

November 26, 1979

Discussion between Saddam Hussein and Iraqi officials on 26 November 1979 on Syrian-Iraqi relationships

Citation:

"Discussion between Saddam Hussein and Iraqi officials on 26 November 1979 on Syrian-Iraqi relationships", November 26, 1979, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Conflict Records Research Center, National Defense University, SH-SHTP-A-000-911. Contributed by Steve Coll. <https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/301028>

Summary:

This audio file contains the following information: It is a discussion between the former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and Iraqi officials on 26 November 1979 on Syrian-Iraqi relationships. Saddam said that Syria is not the only target for Israel. Then Saddam asserted that Iraq must have a strong economy. Saddam mentioned that the relationship between Syria and Iraq is not only neighborly relations, but it is more than that because Syria is ruled by the Ba'th Party also rules in Iraq. (Translator Comment: No further information is provided.)

Original Language:

Arabic

Contents:

Transcript - Arabic

Total Duration: 01:44:33

Start: 00:00:00

End: 01:44:33

File type: (Audio) Meeting

Periods unaccounted for are blank

This audio file is a meeting of Saddam Hussein with high-ranking officials regarding the relationship with Syria and some political instructions that he gave to his officials.

Time 00:00:04 00:03:00

Saddam Hussein: Also, there will be a new way of working for you brothers, I know that you are all politicians and even the ones who work with technical details and did not handle politics I am forced in the country of politics (TC: He means Iraq) to make him a politician. The political situation is passing through some changes that require preparations to face these changes of the political situation.

As you all know Iraq is considered the military arena that is integral to the Syrian military arena and it is its depth. This means entering the war and the next strike of Israel will not be in the Syrian lands only, like it was before but now the situation took a new shape in the practical military contact with the Zionist enemy. Israel now has the legal international justification to attack Iraq by rockets or aircrafts like it does with Syria. Therefore, we are supposed to insure ourselves economically so that we do not be moving with a heavy load that causes collapse on the axis of war if the enemy decides to strike our economic establishments especially our petroleum establishments.

The other subject is that the new relation between Syria and us is not a good-neighborhood policy because Syria is not a foreign country to build up a good-neighborhood policy with.

Time: 00:03:01 00:06:44

Saddam Hussein: Syria is not only an Arabian country, like any other Arabian country; it is ruled by the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party so the new relation is (Illegible). Any relationship between Iraq and the system in Syria must take one of two directions and there is not a third direction, it is either collision or merger; there is not a medium in this matter. We carried on our merged relationship until we reached a level of whole unity regarding the relation between Iraq and Syria. We did all that with complete conscious and contentment and it is true that the events had a role in making us two sides in front of a situation that requires this type of relation but choosing this kind of relation was not a practical choice. You all know that the danger in the regional calculations is not a permanent danger upon Iraq because choosing this relation was not based on a patriotic point of view but it was based upon a historical point of view for the sake of the destiny of the Arabian nation. In addition, we looked at the role of this relationship in preserving the future of the Arabian nation so that it can build up the future of the Arab, which your party is struggling for it. Iraq is demanded to offer sacrifices, this is how it works. Whenever Iraq has a relationship with any Arabian country Iraq must offer sacrifices in

this relation. From these relations is our new relation, which will take its course in ascending to the direction of unity, which requires from Iraq to be a country of sacrifices.

Time: 00:06:44 .00:09:03

Saddam Hussein: It is sure that what goes on in my mind is that Syria must find aid from the Iraqi economic potentials because we do not accept for our unity to be just words. Therefore, your economic condition must be prepared for this alliance and your budget must be calculated according to this situation. The Iraqi and Syrian citizen witnessed the launch of the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party from their land and this party was a leader in the missionary work that called for the idea of the Arab Nationalism and putting this idea in its best-clarified political position. In addition, the circumstances were in favor of this country (T.C: He means Iraq) to raise its people on sacrifice more than the circumstances that the Syrian people experienced. This is not criticism but this is the reality and this will give us the chance to raise the Iraqi citizen on sacrifice to reach the top. This will be a chance that no Arabian ruler or system ever had in the Arabian countries whatever was his patriotism and rebellious.

Time: 00:09:03.00:12:13

Saddam Hussein: Therefore, the Iraqi citizen should sacrifice. He should focus on the ideology that builds a strong Arab nation. He also should be a forerunner and an example of sacrifice. This sacrifice has two faces, sacrificing blood and sacrificing money. Those two faces must take place together. I wanted to say this to put in our minds the political factor while dealing with our economical considerations. The relation between Syria and us is not a relation that was made up to pass an ordeal and it is not a temporary relation, we do not want it to be temporary. We will work hard to bring back the goodwill and the comprehensive look for the relation, a look that will build the core of a United Arab country that we hope that after building this core it can spread faster and faster. After this, it will be the first time in the modern history to build a right core for the Arab. I mean it will be the righteous core rather than any other core; it is righteous than the unity relation between Egypt and Syria in 1958. It will be righteous regarding the foundations, political power and the embarrassing situation that blazes the spirits of the Arabian people and make their minds and hearts concentrate on the concept of unity. In addition to the geographical connection which is an advantage.

Time: 0012:13.00:15:00

Saddam Hussein: When two countries share borders is not like when they do not. Dear Ministers, do not let the instructions that you receive from the Command to be dealt with by the technical organizations, handle these issues with this political spirit and based on these foundations. So that you can extract the best formula to build a united country, the specialized committees will continue its discussion and you all will start to receive the decisions that need to be executed. So, every one of you must use the utmost of the political brain potential to rapidly execute these decisions. In the first stage, we are not required to be hasty, but we have to be fast to build the foundation of the united work in a rapid way, then we build the hard ground that takes its steps in its designated time. By

this, there will be new horizons opened before us rather than the existing basics and the confidence will increase. This hard ground will make it difficult for the saboteurs to destroy this foundation. For this, every one of the Ministers who receive a decision, it must be handled in a fast and accurate way. Because to be fast on the accuracy account can destroy the unity but at the same time the thing that you do in five days must be done in four hours and this is our calculation to the time factor these days.

-Time: 00:15:00-01:44:33 are blank