you military industrialization relations and we are willing to set..."

**Saddam:** [UI]

**UM3:** Yes, sir, we are willing... [Voices overlap]

**Saddam:** This is the second unit...

**UM3:** We are willing to set...

**Saddam:** I mean after things arrived, after we started to receive weapons we talked to them so that they can approach them [Unspecified] regarding the weapon's development issue.

**UM3:** Yeah, let me remind you of the arrangement. That was the message to the Chinese Command. He requested an appointment with your Excellency and you met with him; I was present. He said, "The Chinese Command is interested in the message and sends you its regard, but in war conditions we cannot supply you with weapons. But if your friends in Jordan and Yemen want weapons, we are ready." He laughed. So, you told him immediately, "Yes, I know that our brothers in Jordan and Yemen are in need and we will relay to them your willingness and we are willing to sponsor them..."

**Saddam:** Financially

**UM3:** ...Financially if they don't have the amounts." He left happy.

**Saddam:** [Mumbling]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

**UM3:** The Jordanian delegation went there and concluded the first agreement. They know it there.

[Unintelligible background talk]

**Saddam:** How are they going to pay? What do they know about weapons?

**UM3:** [UI]

**Saddam:** That's what it is...

**UM3:** There is a joke about Jordan and the [UI]. In 1981, there was a campaign against the Jordanian ambassadors, Abu-Nidal and the Syrians; they wanted to carry out operations targeting Jordanian diplomats. One person was really killed in Istanbul and there was firing. So, the Minister of Foreign Affairs one time said, "Our ambassador to Peking sent us a telegram asking for help and saying there was a delegation pretending to be Jordanian with Jordanian passports and we don't know who arrived in Peking, but for they went to the embassy." [Unintelligible background talk] it appeared that our Iraqi folks went with Jordanian passports while the ambassador was not aware of this. [Laughs] the Jordanian ambassador did not know and... [Laughs] our folks were seen at the hotels with their passports, and he thought our folks went there to slaughter him. [Laughs]

**Saddam:** The doctor... the Chinese ambassador did not ask to meet me... Dr. Sa'doun; we did not tell him because he was supposed to come back and ask to meet with me. By God, he just asked to meet with me about two weeks ago... the Chinese ambassador told him that he [Unspecified] asked to meet with you.

**UM3:** He did not stay long, Sir!

**Saddam:** Two weeks.

[Unintelligible background talk]

**Saddam:** Fine, this is case of those. The Intelligence and Abu-Nidal brought us one thousand tanks... one thousand.

**UM3:** Aren't they expensive?

**Saddam:** Not one or one hundred; one thousand tanks from Poland who is an ally to the Soviet. One thousand tanks from the black market, there are one thousand tanks that are sold in the black market; one thousand... one thousand... not one or two!

[Unintelligible background talk]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

**UM3:** The players are more now while the number of player was limited before, Sir! They play politics... [Voices overlap]

**Saddam:** Once there are more players the war is more likely to happen! I mean the less the number of players is the more possible to agree on the shares and distribute them in the appropriate areas. The red globe will inflame with the least amount of risk possible. The freedom of nation will differ; the more the players are the freedom of nations increase I mean in its political known frame, even the technical and economic one. But the risks to approach the verge of a world war through regional wars are supposed to increase.

**UM3:** [UI]

**Saddam:** So, from 1975, I talked about it with the ambassadors, but I removed it from our International political regime manual... I mean I removed this paragraph only that reads, "We were calling to increase the number of those capable of have an impact, I mean Europe in addition to the Soviet and Americans. Japan is forming and China is developing I mean we believe all of this is going to help the Arab nation to regain its rights at a larger scale." I removed this section, but despite our persuasion that this is going to bring the world closer to the verge of a world war. And since this invitation... he might think those want their rights at any cost even if it is going to lead to a world war.

**UM3:** It would not have mattered for us if it was not for Iran; because of Iran [UI]. The number of countries manufacturing weapons has increased, Sir; I mean there are at least fifty countries worldwide manufacturing weapons, fifty countries [UI]?

**Saddam:** No, it will not be [UI]

**UM3:** This is among many strategies and... [Voices overlap]

**Saddam:** Argentina, Brazil to Iraq and Egypt

**UM3:** North Korea, South Korea, India... Pakistan manufactures weapons and Egypt [UI]....

**UM2:** Companies currently...

**UM3:** [UI], Yeah, Iraq and anyone who has [UI] now.

**Saddam:** The International stability is going to decrease and then the use of the nuclear bomb is going to cool off through sabotage I mean it does not have to happen through a country. I mean in the next ten to twenty years, someone can carry a nuclear bomb in his car and explode it with [UI] and put it in Paris or London or Baghdad without war... therefore, people don't know where it is going to happen.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

**UM3:** People now are the crossroads, Sir. I mean this current Russian-American agreement could result in new standards in the world. If established, it could result [UI] because reducing the nuclear weapon gradually results in minimizing the possibilities of expansion in this field and could be in the direction of establishing new international standards to manufacture weapons or [UI]. But this is early, [UI], but it could result in [UI]. If it fails and these attacks take place, the world will suffer more wars in the next ten years and [UI].

**Saddam:** Well, even when they agree, there will still be some channels that are worth to control.

**UM3:** The conflicts out there in the world in the East and West, except for the Iraqi-Iranian conflict, are all direct and indirect [UI]. The conflict between Iran and us is not an Iraqi-American-Soviet or Iranian-American-Soviet, although the intrusion now is bigger than before. Let's look at Cambodia, at Afghanistan, at Central America and at the Arab-Israeli conflict... a major power can help in aggravating or alleviating or even eliminating all these conflicts because the power has an immediate and strong influence on these conflicts. Therefore, if they choose to agree, they will work on annihilating us... they will work on annihilating us... what would be the other nominees for the armed conflicts? Armed conflicts can emerge, but they will not be as dangerous as the conflicts that emerged at the time of the conflict between the two major powers. I mean one party encouraged the current conflicts in the world to arise and did not just happen. Look at what happened in the Indo-China, if it was not for the Soviet Union and its support, it would not have developed this much. If it was not for the United States, its encouragement and support to Israel, the latter would not have been so strong and able to occupy the territories, because when Israel was created, it was hardly able to preserve its entity according to the way the countries were divided. The continuous American and Western support turned Israel into a very dangerous force in the area. In Central America, both parties [UI]. If the Soviet Union leaves Nicaragua alone, Nicaragua will not form a danger for the Westerners and Americans [UI].

**Saddam:** Fine.

**UM3:** Anyway, we [UI] to your Excellency I mean we are together with him in this stage... [Voices overlap]

**Saddam:** Together and politics are important...

**Um3:** any inclination... [Voices overlap]

**Saddam:** Important politics; someone has to play good cop – bad cop and go through one phase at a time.

**UM3:** We are ready for any inclination that will help developing the world. If people want to [UI] we also have it.



**Saddam:** We have... we have... [UI]

**UM3:** If they want peace...

**Saddam:** If they want peace, we also want peace.

[Unintelligible background talk]

**Saddam:** Huh?

[Unintelligible background talk]

**Saddam:** [UI]

**UM3:** [Laughs]

**Saddam:** OK, may God be with you.