

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

25-Jul-1990 14:46 EDT

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JNET%"CHARLES@VAXC"@WHSR"@MRGATE

FROM:

VMSMail User JNET%"WHSR"  
(\_JNET%"WHSR@WHSR"@MRGATE)

SUBJECT:

Received: From WHSR(WHSR) by VAXC with Jnet id 6143  
for CHARLES@VAXC; Wed, 25 Jul 90 14:46 EST  
Date: Wed, 25 Jul 90 14:46 EST  
From: <WHSR@WHSR>  
To: CHARLES@VAXC  
Original\_To: JNET%"CHARLES@VAXC"

<DIST>  
SIT: CHARLES HAASS

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PRT: GATES HILL SCOWCROFT SIT SUNUNU  
SIT: CALDWELL FILE HAASS MONTGOMERY SIT SUM WELCH

<PREC>  
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251246Z JUL 90

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FM AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD

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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4627  
INFO RUFHAD/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE 2490  
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE 5246  
RUEHKG/AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE 6246  
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH IMMEDIATE 2751  
RUEHEE/ARABLEAGUE COLLECTIVE

<SUBJ>  
SUBJECT: SADDAM'S MESSAGE OF FRIENDSHIP TO  
PRESIDENT BUSH

DECLASSIFIED  
PER E.O. 12958

98-0099-F/2

3 Feb 03 MW

~~R-E-T~~ SECTION 01 OF 05 BAGHDAD 04237

12356: DECL:OADR

S: MOPS, PREL, US, KU, IZ

SUBJECT: SADDAM'S MESSAGE OF FRIENDSHIP TO  
PRESIDENT BUSH

1. ~~SECRET~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

~BEGIN SUMMARY~

2. SUMMARY: SADDAM TOLD THE AMBASSADOR JULY 25 THAT MUBARAK HAS ARRANGED FOR KUWAITI AND IRAQI DELEGATIONS TO MEET IN RIYADH, AND THEN ON JULY 28, 29 OR 30, THE KUWAITI CROWN PRINCE WILL COME TO BAGHDAD FOR SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS. "NOTHING WILL HAPPEN" BEFORE THEN, SADDAM HAD PROMISED MUBARAK.

--SADDAM WISHED TO CONVEY AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT BUSH: IRAQ WANTS FRIENDSHIP, BUT DOES THE USG? IRAQ SUFFERED 100,000'S OF CASUALTIES AND IS NOW SO POOR THAT WAR ORPHAN PENSIONS WILL SOON BE CUT; YET RICH KUWAIT WILL NOT EVEN ACCEPT OPEC DISCIPLINE. IRAQ IS SICK OF WAR, BUT KUWAIT HAS IGNORED DIPLOMACY. USG MANEUVERS WITH THE UAE WILL ENCOURAGE THE UAE AND KUWAIT TO IGNORE CONVENTIONAL DIPLOMACY. IF IRAQ IS PUBLICLY HUMILIATED BY THE USG, IT WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO "RESPOND," HOWEVER ILLOGICAL AND SELF-DESTRUCTIVE THAT WOULD PROVE.

--ALTHOUGH NOT QUITE EXPLICIT, SADDAM'S MESSAGE TO US SEEMED TO BE THAT HE WILL MAKE A MAJOR PUSH TO COOPERATE WITH MUBARAK'S DIPLOMACY, BUT WE MUST TRY TO UNDERSTAND KUWAITI/UAE "SELFISHNESS" IS UNBEARABLE. AMBASSADOR MADE CLEAR THAT WE CAN NEVER EXCUSE SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES BY OTHER THAN PEACEFUL MEANS. END SUMMARY.

~END SUMMARY~

3. AMBASSADOR WAS SUMMONED BY PRESIDENT SADDAM HUSAYN AT NOON JULY 25. ALSO PRESENT WERE FONMIN AZIZ, THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE DIRECTOR, TWO NOTETAKERS, AND THE IRAQI INTERPRETER.

4. SADDAM, WHOSE MANNER WAS CORDIAL, REASONABLE AND EVEN WARM THROUGHOUT THE ENSUING TWO HOURS, SAID HE WISHED THE AMBASSADOR TO CONVEY A MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT BUSH. SADDAM THEN RECALLED IN DETAIL THE HISTORY OF IRAQ'S DECISION TO REESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND ITS POSTPONING IMPLEMENTATION OF THAT DECISION AT THE BEGINNING OF THE WAR, RATHER THAN BE THOUGHT WEAK AND NEEDY. HE THEN SPOKE ABOUT THE MANY "BLOWS" OUR RELATIONS HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO

ANCE 1984, CHIEF AMONG THEM IRANGATE. IT WAS AFTER THE FAW VICTORY, SADDAM SAID, THAT IRAQI MISAPPREHENSIONS ABOUT USG PURPOSES BEGAN TO SURFACE AGAIN, I.E., SUSPICIONS THAT THE U.S. WAS NOT HAPPY TO SEE THE WAR END.

5. PICKING HIS WORDS WITH CARE, SADDAM SAID THAT THERE ARE "SOME CIRCLES" IN THE USG, INCLUDING IN CIA AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT, BUT EMPHATICALLY EXCLUDING THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY BAKER, WHO ARE NOT FRIENDLY TOWARD IRAQ-U.S. RELATIONS. HE THEN LISTED WHAT HE SEEMED TO REGARD AS FACTS TO SUPPORT THIS CONCLUSION: "SOME CIRCLES ARE GATHERING INFORMATION ON WHO MIGHT BE SADDAM HUSAYN'S SUCCESSOR;" THEY KEPT UP CONTACTS IN THE GULF WARNING AGAINST IRAQ; THEY WORKED TO ENSURE NO HELP WOULD GO TO IRAQ (READ EXIM AND CCC).  
6. IRAQ, THE PRESIDENT STRESSED, IS IN SERIOUS FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES, WITH 40 BILLION USD DEBTS. IRAQ, WHOSE VICTORY IN THE WAR AGAINST IRAN MADE AN HISTORIC DIFFERENCE TO THE ARAB WORLD AND THE WEST, NEEDS A MARSHALL PLAN. BUT "YOU WANT THE OIL PRICE DOWN," SADDAM CHARGED.

7. RESUMING HIS LIST OF GRIEVANCES WHICH HE BELIEVED WERE ALL INSPIRED BY "SOME CIRCLES" IN THE USG, HE RECALLED THE "USIA CAMPAIGN" AGAINST HIMSELF, AND THE GENERAL MEDIA ASSAULT ON IRAQ AND ITS PRESIDENT.

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~~SECRET~~ SECTION 02 OF 05 BAGHDAD 04237

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: MOPS, PREL, US, KU, IZ

SUBJECT: SADDAM'S MESSAGE OF FRIENDSHIP TO

8. DESPITE ALL THESE BLOWS, SADDAM SAID, AND ALTHOUGH "WE WERE SOMEWHAT ANNOYED," WE STILL HOPED THAT WE COULD DEVELOP A GOOD RELATIONSHIP. BUT THOSE WHO FORCE OIL PRICES DOWN ARE ENGAGING IN ECONOMIC WARFARE AND IRAQ CANNOT ACCEPT SUCH A TRESPASS ON ITS DIGNITY AND PROSPERITY.

9. THE SPEARHEADS (FOR THE USG) HAVE BEEN KUWAIT AND THE UAE, SADDAM SAID. SADDAM SAID CAREFULLY THAT JUST AS IRAQ WILL NOT THREATEN OTHERS, IT WILL ACCEPT NO THREAT AGAINST ITSELF. "WE HOPE THE USG WILL NOT MISUNDERSTAND:" IRAQ ACCEPTS, AS THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID, THAT ANY COUNTRY MAY CHOOSE ITS FRIENDS. BUT THE USG KNOWS THAT IT WAS IRAQ, NOT THE USG, WHICH DECISIVELY PROTECTED THOSE USG FRIENDS DURING THE WAR--AND THAT IS UNDERSTANDABLE SINCE PUBLIC OPINION IN THE USG, TO SAY NOTHING OF GEOGRAPHY, WOULD HAVE MADE IT

IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE AMERICANS TO ACCEPT 10,000 DEAD  
IN A SINGLE BATTLE, AS IRAQ DID.

10. SADDAM ASKED WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR THE USG  
TO ANNOUNCE IT IS COMMITTED TO THE DEFENSE OF  
ITS FRIENDS, INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY.

ANSWERING HIS OWN QUESTION, HE SAID THAT TO IRAQ  
IT MEANS FLAGRANT BIAS AGAINST THE GOI.

11. COMING TO ONE OF HIS MAIN POINTS, SADDAM  
ARGUED THAT USG MANEUVERS WITH THE UAE AND KUWAIT (SIC)  
ENCOURAGED THEM IN THEIR UNGENEROUS POLICIES. THE

IRAQI RIGHTS, SADDAM EMPHASIZED, WILL BE RESTORED  
ONE BY ONE, THOUGH IT MAY TAKE A MONTH OR MUCH  
MORE THAN A YEAR. IRAQ HOPES THE USG WILL BE  
IN HARMONY WITH ALL THE PARTIES TO THIS DISPUTE.

12. SADDAM SAID HE UNDERSTANDS THAT THE USG IS  
DETERMINED TO KEEP THE OIL FLOWING AND TO  
MAINTAIN ITS FRIENDSHIPS IN THE GULF. WHAT HE  
CANNOT UNDERSTAND IS WHY WE ENCOURAGE THOSE WHO  
ARE DAMAGING IRAQ, WHICH IS WHAT OUR GULF MANEUVERS  
WILL DO.

13. SADDAM SAID HE FULLY BELIEVES THE USG WANTS  
PEACE, AND THAT IS GOOD. BUT DO NOT, HE ASKED,  
USE METHODS WHICH YOU SAY YOU DO NOT LIKE,  
METHODS LIKE ARM-TWISTING-

14. AT THIS POINT SADDAM SPOKE AT LENGTH ABOUT  
PRIDE OF IRAQIS, WHO BELIEVE IN "LIBERTY OR DEATH."  
IRAQ WILL HAVE TO RESPOND IF THE U.S. USES THESE  
METHODS. IRAQ KNOWS THE USG CAN SEND PLANES AND  
ROCKETS AND HURT IRAQ DEEPLY. SADDAM ASKS THAT  
THE USG NOT FORCE IRAQ TO THE POINT OF HUMILIATION  
AT WHICH LOGIC MUST BE DISREGARDED. IRAQ DOES NOT  
CONSIDER THE U.S. AN ENEMY AND HAS TRIED TO BE  
FRIENDS.

15. AS FOR THE INTRA-ARAB DISPUTES, SADDAM SAID  
HE IS NOT ASKING THE USG TO TAKE UP ANY PARTICULAR  
ROLE SINCE THE SOLUTIONS MUST COME THROUGH ARAB  
AND BILATERAL DIPLOMACY.

16. RETURNING TO HIS THEME THAT IRAQ WANTS  
DIGNITY AND FREEDOM AS WELL AS FRIENDSHIP WITH THE  
U.S., HE CHARGED THAT IN THE LAST YEAR THERE WERE  
MANY OFFICIAL STATEMENTS WHICH MADE IT SEEM THAT  
THE U.S. DOES NOT WANT TO RECIPROCATE. HOW, FOR  
EXAMPLE, SADDAM ASKED, CAN WE INTERPRET THE  
INVITATION FOR ARENS TO VISIT AT A TIME OF CRISIS  
IN THE GULF? WHY DID THE U.S- DEFENSE MINISTER  
MAKE "INFLAMMATORY" STATEMENTS?

17. SADDAM SAID THAT THE IRAQIS KNOW WHAT  
WAR IS, WANT NO MORE OF IT--"DO NOT PUSH US TO IT;  
DO NOT MAKE IT THE ONLY OPTION LEFT WITH WHICH WE  
CAN PROTECT OUR DIGNITY."

18. PRESIDENT BUSH, SADDAM SAID, HAS MADE NO MISTAKE

