

1995**Saddam Hussein Discussing Various International Topics Including the Oklahoma City Bombing with Senior Advisors****Citation:**

"Saddam Hussein Discussing Various International Topics Including the Oklahoma City Bombing with Senior Advisors", 1995, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Conflict Records Research Center, National Defense University, SH-SHTP-A-001-476. Contributed by Steve Coll. <https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/301031>

Summary:

This audio file contains: 00:09-02:10 Tariq Aziz talking to Saddam Hussein about the United States and making comparison between the numbers of Christians and Muslims in the southern states of America to Iraq's religious demography. 02:26- 09:11 Several officials are discussing problems in American Society. Saddam Hussein expects that many of the American States will require independence in the future. Moreover, they discuss the purposes of increasing the number of Mexican immigrants to the United States and California. 09:12-18:09 Saddam Hussein and many officials are discussing topics related to Mexico, such as the internal problems in the Mexican regime, comparison between the Egyptian and the Mexican civilizations, the power of the Mexican economy and industry, and the problem of large numbers of Mexican immigrants to the United States. 18:21-19:25 An unknown official is suggesting the foundation of a research center that is responsible for the study of Ba'ath party issues. 19:51-32:50 Saddam Hussein is discussing with several officials the attitude of France toward Iraq and domestic issues in France. 33:09-38:58 Saddam Hussein continues discussing France with several officials. 38:59-39:48 An official is talking to Saddam about a personal issue, the conversation between them is not clear. 39:49-41:06 Unclear conversation. 41:07-65:08 No conversation.

Original Language:

Arabic

Contents:

Transcript - Arabic

SH-SHTP-A-001-476

Multiple UM: *[Inaudible]*.

Tariq Aziz: But keep this as a guarantee and *[inaudible]*. I mean they are serious about *[inaudible]* being the Christ and not declaring it. He doesn't say no, as he did not tell them that I am not the Messiah. *[TC: not clear who they are discussing]*

Saddam Hussein: No, and the religious leaders continue to ask. He twists things, but he knows the truth.

Tariq Aziz: In fact *[inaudible]* the man keeps quiet *[inaudible]* about it "Our lord, such-and-such" *[inaudible]*.

Saddam Hussein: In it...

Tariq Aziz: And keeps quiet, and won't answer.

Multiple UM: *[Inaudible]* *[laughing]*.. .the revelation did not come yet... *[laughing]*

Saddam Hussein: The country is big.

Tariq Aziz: *[Inaudible]*, I mean the Christ situation will create chaos inside the American society, because the Christians are left...

Saddam Hussein: Dividing up.

Tariq Aziz: Yes, affected with this... *[laughing]*... these militias are being written about by... Sir, do you follow the story of the American militias?

Saddam Hussein: By God I swear, not... not widely. I mean, although, whenever things are surfaced about them, then I review... I read.

Tariq Aziz: Yes, after the Oklahoma incident, there was a wide revelation that there are... there are a large number of armed militias. I mean, formed... err... I mean spontaneously formed, as it is said. Most of them are in the middle and southern states. I mean not in New York and Washington, the capital, and California, however these states are where the majority of which are... the hidden American society.

[00:02:09 to 00:02:23 Blank Audio]

Saddam Hussein: A portion of them are from Mexico?

Tariq Aziz: It looks like they are taking part with them but they are... I mean, Christians of Anglo-Saxons, i.e. Europeans. And there are pronounced and obscured trends among them ... *[Inaudible]*

Saddam Hussein: Yes... The American society is yet to see wonders!

SH-SHTP-A-001-476

UNCLASSIFIEDHFOU0

Tariq Aziz: Yes.

Saddam Hussein: I mean they ought to come up to surface.

Tariq Aziz: Its illnesses have started to get worse.

UM1: [*UM1 Speaks in Levantine Dialect*] Even the White House [*inaudible*] it is easy for anyone to enter it daily.

UM2: [*Laughing*].

Tariq Aziz: By God, I mean it has become like a circus!

UM1: What kind of circus is this [*inaudible*]?

Tariq Aziz: The thing about the White House and the attacks against it.

UM1: Every day, yesterday someone [*inaudible*] arrested.

Tariq Aziz: The fact is that America will soon find out that the Soviet Union was a hedge for it!

Saddam Hussein: Mmmm.

Multiple UM : [*Inaudible*]

Tariq Aziz: I mean the West ended up relaxing whereas a distant enemy, which went away, was not frail. It was occupied with it, as it ceased everything.

Saddam Hussein: So, [*inaudible*] our complete assessment of the state [*inaudible*] back in 1990.

Tariq Aziz: Yes, exactly.

Saddam Hussein: I mean standing oppositely at the top almost supported both sides.

UM2: Yes.

Saddam Hussein: Although it was in a state of struggle, but when one falls then the other party falls above it.

Tariq Aziz: Indeed, it is so, Sir.

Saddam Hussein: Or from the other side.

Tariq Aziz: The history of its situation...

SH-SHTP-A-001-476

Saddam Hussein: I mean their status is still working well!

Tariq Aziz: The history of Europe did not experience a period of peace like that experienced after WWII, and the emergence of a nationalist-communist camp. It has been fifty years now! Yes, they say that there is competition, and this one makes missiles and that other one makes missiles. But neither party fired a bullet against the other!

Saddam Hussein: Yes, there is balance.

Tariq Aziz: Fifty whole years. The balance is not there anymore, and now the war has started from within. And the internal wars within these societies have started to appear one way or another. And they appear there, because they are the most inconsistent societies, also the poverty that exists in America, as well as in any other station, and the cont-...

[Time stamp: 04:56]

Saddam Hussein: And it would create clichés... This issue, we discussed, probably before a year and a half, or so. It would create clichés of social and economic nature, which would instigate the... the secession, the secession of the states. Because when the center becomes an element of power for all, I mean everyone will chew it up, leading to a polarized state. While when it is on the expense of one of its partakers then it would result in creating clichés calling for secession. So, the center looks like it has started, I mean, the members of the center started to create a state of feebleness of life essentials or of progress to some extent, or for some partakers of the... continuation.

Tariq Aziz: The center has become despicable. When one wants to become popular, he starts to attack the federal government. He attacks Washington, saying "Washington is bureaucratic", "Washington is corrupt," and "Washington is distant from the people's concerns." I mean, he attacks the federal government; thus, he gains popularity.

UM2: [UM2 Speaks in Levantine Dialect] As well as gravity and budget.

Tariq Aziz: Clinton himself, his mottos were like this during the election campaign!

Saddam Hussein: From the ground and up.

UM1: In Switzerland, during federal holidays, elements, for example come from different counties to Geneva via tramways, buses, and places of... such and such places and they sing federalist songs. People laugh; there is no sympathy towards the federal thing! Everyone considers his county as everything [inaudible].

Tariq Aziz: But it is [inaudible].

UM1: However federalism as a form is not introduced yet. Regardless that it is flawless, precise, and scrutinized extraordinarily like a fine watch by the Swiss, although... I mean indeed there is rejection of federalism [inaudible] as a minimum fervor.

SH-SHTP-A-001-476

Tariq Aziz: Yes, but there are no ethnicities in America, Sir, I mean the states...

Saddam Hussein: The Mexicans in California!

Tariq Aziz: But California, I mean, the Spanish element relatively forms the majority, or the near majority. While in the rest of the states the mixture is about the same, I mean Whites, Blacks, and Hispanics, whereas the Whites are from European origins, meaning there is not a state with an ethnic characteristic that differs from the rest of the states. However the states have [different] interests. They do have interests.

Saddam Hussein: Regarding the Mexicans... The president [which country is not clear] who preceded this one was in pursuit of increasing immigration. And based on this he would have increased the number of the Mexicans in California to 54% in ten to twenty years. Thus, they would take over the power and unite with the origin in a democratic way.

Tariq Aziz: In fact, Texas and California were Mexico's.

UM2: And Arizona.

Saddam Hussein: One of the... American motives in putting a stop to the...

UM4: Deterioration of...

Saddam Hussein: The Mexican economic deterioration was because of this. Fear of immigration.

UM4: It is a huge issue, Sir!

Tariq Aziz: No guarantee. No, frustration is happening. I mean Mexico cannot be compared to America! Some twenty, thirty million! No, but they [*referring to the United States*] do spend on Mexico.

UM1: The Mexicans own civilization! A stout civilization!

Tariq Aziz: And they [*referring to the United States*] bear with Mexico. Mexico, as you see, is a quasi-totalitarian! I mean their regime is one party that has been ruling for fifty years.

Saddam Hussein: You mean they are our buddies, ha?! [*Laughing*]

Tariq Aziz: No... It is the same party; the Institutional Revolutionary Party [*Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI)*]. This is the one that rules Mexico since the twenties until now. A president comes from it, and then the president is installed for only one term of six years. And he chooses the successor, he names him and approves him, and then he [the successor] is nominated for the elections. Until now, no one has ever come out of this order. And this party is in control of the state, the economics, the police, and the... I mean the military. And they

SH-SHTP-A-001-476

[referring to the United States] put up with it. I mean, they do not launch a fierce campaign against them [Time Stamp: 10:00] for fear of the deterioration of the country leading to [inaudible].

Saddam Hussein: But the Americans conspired against the president preceding this one in a way or another, I mean...

Tariq Aziz: Sir, they are... it looks like an assassination took place against the first candidate. The former president chose a candidate, and this candidate was killed. And the killer is well-known; I mean, he is a young man who was arrested. But the allegations were that the brother of the former president was the one who... I mean, the one who carried out the conspiracy of killing the former president. So far some of the story has not been uncovered. And now the former president is the one who... I mean, they told him, for example, not to stay in Mexico. So, he relocated to live in America. And the second person; [Inaudible] the current one, Cordillo [TC: Context and events suggests that Tariq Aziz is likely referring to Ernesto Zedillo, but not Cordillo], I mean, they chose him after the killing of the former candidate. Also the General Secretary of the ruling party was killed as well. He was also killed.

Tariq Aziz: Also political assassinations are taking place in Brazil. And they are being attributed to drug cartels. Further, the cardinal of Mexico also was among those who were killed few years ago.

Saddam Hussein: What is this similarity in aspects of civilization... err... I mean, of some aspects of civilization between Mexico and Egypt?

Tariq Aziz: Just the pyramid.

Saddam Hussein: The pyramids!

Tariq Aziz: I have seen the Mexican pyramids when I was in Mexico in 1976. They are pyramids but insignificant, small not like the...

UM1: There are some close similarities.

Tariq Aziz: In fact there is... they are an old nation that lived... I mean, a very long time ago, they were living in Mexico since thousands of years and they have civilization. They do have civilization.

UM2: Contemporaneous to the Sumerians.

Tariq Aziz: Yes, yes.

Saddam Hussein: Mmmm? [Meaning yes?]

Tariq Aziz: Ancient, very ancient!

SH-SHTP-A-001-476

Saddam Hussein: Mmmm. [*Meaning yes.*]

Tariq Aziz: They have civilization, I mean, they have structure and they have...

Saddam Hussein: Meaning more ancient than the Egyptian civilization.

UM3: There are attempts to affirm that the pharaohs were capable of reaching America and Mexico via boats and other means. And there were stories for years about the mountain shores in America where they were able to reach [*inaudible*].

Tariq Aziz: The Sumerians. There was a German individual in the seventies [*inaudible*].

Saddam Hussein: They tested a Sumerian boat.

Tariq Aziz: Yes, they made it! They made it here in the...

Saddam Hussein: They made it in Basra...

Tariq Aziz: In Basra.

Saddam Hussein: And sailed from there.

Tariq Aziz: And it sailed; which proves that the Sumerians were capable of [*inaudible*], however...

UM3: They... They were explaining to us that the Mexicans were originally Indians. Indians who were going out for hunting, herding, and clothing; thus, they reached the Bering Strait [TC: between Alaska and Siberia], and from there they spread out all over the continent. And since then, I mean, since four thousand years ago, they established Teotihuacan civilization, and built these pyramids. However they are pyramids that cannot compete, I mean, Egypt's pyramids, and not even [*inaudible*].

Tariq Aziz: Gentlemen, an excuse [*inaudible*].

UM3: Pray for 15 minutes for yourself, and get out every hour.

UM1: But the idea... but they took a stance with [*inaudible*], a stance as parties of a very good civil movement, Sir.

Tariq Aziz: Yes they are, but the government is passive. I mean, its foreign policy is very pitiful. I mean, Mexico does not have a foreign policy.

UM2: No, not the government, [*but the*] political parties.

Tariq Aziz: Out of the rightist I mentioned, is very pitiful.

SH-SHTP-A-001-476

UM1: Mainstream Catholics are powerful.

Tariq Aziz: Yes, they are Catholics.

UM1: Yes, yes. But I mean the religious Catholic faction, I mean, the Christian Democrats [*Partido DemOcrata Cristiano de Mexico*].

UM3: Pyramids in there resemble... The pyramids in there are similar to the Ziggurat. I mean not [*inaudible*].

UM1: But there is a cavity at the top, a little cavity, I mean, spacious for ten individuals.

Tariq Aziz: But Mexico started... Anyways I mean, it started as leftist, and there are modernists in the areas of [*inaudible*].

Saddam Hussein: Their population is not small.

Tariq Aziz: I believe about one hundred million, ninety million.

UM1: Ninety million.

UM4: About a hundred.

Saddam Hussein: I mean not, not a trivial thing.

UM4: Of course, there is wealth, and there is...

Tariq Aziz: Its area is large as well.

UM4: Its area is large.

Saddam Hussein: I mean the essentials [*Time Stamp: 15:00*] of the motherland exist. I mean, it attracts the existing parts in there...

Tariq Aziz: As far as size concerned, it is the second largest country in Latin America... after Brazil.

UM2: And if it took in three states!

UM1: [*Laughing*] If you added Arizona, Texas, and...

Tariq Aziz: But it is, I mean, Spanish. Spanish-speaking, while Brazil is Portuguese.

Multiple UM: Portuguese - Portuguese.

UM1: The only one...

SH-SHTP-A-001-476

Tariq Aziz: I mean, of course among the Spaniards, i.e. those speaking Spanish, it is the largest country, Sir. And they look at it this way, Sir. Its role in the religious ranks... How Egypt was previously [perceived] amongst the Arab countries; I mean, it was the elder sister, and the largest country, and the most ancient as well, even regarding independence and the making of the nation. Similarly, Mexico is an ancient country; more ancient than the rest of the countries of Latin America. And it has leftist revolutionary movements...

Saddam Hussein: Its civilization root is profound!

Tariq Aziz: Yes, but this ruling party, I mean, it has been there for twenty-eight, I think, twenty-six... or thirty-six. I mean one of the two numbers. Its capital is a colossal capital, I mean, a huge city!

UM1: One of the largest cities of the world.

Tariq Aziz: Yes, it has fifteen million. *[TC: meaning a population of 15 million]*

UM1: Fifteen million!

Tariq Aziz: I mean the air in it is not seen! *[TC: It is a fact that the air is not seen by the naked eye, but here the speaker means that the air is densely polluted with smoke (smog)]*

UM1: Aha, it is the most polluted city in the world, despite that it is elevated, you know what I mean?

Saddam Hussein: Industrially, how... how is their situation?

Tariq Aziz: They have everything, Sir.

UM1: American companies.

Tariq Aziz: I mean everything. I mean, it is a country that has everything. However, there is poverty; a great poverty among them. And they immigrate to America in search of opportunities to work.

Saddam Hussein: That is what scares one! When the number of the Mexicans increases in the states...

Tariq Aziz: They are... however it is ongoing, Sir, the immigration is ongoing. Because immigration is across the border, and all the American technological capabilities cannot prevent the night; as the night is night! And they walk on foot.

Saddam Hussein: Their movies.. many of the American movies are about this issue.

Tariq Aziz: Yes.

SH-SHTP-A-001-476

UM3: That Mexico is obsessed!

Tariq Aziz: So, the night is night. And when he [*a Mexican person*] enters [*the United States*]...

Saddam Hussein: That is it, he is vanished.

Tariq Aziz: That is it; he is lost among his folks! His folks are there, very close. And as time passes... Now your Excellency noticed in the movies. I mean for example, police in America, the rate of Blacks on the police force is increasing.

Saddam Hussein: A lot.

Tariq Aziz: The rate of the Spaniards [*TC: referring to Hispanics*] on the police force is increasing [*as well*]!

Saddam Hussein: Because it is a path for the poor.

Tariq Aziz: A path for the poor.

Saddam Hussein: Yes.

Tariq Aziz: Exactly. So, as time passes, it would become that... I mean, [*inaudible*] but he is one of them!

Saddam Hussein: [*Laughing*].

Tariq Aziz: Black immigration does not exist. But the Spaniards [*TC: referring to Hispanics*] facilitate the affairs of their folks.

UM4: Mr. President, [*regarding*] this subject and its particulars... by this we conclude the subject of forming an ethnic committee in the cultural bureau from primary elements. They are channels of the research center mentioned in the congress. [*Rather*] outcomes [*but not channels*]. Why should we go directly [*inaudible*] ? A preliminary booklet shall be added and prepared beginning now, for the purpose of studying, and to complete a part of the political report for the upcoming congress, if God wills... I mean, in a year or two [*from now*]. I mean the... continuation of the outcome of this subordinate committee [*inaudible*] research, shall issue publications from time to time or... any development for the sake of sustained mobilization and...

Saddam Hussein: And knowledge.

UM4: And knowledge. I mean this program which [*inaudible*].

[*00:19:25 to 00:19:49 pause in the conversation*]

UM4: There is...

SH-SHTP-A-001-476

Saddam Hussein: Tell us something about politics.

UM4: There is a pressure exerted by the enemies towards nationalistic [*inaudible*].

Multiple UM: [*Inaudible*] - Let him go!

[*Time Stamp: 20:00*]

Saddam Hussein: Yes, even the writings are meant that the French issue statements by which they encircle either those friends of the Iraqis, etcetera. And they come forth [*saying*] that it ought to be such-and...

UM4: And becomes...

Saddam Hussein: And such.

UM4: We must think, Sir...

Saddam Hussein: In a statement... Hosni's statement [*TC: referring to the President of Egypt, Hosni Mubarak*] says that they discussed such-and-such issues and so-and-so issues, as well as the issue of Iraq. We did not understand how, and within what scope he discussed them. So, it is also required that Nabil asks them that there was stuff that was mentioned in the statements. I mean within what scope they were discussed and how they were discussed?

UM4: Especially that the foreign minister was present. I mean, he can [*inquire about that*] through the foreign minister.

Tariq Aziz: Yes, in fact there are some individuals from the Egyptian side who would provide us with information. They would provide us... [*Pause*]

UM4: However, the mission of Comrade Tariq [*TC: referring to Tariq Aziz*] here in addition to his mission becomes... I mean he understands other aspects, because it is the first dispatch of an Iraqi delegation despite that it is a friendship delegation. Mr. President, your Excellency is aware that, at the time, we prepared for him to be led by the chief. And the seminar for the group of businessmen that left from here and there. In fact, it is a festival that came at a suitable time. I checked with Salah, and Comrade Tariq sent him to me twice, and we provided him with films, documents, and information from every main ministry, that were talking not only to create a piece of information about the interests and the role of the companies and about the economic aspect, but also in the aspect of impairments and impacts caused by the sanctions, as they actually appear. I mean, the mass media was not capable of blocking it in there. I mean, it is good to be seen as an unofficial delegation. Meaning...

Tariq Aziz: They published news about it there.

UM4: They published news about it because...

SH-SHTP-A-001-476

Saddam Hussein: [*Because*] viewing took place about that.

UM4: Viewing took place about it. Among the things which Salah took were films about the presence of the case while... I mean, the idea that he undertakes the case of the friendship men in this stage was in its place, and he is, as it appears... that we should include him in the mobilization committee; he should attend it in addition to the directives of your Excellency. He possesses passion for this... When a man loves his job, he accomplishes..., he succeeds in it. I do not consider it... I mean, I consider it a huge matter... an appreciation that he comes in because the one before him was, although a member of the command council, a candidate member. I mean, he was always at the leadership level, Mr. President, that he is self-conscious, Mr. President. . . also the expatriate community . . .

But from this aspect, we shall see what Salah would tell us about it. However the mission of Comrade Tariq, if an appointment was set... [*TC: UM4 speeches contain many incomplete sentences*] and upon his return, what would he advise in regards to programming the continuance with France? How should we think in order to keep the levels of relationships? Not only the political aspect particular to the issue of the sanctions, which is as important. Just like now as we started to think about the issue of China and we went there. They asked, and we provided them with what we need. They did not consider [*our plea*]. What is this, are we joking with you, O, Chinese people?! Just like the matter of the Indonesians!

Of course I don't say that the idea would succeed in the same way, I recommend in another field and in . . . However, let's open a little front for any issues in this regards. Let's broaden our front with respect to our direction toward France. I mean, I see . . . I mean, now the probability of pushing France away from NATO became more feasible as opposed to the previous stage. And let's think about it.

Saddam Hussein: I was [*talking*] with Comrade Tariq over the telephone today regarding the same subject. In regards to how we should broaden our relations through more than one channel. In his assessment, the French president will not rush to make his early days about the issue of Iraq.

UM4: Let them rush him...

Saddam Hussein: Because the issue of Iraq is a sensitive subject in respect to two standpoints; from the standpoint of some of the Arabs [*Time Stamp: 25:00*], and from the standpoint of... of America. However sometime, maybe no more than four months and-

UM4: Positive or...

Saddam Hussein: -and this subject will inevitably impose itself upon French politics.

Tariq Aziz: In fact it is a strategic issue [*inaudible*].

Saddam Hussein: I think.

SH-SHTP-A-001-476

Tariq Aziz: He knows his interest and the interest of his country very well. There is a difference in the interest of the country of the president after being aware of it.

Saddam Hussein: No, in fact the man is aware of all the issues.

Tariq Aziz: And his recommendations, and the prime minister.

Saddam Hussein: And he has an opinion about it. I mean he has an opinion about the role of Iraq...

Tariq Aziz: Yes.

Saddam Hussein: [*He has opinions about Iraq's*] nationalistic [*role*], and about the region, as well as in Iraqi-French relations.

UM4: They have talked about it.

Tariq Aziz: And his prime minister takes part with him in this regards.

UM4: Yes.

Tariq Aziz: We do not know how are the habits of the new foreign minister are.

UM4: However, foreign policy remains in the hands of the president.

Tariq Aziz: Yes.

UM4: I mean the politics...

Tariq Aziz: I mean, if I find [*an opportunity*], I will attempt to score this subject against him.

UM4: Yes.

Tariq Aziz: He is of Giscard's buddies [*Giscard d'Estaing*]. Of course, Giscard was a friend of his during the period of his reign. And when I went to Paris on that unofficial visit, Sir, he was the only one among the leaders who wanted to meet with me. However it was unfortunate that he was out of Paris during my presence, and an aviation strike took place; and the airports were closed and... So, he was not able to reach Paris in order to meet with me. But we communicated, and your Excellency released the imprisoned Frenchman regarding whom he [*Giscard*] sent your Excellency a letter. So, we answered his letter and we told him, "Of course the decision was adopted based on many factors fore-parted by your personal intervention." His office administrator has firm relations with `Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hashimi, and they called him [*TC: likely referring to the office administrator*] in for interrogation. I mean, their surroundings...

Saddam Hussein: Yes. During your visit, when you reach France, try to meet with Giscard

SH-SHTP-A-001-476

d'Estaing.

Tariq Aziz: Of course, I will meet with him, because he is among the participating leaders in the...

UM4: He is participating and has no [inaudible].

Tariq Aziz: I mean, the foreign minister and the defense minister are his buddies. The minister of finance is, too [Alain Madalin (as Minister of Finance May - Aug 1995)]. Sir, they divided Giscard's group during the elections; a section of them supported...

Saddam Hussein: And those are crucial to the relations with Iraq; finance [ministry], defense [ministry], and foreign [ministry]. I mean all three of them.

Tariq Aziz: Those also are Giscard's buddies. They divided into two teams, a team supported Balladur [Edouard Balladur]. I mean, there was not a unified stance. Giscard supported Chirac [Jacques Chirac]. Thus, a group of his buddies supported Jacques Chirac, and a group supported Balladur. Hence, Chirac brought Giscard's [buddies] who supported him, and granted these positions to them as a sort of reward, I believe.

Saddam Hussein: Hmmm!

Tariq Aziz: And those pro-Giscard are also pro-Chirac at the same time.

UM4: I mean, my point is Mr. President; after Comrade Tariq is done discussing the particular subject with, maybe the prime minister, or the foreign minister, or even the... and they reach a solution. And then he puts forth the idea in front of him. I mean, how to steer the bilateral collaboration movement between us...

Tariq Aziz: Yes, no [worries], we will discuss it with Juppe [Alain Juppe], he is [inaudible].

UM4: I mean, what is the mechanism that you will adopt.

Tariq Aziz: But, Sir, we have the topic of the company, the subject is...

UM4: That is not enough, forget about the companies.

Tariq Aziz: In front of your Excellency, take a look [inaudible].

Saddam Hussein: I saw it and forwarded it to the Council of Ministers to be studied.

UM4: I mean, we should not leave it only to [only depend on] company initiatives. See, the point is...

Tariq Aziz: Also, I mean, when they came and signed during this period prior to our visit to France. It would be beneficial; at least it would be something that we did. I mean, for your

SH-SHTP-A-001-476

information, Total [*Total S.A.*] is closer to Chirac than Elf (*Elf Aquitaine S.A.*). I mean, they were mediating for Total more than Elf, run by Jeffrey [*TC: low confidence of spelling of name*], of course [*Time Stamp: 30:00*] he is closer to Balladur.

Saddam Hussein: Hmmm!

Tariq Aziz: And he appointed him as his economic advisor during the election campaign, while the Total group is pro-Chirac.

UM4: Companies...

Saddam Hussein: I mean, can't we also use this subject to make a connection with him?

Tariq Aziz: Yes, they are ready.

Saddam Hussein: Before signing; I mean, at least we shall ask Chirac.

Tariq Aziz: He... he... he will send me a note with our fellow, this guy, Patrick Moujan [*low confidence of spelling of last name*], he would tell me "Take care of... of Total".

Saddam Hussein: Regardless... regardless of that, we also ought to ask him and tell him that "we, I mean, almost completed our deal, do you advise that we sign?"

UM4: Directly! Face to face!

Saddam Hussein: Let's make this as a favor to him [*to Chirac*].

UM4: Like the case with the Vietnamese, we decided but [*inaudible*]. We slammed their face with it.

Tariq Aziz: In fact Juppe discussed it with me directly.

Saddam Hussein: Hmmm! Yes, before Juppe becomes prime minister now; so, either with Chirac or with Juppe.

UM4: Yes.

Saddam Hussein: Tell them, "Do you still think that we should support this company?" Then they will say, "Yes". Alright they...

UM4: Tell them "Ok, that is it."

Tariq Aziz: It belongs to them, in fact...

Saddam Hussein: Also... also... also it becomes a favor.

SH-SHTP-A-001-476

Tariq Aziz: From my standpoint, it belongs to them and belongs to the state, and belongs to them... It belongs to them, I mean, it belongs to their buddies.

UM3: Their relation is like the relation of "C takes C" [*TC: not familiar with this expression but it clearly means "you scratch my back and I scratch yours"*]. I mean... and so we arrange a prepayment and post payment [*inaudible*]. Also the Russians, I mean...

Saddam Hussein: But the stance of the French in their withdrawal from Bosnia, I mean, it is a new phenomenon.

Tariq Aziz: Yes, [*inaudible*].

Saddam Hussein: Because if this worked out then it would become a part of a general policy which might lead to their withdrawal from the Hammer forces in northern Iraq. [*TC: referring to Operation Provide Comfort II*]

UM3: If they withdrew...

Tariq Aziz: The French-Russian relation is sound...

Saddam Hussein: So...

[00:32:48 to 00:33:06 Audio loss likely due to turning the audio tape over]

Tariq Aziz: You know him, he gets carried away when talking and...

Saddam Hussein: Yea, yea...

Tariq Aziz: You Excellency knows him.

UM1: He is spontaneous, you know.

Tariq Aziz: [*He is*] a spontaneous subject.

UM1: And that Balladur [*inaudible*].

Tariq Aziz: And Dr. [*likely referring to UM1 by this title*], This Mitterrand... Francois Mitterrand, I mean, he reacts with those whom he faces. I have seen him numerous times.

UM1: His speech is twisted.

Tariq Aziz: No, he... I mean, he is firm; he keeps it in and listens carefully. But there is no catch to his speech. While Chirac with us... I mean, we speak with him, and there is...

Saddam Hussein: Last winter, the... Mitterrand visited Luxor.

SH-SHTP-A-001-476

Tariq Aziz: He goes, more than once there, he loves Egypt.

Saddam Hussein: Yes, so he sent after Hussayn Haykal [*TN: Renown Egyptian journalist*], and they spoke and spoke, and then they landed on the issue of Iraq. And among the several things which he [*Mitterrand*] told him [*Haykal*], he said, "How did Saddam Hussein release the Western hostages?" He [*Haykal*] responded that he [*Mitterrand*] was among those [*officials*] who requested their release. He [*Mitterrand*] said, "Yes, that is proper, this is not... This is what we would do as Westerners, but how would he commit such a mistake? I mean as it may be interpreted as such. I mean, as if he wanted to say that if they were not..., if he did not release them, then the war probably would not take place.

Tariq Aziz: He is malicious, Mitterrand is. I mean, he wants [*inaudible*] if they were kept [*Time Stamp: 35:00*] then he would have used them as an excuse in order to push towards the war. He is malicious!

Multiple UM: [*Numerous speakers agree with Tariq Aziz*].

Tariq Aziz: I mean, even his friends describe him with malignancy! It is not just a belief.

UM4: [*Inaudible*].

Tariq Aziz: [*Inaudible*].

UM4: And plain, too.

Tariq Aziz: He is ambiguous even with his buddies. In addition, he is the president who arrived upon the shoulders of the Socialist Party and that of the French left; and then left the reign while the two leftist parties, the Socialist, and the Communist parties were completely wrecked [*laughing*]. I mean this...

UM1: His glory was but from the luck of one [*female*] and not [*inaudible*] [*laughing*].

Tariq Aziz: One day, the...

UM1: His wife's breasts... [*Noise*]

Tariq Aziz: Saying that this president came under the name of socialism, and [*lasted*] for fourteen years, and then he set France back to capitalism more than his predecessor! Meaning that at the end of his reign, France is closer to a capitalist system more than it was when his rightist predecessor was in power. And the two parties that brought him to power have collapsed! And only he remained standing! He remained... As the constitution conveys special authorities to the president.

Saddam Hussein: Le Pen [*likely referring to Jean-Marie Le Pen*], what are his stories?

Tariq Aziz: Le Pen is against Chirac. We must enhance relations with him a little. There is

SH-SHTP-A-001-476

hatred in both characters. If it wasn't because of Le Pen's stance, Chirac would have scored more than 65-85%.

Saddam Hussein: But we should not break off [*relations with him*].

UM1: Aha; is he nationalist?

Saddam Hussein: We should not break off.

Tariq Aziz: Sir, Chirac was president for seven years. [*Inaudible*] two days [*mixed with laughing*].

Multiple UM: [*Laughing*].

Saddam Hussein: Regardless...

Tariq Aziz: There is personal hatred among them in addition to the dispute of...

UM2: Regardless, he unleashed freedom, as long as... [*TC: probably he granted freedom to some people or released them from certain obligation or restrictions*]

Tariq Aziz: The brother has to! I mean they are his buddies, and they would not go [*inaudible*].

UM3: I mean, the problem with this Le Pen was that because they never admitted to him.

Tariq Aziz: He is not... there is not... Of course there are competitions among them; that is for sure. But see, at a personal level, I mean, for example, Jacques Chirac's relation with Mitterrand was not very bad for the whole 14 years, because he is with them, although deeply they fight politically. However personal relations between Chirac and Le Pen were very bad. So bad that they [*hesitated to speak the word "insult"*] insult each other.

UM2: Because they [*inaudible*] the right; the whole French right rejects the fact that Le Pen is a member of theirs.

UM4: They feel the shame. They feel ashamed that he is racist. "Our subject and we are not racist and such-and-such." That is the problem with Le Pen; they were the rightists.

UM2: His ratio is increasing! [*Inaudible*] percent and four percent! [*TC: not clear what ratio and whose ratio they are discussing*]

Multiple UM: [*Discussing the percentage*]

Tariq Aziz: 15%.

UM2: I mean, how much is it? 16?! So what!

SH-SHTP-A-001-476

Tariq Aziz: If he... If Chirac also dealt with immigration issues in a political manner, as well as salaries, unemployment— unemployment also increased the...

Saddam Hussein: Yes!

Tariq Aziz: [*Increased*] the popularity of the government.

Saddam Hussein: Juppe's popularity. Of course!

Tariq Aziz: Because he would be told [*inaudible*] your rate of unemployment, it is [*inaudible*].

UM2: Yes.

Tariq Aziz: And if the Frenchman found a job...

Saddam Hussein: Then he would ease off the tension of... [*Pause*] Alright then! It was a nice free tour today!

[*Time Stamp: 39:06; End of Meeting*]

UM4: Yes, all praise is due to God.

UM5: Mr. President, I requested a subject [*whispering*] about a comrade from Iraq [*whispering*] that they requested you. Requested [*whispering*] from your Excellency to decide his fate [*whispering*] and he tasted from your drinking places [*TC: "had a taste from one's eating and drinking places" is like a parable similar to the English "breaking bread together" and it is said in the Middle East to denote that the tasting person becomes like one of the provider's family members; therefore, the provider may pardon the taster in certain issues*]. It is difficult to obtain...

Saddam Hussein: Okay, not a big deal, [*consider it*] done.

UM5: [*May God*] cherish you with good health [*whispering*].

Saddam Hussein: I forgive him.

[*39:35 to 39:44; No conversation*]

Saddam Hussein: Good night, everyone!

Multiple UM: Good night, Sir!

[*39:48 to 39:55; No conversation*]

[*39:56; inaudible background conversation*]

SH-SHTP-A-001-476

UM2: There is probably no time left [*inaudible*]. Tomorrow, of course...

Tariq Aziz: No, there are no pessimisms.

[40:08 to 41:05; *general inaudible conversations among multiple voices as they leave the meeting location as well as cleanup the room.*]

[41:05 to 1:05:08; *No conversation*]

End of Recording