

Full Translation

Page 5

Top Secret

Tape No.: 1

Date of Tape: 11/02/1980

(At the dinner table)

Attendants

- The President Leader, General Commander of the Armed Forces, Staff Field Marshal Saddam Hussein (May God protect him)
- Staff General Pilot `Adnan Khayrallah, Deputy General Commander of the Armed Forces
- Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadan, Vice-President of the Republic
- Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime-Minister
- Mr. Tariq Hamad Al-Abdallah, Head of the Presidential Council
- Staff General `Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal, Chief of Staff of the Army
- Mr. Barzan Al-Tikriti, Head of the Intelligence Apparatus
- Staff General `Abd-al-Jabbar Abd-al-Rahim Al-Asadi, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army for Operations
- Staff Major General Pilot Mohamed Jassam Al-Jibouri, Air Force Commander
- Staff Brigadier General Abd-al-Juwad Dhannoun, Military Intelligence Director
- Staff Brigadier General Shaker Wajr Al-Amara, Planning Director
- Staff Brigadier General Hamid Mohamed Al-tikriti, 1st Mechanized Division Commander
- Staff Brigadier General Hazem Barhawi, 2nd Division Commander
- Staff Colonel Mohamed Saleh Al-Samurrai, the Minister's Secretary
- Lieutenant Colonel Sabah Mirzah, the President Leader senior escort

(3-115)

Top Secret

[Document Page 6]

Top Secret
(4 of 115)

Speaker	Content
Chief of Intelligence	By God, sir. He is not proud of being Iraqi, being Iraqi and having morale.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	The focus on his being Iraqi was not considered to bear any negative effect while it is in accordance with the principles of the Joint Arab Ba'th Party.
Director of Planning	Yes, sir.
Chief of Intelligence Mr.	Previously he said anything happening is preserving it.
Commander-in-Chief	I am watching this wonderful picture, it didn't end! It didn't end for the sudden explosion.
	Yes, I saw it yesterday. How it catches fire in the air!
Chief of Intelligence	Now.
Presidential Chief of Staff	Yes, yes, follow its photography and it is flawless and I loved it and the rest is continuing until it blew up in the air!
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	And it scattered it, sir, it scattered it! (for the lack of the film story)
Mr. Chief of Staff	The film is here.
Chief of Intelligence	By God, it is a live film!
Air Force Commander	We have the film here. They (the children) can present it to you now.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	The weapon of battle is useful in a day like today!
Director of Planning	

TOP SECRET

[Document Page 7]

Top Secret

Mr. Commander-in-Chief	I hope that I see a film one of these days that shows two airplanes, one of them Iraqi, the other Iranian, in an air conflict, and the Iranian plane is shot down, but the Iraqi plane remains.
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	It's a difficult matter, sir!
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes, very hard.
Minister of Defense	Sir, the air battle, as your Excellency knows, (Tailchase) doesn't get close to it from the ground.
Military Operations Director	Above, like the mountains at the highest.
Minister of Defense	Because of this, Sir . . .
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes, yes it's like falcons fighting!
Minister of Defense	He is studying it, Sir, until it becomes in front of GUN SIGHT [TN: one illegible word], with air rolls then [TN: two illegible words] in the past. It followed it — climbing, ascending, the time it spent rolling and wavering was for the space of a half-hour.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	This is [TN: one illegible word]
Chief of Intelligence	It's wavering by rolls for a short time and he hits it so he injures it.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Rolls, isn't that right?
Air Force Commander	Yes, rolls.
Minister of Defense	Sir. The French have possession of this apparatus.

[Document Page 8]

Top Secret
(6 of 115)

Mr. Tariq `Aziz	Now in the cinematic films there are trick shots so it's possible to film it.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	How magnificent! Oh, that God would enable the photographers to film it in [TN: three illegible words] one day.
Minister of Defense	God is generous, Sir, the French equipment, Sir, is picking up even the breathing of the pilots! They have a term among them in the high air when they are exposed to "G" which is the earth's gravitational force on them with their exposure to other things!
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes.
Minister of Defense	They communicate with each other through it inclusively and all in the cabin of the aircraft (cockpit) while flying.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	The pressure! The pressure on them is intense!
Chief of Intelligence	They land from flying very tired. They had been exposed to the intense pressure.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	So, the pilot, his health must always be in superior condition.
Air Force Commander	Sir, when you hear "one G" or "two G's", this means that control over the pilot's body decreases by how much he weighs total. So if it was 2 G's and he weighed 75 kilograms, then pressure coming over him equals 150 kilograms!
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Amazing!
Air Force Commander	It withdraws blood from here (points) from his head, all of it, toward the lowest part. Therefore, the pilot wears a pressure suit so it's tight here on his belly, his thighs, and his leg muscles, so it stops the blood and restricts it.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	In order to lessen its descent toward the lower extremities.

TOP SECRET

[Document Page 9]

Top Secret

Air Force Commander	It restricts the blood here in the head for up to 5 G's, Sir, and when the blood goes down partially or completely, the pilot experiences a condition of temporary blindness or complete blindness.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Sight is lost?
Air Force Commander	He can't see anything. You can't see anything with your eyes. As for the opposite condition, it is that puts the pressure on it in the opposite way, and this is in a state where the pilot is upside down in this state ... people in the best health conditions (3 G-force pressure) afterwards will have burst brain arteries! This is the dangerous condition.
Operations Assistant	
Air Force Commander	But I believe that the G-force is atmospheric pressure. One atmospheric pressure or two atmospheric pressures.
Director of Planning	But comparing it with the weight, the bulk of the weight and the pressure projected on him is equal (depending on a picture that appears on the television) this is, by God, a good weapon. It is an operation.
Minister of Defense	<p>It is the [TN: one illegible word] Sir.</p> <p>The [TN: one illegible word] is amazing, Sir. Amazing, Sir. It has a fire [TN: one illegible word].</p> <p>Yes, an operation.</p>
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	These are surface-to-surface missiles, right?
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	No . . . this . . .
Minister of Defense	No . . . this is . . . a machine-gun
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	No . . . this is . . . a machine-gun
Minister of Defense	Four machine-guns that have a caliber of 30 millimeters, I imagine.
Air Force Commander	23 millimeters, Sir.

Full Translation

Page 10

Top Secret

Minister of Defense: 23mm?

Air Force Commander: 23mm.

Deputy Operations: 23mm.

Mr. Tariq Aziz: Anti air

Minister of Defense: Yes

Head of the Council: Mounted on a vehicle.

President Leader: it is anti-air and mounted on a [UI] vehicle with the armor.

Mr. Tariq Aziz: Yes, it is excellent.

Minister of Defense: This is Al-Hasran [As seen]

Military Operation Director: AlHasran

President Leader: We will get the (Roland-1) system from the French if they give us some of their army bases.

Head of the Intelligence: By God, tell me what's the name of this Austrian system?

Minister of Defense: I am familiar with the Austrian system and I have already seen it.

Head of the Intelligence: I had an offer for it yesterday.

Minister of Defense: It has been already offered to us four or five years ago; the price was very high while it had an insignificant technical level... meaning by training.

(8-115)

Top Secret

Full Translation

Page 11

Top Secret

President Leader: Tell me about the Leopard

Minister of Defense: Excellent, Sir.

President Leader: French-German?

Minister of Defense: German-British, but it is German.

President Leader: German-British

Minister of Defense: I believe the gun is British... yes, Sir. **Planning**

Director: The Leopard is a pure German tank, Sir. **Military Operation**

Director: The Leopard is German, Sir. **Planning Director:** The project was French-German, but later on in 1964...

Military Operation Director: They did...

Planning Director: They split where the French developed the (MX) family while the Germans developed the (Leopard) family, and even the (M-70) tank project that carries the Milan missiles under or over the gun was German-American project, but after that they split and could not (continue).

President Leader: It is necessary to develop both the German and the Japanese.

Planning Director: Yes, Sir.

(9-115)

Top Secret

[Document Page 12]

Top Secret

Mr. Commander-in-Chief	... like the industrialized-militarized nations. We need them, too.
Director of Planning	Yes. Yes, sir.
Chief of Staff	Yes
Air Force Commander	Sir, an officer reminded me about their council.
Director of Planning	All content — good work.
Minister of Defense	Yes, we're comfortable... comfortable. And so far they haven't crossed.
Operations Assistant	No... because the units that cross are infantry units. These have been non-combat units so far.
Chief of Staff	the second page to Jilal, who I know.
Chief of Intelligence	When the dump truck comes up over it until... (whisper) ... and empty its load.
Minister of Defense	We have this from it.
Chief of Intelligence	Much better than this.
Minister of Defense	In this case, hey Abu-Muhammad (referring to the Chief of Intelligence) if you do not take the far shore well the danger will be double. We cannot extend it (the bridge) until after we are sure that it can be executed well.
Chief of Intelligence	True.
Minister of Defense	These (referring to rafts shown in the film) are assembled on one side, these are what I spoke

(10 of 115)

Top Secret

[Document Page 13]Top Secret

	about. They get pushed across and the water carries them until they reach the far shore. Then it becomes a regular bridge.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	What is this vehicle? (referring to a vehicle shown in the film)
Minister of Defense	Sir, this is a first-generation Cobra anti-tank missile of German manufacture that we obtained by asking a friendly nation.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Can we have Jordan get a Leopard tank for us if the best tank is a Chieftain?
Minister of Defense	By God, sir.
Director of Planning	I have already ridden in one, sir.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes?
Director of Planning	I already rode in a Leopard-1 tank.
Military Operations Director	Sir, the Leopard-1 tank carries seven people.
Director of Planning	The Leopard-1 tank has been recorded at 67 km/hr in rugged terrain, 80 km/hr... and it did 110 km/hr on the freeway.
Chief of Intelligence	This is the speed of a van... 110 km/hour.
Director of Planning	The Leopard tank has been recorded at 67 km/hr in rugged terrain.
Minster of Defense	Its price?

(11 — 110)

Top Secret

[Document Page 14]

Top Secret
(12 of 115)

Mr. Commander-in-Chief	How much fuel does it need for half a diameter of work?
Director of Planning	Sir, there is no modern tank of less than a half-diameter of work less than 500 km because middle-sized tanks, not the heavy type, have weights of no more than thirty-six or thirty-seven tons.
	The cannon is 120 mm (caliber)?
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Currently, yes. The English cannon used to have a caliber of 105 mm.
Director of Planning	105 mm
Operations Assistant	105 mm
Military Operations Director	105 mm... 105 mm
Director of Planning	Excuse me, the English caliber 105 mm... They came with English cannons mounted on them, but the Leopard (Mark-2) currently has a 120 mm cannon while the Leopard (Mark-1) has 105 mm caliber British cannons.
	Do you see how the vehicle was stuck?
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	It was stuck.
Director of Planning	
Minister of Defense	So we should powerfully so that it is not compromised, sir. Did you all notice that, gentlemen? Did you notice, sir? He jumps. Sir, did you see that dark forest?
	What?
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes
Operations Assistant	
Minister of Defense	It is a dark forest.

Top Secret

[Document Page 15]

Top Secret

Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes
Military Operations Director	Very dense.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Very dense, right?
Minister of Defense	Look, sir... Look, sir... The darkness of dawn... Abu Muhammad, this sun is the first light... this early hour might be the best time of day.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	This film indicated that our troops would not be seen while we sent them (across the river).
Minister of Defense	By God, sir, at least once let us lie to the international media.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	No... we crossed practically, but we pushed to the back!
Minister of Defense	Yes
Military Operations Director	It is almost like a raid... we consider it so, sir.
Chief of Intelligence	We need to pacify the minds of the people on the street... Whenever we achieve something or advance, we withdraw so that the streets are not affected.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	These are the problems. We want the Iraqis to endure these situations, but they do not endure them. What is the situation? The force merely retreated a little, so Abu Khalil says that it is possible that this was a failure.
Chief of Intelligence	Yes, because this
Minister of Defense	Honestly, sir, this unit that crossed the river is exhausted. Not tired, but exhausted, sir, exhausted. They suffered losses, came, and moved all night.

[Document Page 16]Top Secret

	They delayed the operation a whole night, then crossed during the second day... so they hadn't slept for nearly three days.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes, isn't that true!
Chief of Intelligence	They were tired for forty-eight hours.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Isn't that right? Humans have limited energy, too?
Chief of Intelligence	Their eyes are open, but they do not see the objective.
Minister of Defense	Never, I told him that sleep is king.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Then it affects the mind...
Military Operations Director	He cannot concentrate, sir.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	He is exhausted, too. He becomes sensitive.
Operations Assistant	Certainly he becomes sluggish, sir.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Then he becomes nervous.
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	Then he has trouble keeping his balance.
Chief of Intelligence	Dense, sir.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes, this is not dense. Here they re walking through a part where it is not dense.
Director of Planning	The canals cause problems for the vehicles, sir. Did you notice the irrigation canals?

(14 of 115)

Top Secret

[Document Page 17]Top Secret

Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Of course... of course... forest.
Everyone	simultaneous conversation
Operations Assistant	at the banner of the battle...
Military Operations Director	Clearing forests and orchards involves special procedures and means of fighting, just like clearing cities.
Military Operations Director	Which means that entering them... choose the procedures... is like clearing streets.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Like the cities in them.
Director of Planning	That is true.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Until Basun!
Operations Assistant	They returned and they spread...
Military Operations Director	This section is the 23 rd Brigade. It came from Kurk and Nawakhin to fight!
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Is this a 106mm cannon?
Director of Planning	Yes, sir.
Minister of Defense	Yes, this is a 106mm cannon... we lost two of them
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	In this? Did you leave the place?

(15 of 115)

Top Secret

[Document Page 18]

Top Secret

Military Operations Director	But we previously took control of one of their 65mm cannons.
Minister of Defense	Supposedly, we have many of theirs in our hands.
Chief of Staff	Including small arms... there are small arms.
Minister of Defense	Yes.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	This is war!
Chief of Intelligence	Can we get them back?
Minister of Defense	Inevitably, Abu Muhammad... They will not escape our hands. They are (surrounded) on the east, the south and the west. So where are they able?
Chief of Staff	They do not have that spirit.
Military Operations Director	They are unable to move them... they need a vehicle...
Chief of Intelligence	Let's get out of here...
Minister of Defense	It applies to them now... whoever becomes (TN: three illegible words) has nothing, sir... police!!!
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	By God, they have nothing with the Muhammad Brigade... relax, if they had something...
Operations Assistant	Good, sir.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	The rest of you discuss this, we have a political subject.

(16 of 115)

Top Secret

[Document Page 19]

Top Secret

Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Good night.
Everyone	Good night, sir (The Mr. Commander-in-Chief leaves the meeting room.)
Director of Planning	This far shore, did you notice that it is dense, too?
Air Force Commander	It looks like Abu-al-Khasib. (TN: a location in Basra)
Director of Planning	Yes, sir.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	What was the name? Historically, it is not Behemshir.
Operations Assistant	Of course not. This is a man-made canal...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	No... its name was al-Karun al-Dajil or Dajilat al-Sagrah (TN: both names mean the small Tigris).
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	Some reporters write it as "Qarun" and not as Karun.
Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadan	Qarun — Khadir Qarun.
Director of Planning	The island is "Khadir" Island. The name 'Abadan is the one used for the island now, but in the past its name was Khadir Islan.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Khadir?
Director of Planning	Yes, sir.
Chief of Intelligence	Yes.

(17 of 115)

Top Secret

[Document Page 20]

(18 of 115)

Top Secret

Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadan	But Abadan is like this... it was something Persian... all Persian.
Director of Planning	Yes, sir. It is a modern word, but the island that is between the Shatt Al-Arab and the canal is named Shatt al-`Arab
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	Abadan is considered a modern name. 'Abadan was not there before.
Chief of Staff	Abadan
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	They brought (TN: two illegible words) and gravel in order to pave the roads.
Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadan	Gravel?
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes.
Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadan	All these roads, your presidency, sir, are now paved under gravel.
Director of Planning	But they are soft muddy clay.
Operations Assistant	There is a steel covering on the ground so that cars do not get stuck.
Director of Planning	This is the second page, sir. The first page is on the far shore now. The infantry — the First Battalion of the 23 rd Infantry Brigade — has crossed.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	They are getting stronger!
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes — those are Iranians...
Military Operations Director	Indian group...

Top Secret

[Document Page 21]

(19 of 115)

Top Secret

Operations Assistant	They hid the floating bridge and left it aside.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	The drivers with shovels are civilians or military personnel?
Chief of Staff	A section of them are civilians, sir.
Military Operations Director	A section of them are a group of Indian battalions, sir. Military personnel.
Chief of Staff	A section of them are Indian battalions.
Director of Planning	It pushes here...
Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadan	They are only civilians.
Operations Assistant	There are civilians, too... There are civilians, too.
Chief of Staff	The Iranians announced that last night there were two attacks on Tehran and an attack on Kermanshah.
Air Force Commander	During the night? Where was this?
Chief of Staff	The Minister of Media call and said that.
Air Force Commander	They are dreaming.
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	Yes, they are dreaming.
Chief of Staff	There is some noise about the hostages...
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	Maybe. Yes, they had a meeting yesterday.

Top Secret

[Document Page 22]

Top Secret

Chief of Staff	Yes, by God...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	By God, they are liars!
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	Yes, sir.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	It seems to me — in my opinion — that they have reasons for this...
Chief of Staff	That is what I have been saying.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	This affects the people psychologically.
Chief of Staff	Psychologically.
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	Because tomorrow the meeting... the meeting of the council will set a time for the meeting. One of the matters to be discussed...
Chief of Staff	They talk at night and they want the Iraqis to bring us.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Did the photographers get anything for you? Only of the al-Ahwaz and Dazful sector. I called on the telephone the day before yesterday, before the day before yesterday or more than four days ago. I told the minister of media to look for two photograph teams...
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	He sent them, sir.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes, I said to him, did you forget your buddies over here? He said that Al-Muhammarah kept us busy. I said to him, so send teams here so the people will know about us.
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	During this war we acquired news from war correspondents, which we did not have in the media before... now we have war correspondents.

(20 of 115)

Top Secret

[Document Page 23]

(21 of 115)

Top Secret

Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadan	It ended!
Chief of Staff	One of the photographers was hit by a brick!!!
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	What hit him?! Hit by a brick. He went out
Chief of Staff	with a brick injury!!! (laughing)
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	He went out!!!
Chief of Staff	The people are defending themselves!!!
Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadan	Every newspaper now has at least three teams of war correspondents.
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	Photographers and editors, except they are on television, cinema, and theater. Remember our group in the year 83, sir! It was the charge of the October war. It was a short war and we were supposed to send them. They chose one person and it seemed he started at once. He fainted the first time he heard a bomb. After that, matters were jumbled and they were unable to film anything, sir.
Chief of Staff	They left... isn't that right?
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	The photographers?
Director of Planning	Yes, sir... Cobra... (Discussing the film on television)
Operations Assistant	Cobra... first generation-German
Chief of Staff	(whispering among themselves, indiscernible)

Top Secret

[Document Page 24]

(22 of 115)

Top Secret

Mr. Tariq `Aziz	See our group goes to the rivers of Iran!
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	It is a difficult thing to fight people in a foreign land. No one knows it, but the greatest war in the third world is prepared by historians, artists, and writers through their writings, novels, stories, and lectures. That is what this war is about because all of these writings, stories, plays, and photographs can be shown to the next generation. Show them the films, give them the photographs, and point them out to them.
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	Yes, of course. This type of thing will make the work reality. Also, artists need works of this type. Simple glimpses to prove that. This is what they have to do now.
Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadan	No... this will increase with the passing of time... They might not need a lot, but after ten, twenty years...
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	If after ten years a producer wanted to produce a film about this war, it would not be difficult to fulfill the technical requirements because he would have all the regions, people, weapons, and movements already filmed.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	If the enemy is smart, he will benefit from the movie.
Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadan	Of course, they will analyze it.
Military Operations Director	It gives details of forces.
Chief of Staff	Now, they (the films) could show that, sir.
Chief of Intelligence	They could get an idea about details of the forces and study them more.

Top Secret

[Document Page 25]

(23 of 115)

Top Secret

Chief of Staff	(Laughing...)
Air Force Commander	(Happy and laughing! Commenting on the film)
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	(laughing) ... yes.
Military Operations Director	He says: I escaped from death!
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	It is possible that this appears with the equipment.
Chief of Staff	It helps.
Military Operations Director	(unintelligible)
Chief of Intelligence	He, and the person with him, did whatever he wanted for Iran (commenting about the minister of oil)
Chief of Staff	I am afraid that al-Khomeini does not want this minister of oil?
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	I am afraid that they will reveal this matter (the capture of the minister in this film).
Military Intelligence Director	Those.
Director of Planning	No sir, they were captured somewhere else.
Military Intelligence Director	No sir... somewhere else.
Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadan	(talking about the film) What are those? (talking about a film shown on television)
Military Operations Director	Those are bombings.

Top Secret

[Document Page 26]

(24 of 115)

Top Secret

Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadan Military Operations Director Chief of Intelligence	Portuguese? Dark colors. That looks like Muhammad 'Ali Rajai (prime minister of Iran)
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	They are also... as long as the start capturing the ministers... the comments and displays will reach the president by the television reporter of the show "Films of War."
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Did you think about what this is? ... They approached someone on the side.
Mr. Tariq Yassin Ramadan Operations Assistant	Did the Red Cross reach our prisoners? ... Did they see them? I swear that I do not have any idea.
Military Operations Director	Yes, they saw a section of them.
Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadan	Did they record them?
Military Operations Director	Yes, they recorded a section of them.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	The people's Army, the Abu-Nawiyah Army (talking to Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadan) You gave some of them up as prisoners, isn't that right?
Chief of Staff	Six. Yes.
Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadan	Yes.
Chief of Staff	Six stayed with the injured! Because they stayed with the prisoners!

Top Secret

[Document Page 27]

(25 of 115)

Top Secret

Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadan	The commander had to inform them about the withdrawal.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	That is the most important thing.
Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadan	Elements of the army withdrew completely.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	And God forbid!
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	Yes? Did they flee...
Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadan	They were shown on television...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Wonderful...
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	The people's army?
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	They said to one of them... If you leave now what will you do? He said to them, I will return (unintelligible) he is killed.
Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadan	Yes, they showed only two... I am sure that those are the ones who escaped from Kuwait (talking about the escape of Iranian athletes).
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	There were four of those who were shown yesterday, two from Iran.
Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadan	Yes.
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	And two from those...

Top Secret

[Document Page 28]

Top Secret

Mr. Yaha Yassin Ramadan	Yes... one of them played tennis, I do not remember his name.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	If one of yours kidnapped everyone... (unintelligible).
Air Force Commander	They are all military personnel... maybe they are wearing civilian clothing.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	(commenting on what he sees on television) How were you able to do it? God destroy your house!... Every one of them came in civilian clothing.
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	They all wore civilian clothing under their military uniforms.
Operations Assistant	A few days ago Staff Colonel Tala' and I were walking around at Subilah station and we found their uniforms, jackets, and military rank.
Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadan	(unintelligible) ...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes.
Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadan	No... these bridges are not there.
Chief of Staff	They need to open a square (park).
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes.
Chief of Staff	They open a square to work in it.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	When we rebelled at that time in June... Barzan wrote it to me... and we changed our clothes.
Chief of Intelligence	I wrote to all of them.

[Document Page 29]

27 of 115)

<u>Top Secret</u>	
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	We changed from our civilian clothes into military clothing. I said to him, take your ID with you. He said, of course. I said to him, so martyrs can be identified immediately.
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	In case of disfigurement or something (when a person dies as a martyr).
Director of Planning (attendants)	Yes... They prepared their civilian clothes. What concerns me is his civilian clothes.
Military Operations Director	As if he was prepared for defeat!
Chief of Staff	Prepared for defeat!
Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadan	Yes, yes.
Military Operations Director	This is not good.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	True.
Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadan	This is not a good initiative... right? ... (laughing)
Military Intelligence Director	Yes, because he believes that (not wearing the military uniform) is a type of security and that he is sure that the combatants will become prisoners (as long as they are wearing their uniforms). On the contrary, this case indicates mental preparation...
Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadan	We should give them encouragement regarding the matter...
Operations Assistant	Yes.
	Ranks in security, sir... you can tell by their uniforms. Khaki pants,

Top Secret

[Document Page 30]

<u>Top Secret</u>	
	Wearing a shirt or a jacket over it!!! (laughing!)
Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadan	... Yes!!!
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Their financial situation is weak. They did not have pants at the time.
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	He stands on the corner of the street wearing glasses and has a newspaper in his hands.
Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadan	Yes...!
Mr. Tariq Aziz	According to...
Chief of Staff	Or he enters a restaurant, monitoring someone and the person being monitored pays the security man's bill! (In other words, the security man is discovered!)
Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadan Sir,	in the year 66, when we were in Al-Nasiriyah... they brought us 12 broad robes... I didn't know what to do with them... so I gave them to him...
Chief of Intelligence	Or their story is that the person is always busy...
Mr. Tariq Aziz	He is busy...
Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadan	... We were sitting... they arrived between nine and nine-thirty... we sent them some tea and kabobs... they ate half of the kabobs and walked away... the people of the orchards...
Mr. Tariq Aziz	Sir, that is a good initiative. The general secretary of the Algerian foreign ministry summoned our ambassador and said to him, we heard an opinion from you regarding non-alignment. It is up to you. If you want us to get involved, we are ready. If you do not want us to get involved, we are ready for that, too.

[Document Page 31]

Top Secret

	<p>That was a good attitude... We should summon the Algerian ambassador and thank him for that attitude.</p>
<p>Mr. Commander-in-Chief</p>	<p>Tell him, because at the beginning of the war, you called me indicating that President Chadli called to mediate on the matter, him and Kuwait.</p>
<p>Mr. Tariq Aziz</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>Mr. Commander-in-Chief</p>	<p>The Kuwaiti called me on the phone, too. I told him that we have a principle... It is that if there is a war between Arabs and non-Arabs, then other Arabs must take the side of the Arabs. If they are unable to do so, then they are unfair. This attitude is not directed at Algeria or an opinion of President Chadli. This matter is not important. It is not directed against you. It is a principle to follow because in my opinion, the doors will be open for all of them to act as mediators... I fear that all Arabs will try simply to act as mediators!</p>
<p>Mr. Tariq Aziz</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>Mr. Commander-in-Chief</p>	<p>If Iran felt that all the Arabs were angry with them because they were abusing Arab rights, that would put pressure on them.</p>
<p>Mr. Tariq Aziz</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>Mr. Commander-in-Chief</p>	<p>Since the day before yesterday.</p>
<p>Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadan</p>	<p>Then this principle is new. All of our behavior will be in accordance with it. If we would have followed it, nothing would have happened. But this is a new initiative.</p>

[Document Page 32]

(31 of 115)

Top Secret

<p>Mr. Commander-in-Chief Army Chief of Staff</p>	<p>Because the large column is exposed to aerial bombardments...</p>
<p>Mr. Commander-in-Chief</p>	<p>Sir, they have nothing left except for Hazim Infantry Division in Maharan. As for aerial bombings, they have a limited effect, too... today there was only one strike; the effect was unnoticeable. At the same time, the effects of cannon bombardments began to decrease. Evidence shows that they began to use cannons more extensively in regions that are not specified for cannons. They began to use cannons there.</p>
<p>Commander of the First Division, Staff General Hamid Al-Talcriti</p>	<p>Today I spoke with the division commander about this point to find out the results of their 155mm and 175mm cannons.</p>
<p>Minister of Defense</p>	<p>175mm... they even have a 180mm that they acquired... they only had a 130mm before... Now they have obtained a 180mm to shoot long distances.</p>
<p>Commander of the First Division</p>	<p>Good afternoon, Abu-Muthanah... Hello Hazim... God take care of you.</p>
<p>Army Chief of Staff</p>	<p>Use the 130mm cannon because they began to bombard me at the radar (radar hill). They did not shoot at me at the radar until they brought the 175mm cannon.</p>
<p>Mr. Commander-in-Chief</p>	<p>Three radars.</p>
<p>Army Chief of Staff</p>	<p>They preferred...</p>
	<p>They used three radars, which means that they have planes at the same time. As for the size of the field artillery bombardments, they are decreasing in number. They are not coming in large quantities. It seems that they have arrangements to avoid wasting a lot of ammunition, (we have concluded this) because they are now using their cannons in places that are not good. They are using the cannons to bombard areas that are not mountainous, but wide-open like the area (Shaykh Badir) and</p>

Top Secret

[Document Page 33]

(32 of 115)

Top Secret

	<p>the head of the bridge, they are all now being bombarded by cannons even though it is the area of operations of the cannons. As for the movements of their units, the maneuver units are very limited, which means that they have limited ability to cause any confrontations... that is my opinion.</p>
<p>Mr. Commander-in-Chief</p>	<p>No... of course, they are tired, that is certain.</p>
<p>Army Chief of Staff</p>	<p>The signs of fatigue are very obvious on them, except when they are surrounded. When they become surrounded they get very aggressive, sir... they act like wild cats.</p>
<p>Mr. Commander-in-Chief</p>	<p>That is natural... natural</p>
<p>Army Chief of Staff</p>	<p>It happens on the battlefield and is a type of defense.</p>
<p>Mr. Commander-in-Chief</p>	<p>The same thing we discussed about Abadan.</p>
<p>Army Chief of Staff</p>	<p>This operation has to do with defense and not with confrontation.</p>
<p>Mr. Commander-in-Chief</p>	<p>... and defending oneself... not defending an objective.</p>
<p>Army Chief of Staff</p>	<p>Or we expect an operation from them that includes an attack plan or an action according to a plan, there is nothing like that.</p>
<p>Minister of Defense</p>	<p>(Speaking to the 1st Division Commander) How is that the First Division?</p>
<p>Commander of the First Division</p>	<p>Now, sharp like a sword.</p>
<p>Operations Assistant</p>	
<p>Army Chief of Staff</p>	<p>The First Division always is.</p>
	<p>Regarding al-Muhammarah, when someone visits it, in light of current events</p>

Top Secret

[Document Page 34]

(33 of 115)

Top Secret

	They will see the nature of fighting, how the fighting happened, and how it was managed. It is not easy to describe, sir... I can say that the quote "you wouldn't believe it unless you saw it with your own eyes" applies here ... cannot see a building or house or home without seeing the signs of fighting on everything and all the buildings and beyond the walls; I did not notice or set my eyes on anything that did not show the signs of fighting. My God, sir. The people who were there are heroes.
Commander of the First Division	Praise be to God.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	This happened to them in the sector of the second regiment, too. The enemy confronted the enlisted force, but it looks like our forces destroyed them.
Army Chief of Staff	In Dana Khoshk, I heard about that. I was in the southern sector and they informed me about the casualties... that was yesterday or the day before yesterday.
Military Operations Director	Yes sir, last night, at the evening position the brigade found 13 corpses... Total casualties added up to 77 people.
Army Chief of Staff	Notice that as long as the unit plans according to the necessary foundation of principles for fighting, they yield good results. In Dana Khoshk, when they did not handle matters well the enemy came and confronted them for the first time and we caused only a few casualties—about 22 injured... After that, when matters were well handled and organized, they confronted us again. They suffered more casualties and have not returned since.
Military Operations Director	Now there is nothing in that sector... they captured 16 prisoners, three of them
Army Chief of Staff	Today?

Top Secret

[Document Page 35]

Top Secret

Military Operations Director	Same position, sir.
Army Chief of Staff	But these sectors should not let their pride overcome them, they have to do more than that.
Chief of Intelligence	(with the minister of defense) How are you?
Minister of Defense	How are you?
Chief of Intelligence	We missed you.
Minister of Defense	I saw you on television the day before yesterday, you looked tired, but by the will of God, today your color is...
Chief of Intelligence	By God... my face appears... not
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Not (televised).
Army Chief of Staff	(with the director of planning) I see you went (to Baghdad) and did not come back to us.
Director of Planning	By God, sir, I am waiting for your orders... I made a phone call to Staff Colonel Muhammad Salih Yunus, I told him to ask the army chief of staff to have me come back. I told him I was waiting for your orders. I said to Staff Colonel Muhammad Salih, what orders does the minister have for me?
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	We did not send him to return to you.
Minister of Defense	None of us have anything to require... we rely on God... that is the duty and we said we would return in the morning, God willing. In the afternoon we were with our brother, the regiment commander. He said that everything was normal. They reached the dam and there were no casualties. We said goodbye to him

(34 of 115)

Top Secret

[Document Page 36)

Top Secret

	<p>at twelve o'clock in the afternoon then we returned. We have two opinions. The opinion of the army chief of staff is that we should return and trust in God. I said to him that I do not think that we should move at night because it is busy on the road... let us trust in God and return tomorrow. They called us at seven o'clock and said that the situation was critical. The next morning, the situation was how you heard. Otherwise, we supposedly should have returned the day before yesterday.</p>
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	I bet you did not eat anything?
Minister of Defense	By God, sir. I feel that I haven't eaten breakfast until now. We came by car. The travel was tiring... the road was damaged...
Operations Assistant	Which road did you come on, sir?
Minister of Defense	When we were departing we took al-Nasiriyah Road and when we were returning we took al-Amarah Road.
Operations Assistant	Both roads (are damaged)... Do you remember the last time we traveled on al-Nasiriyah Road?
Minister of Defense	Cars go by on the roads carrying loads heavier than what they were designed to, which causes the cars to wear out the asphalt, pushing it to both sides of the tire. As it pushes the asphalt to the sides, bumps are created. Low-lying vehicles pound the road when they carry heavy loads. If the vehicle is unstable and it tries to go over an elevated place in the road, it is likely that it will tip over or collide with oncoming traffic. You cannot drive even five kilometers without seeing vehicles that are tipped over or burning, that's not to mention that you will see sections where the asphalt has been worn out (as a result of the weight and the heat). Because of all the holes, drivers are forced to go around them, which causes them to bump into vehicles going the other direction... the road is scary!

[Document Page 37]

Top Secret

Mr. Commander-in-Chief	What is the current status of the force that is at Behemshir Canal?
Minister of Defense	God, sir, Their status is more than good. We were discussing this matter with the army chief of staff Regarding Karun, there were precautions from the first day of crossing the river. The commander of the security base did not conduct reconnaissance so he had to do reconnaissance at night and he did not find anything. Nothing harmful happened. They should organize their affairs today or tomorrow, like the case in Karun.
Military Intelligence Director	Yes, sir.
Minister of Defense	I reached the front group located between the two roads, but I did not go to the security base because I arrived there before day one. It is said that the ground is loose. That could be true, but the film that was shown yesterday indicated that the Cobra vehicles and the vehicles carrying the 106mm cannons crossed, but the bulldozer got stuck.
Operations Assistant	The bulldozer got stuck.
Minister of Defense	Yes, the bulldozer.
Operations Assistant	Yes, sir.
Minister of Defense	I do not know!
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes, yes.
Minister of Defense	I do not hide anything sir, the crossing happened south of 'Abadan Bridge, on the two roads coming from al-Ahwaz and al-Shaykh Badir, which are located 15 to 20 km south of the bridge. This means that the approaches

Full Translation

Page 38

Top Secret

Minister of Defense: I have to tell you, Sir, that the crossing took place to the South of the bridge of Abadan and on both roads coming from Al-Ahwaz and Shaykh (Badir) at a location of (15) to (20) Km to the South of the bridge. This means that the crossroads is about (50) Km from the debouchments... the groundwater was high, Sir, and it looked like the land was (soft) since our vehicle sank at the shoulder of the main road, which required another vehicle to come and pull us out. It seems that the land is tricking where it looks firm, but the minute you step on it you (sink). The second day, they crossed (Bahmashir) Canal and they were successful since the regiment went in with the Cobra groups that carried two or three missiles. It seemed that the regiment was exhausted where they just finished Al-Muhammarah battle and they had shortage in the combat force, yet the force was better than the rest of regiments there and therefore, we resorted to this regiment. The maps show that the forest area is about 0.75-1 Km wide; meaning at the rate of 500 meters. But it seemed that improving the agriculture has increased the width of the forest area to 1.5Km; the same applies to the far bank where the area is not a jungle, but has trees. The crossing depends on the armors and the distance where a tank company was left and therefore, when they (the Iranians) felt that we were heading towards them... towards the village, halfway on the road...

Planning Director: On the dirt road and dirt barrier

Minister of Defense: Exactly, they stopped the reinforcements from going to the bridge. The tank company commander said, "I would go in, but I will sink and get killed between the trees and the palm trees also. They asked for two Commando companies that were supposed to arrive within two hours. But I don't know how and as you can see, sir, the area is big, has no signs and dark and they don't know the area. Therefore, the companies did not arrive; a detachment arrived the next day at (12:00). The Iranians gathered around it in the orchards at the far bank and they started attacking it after crossing at (09:00) where they hit its left wing. The detachment did a counter attack and pushed them back. The Iranians attacked from the right side and the front. The Cobra missiles commander hit them and told the regiment commander, "I have to be behind you so that you will provide protection; otherwise the first Iranian wave that will approach will capture me and take the missiles away from me." Therefore, the regiment commander moved the Cobra group to the back, which gave the front company the impression that this is the beginning of a withdrawal. Therefore, it went back and it was impossible to stop it."

(38-115)

Top Secret

Full Translation

Page 39

Top Secret

President Leader: This is the Iraqi spirit I always feared.

Minister of Defense: And when it goes back it cannot be [UI]

Planning Director: Yes, this is not good.

Minister of Defense: At that time, there was a gap and the enemy put pressure on them. They were exhausted and they gathered by the crossing area.

President Leader: They will definitely afflict more losses to them than if they had resisted; this is a fact principle.

Minister of Defense: It looks like they ran out of ammunition since they resisted with what they had from the morning and all through the night that followed, hoping the bridge will be maintained and they would get troops and ammunitions. But neither human reinforcements nor ammunitions arrived to them and therefore, they gathered together and when the force arrived, it pushed this... (Pointing out)

President Leader: The dividing one

Minister of Defense: The dividing one and they crossed something to them. They were in a delicate situation and that's why some soldiers instead of carrying the ammunition and cross with it, they got in boats and went back to the nearby bank; they had about (35) people between wounded and martyrs, I don't know the number but it will be given in a later on status, as usual. We could have instructed the corps commander who tried his best, as well as the division commander who was also at the location; the operation was very successful, Sir, as you saw it on TV where they walked and crossed as normal, but we hoped they would get reinforcements so that they can expand and align until arranging for a solution, hoping that a tank company would cross to them. The delay in the human and ammunition reinforcements, as well as the tank delay has generated this situation. They have good spirits, Sir, but in this case those who started...

(38-115)
Top Secret

[Document Page 40]

Top Secret

	Solution, I hope to pass to them a company of tanks, the delay in the arrival of human reinforcements, and ammunition, and the delayed tanks created this problem, their moral, sir, is good, but in this case, in which they were harassed.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	This is a common case in war.
Minister of Defense	The force has arrives to them, I expect, God willing, that they have arrived now, Sir, we left them, and they had started in the crossing area, the tanks approached the embankment that overlooks the Behemshir Canal.
Director of Planning	Yes.
Military Operations Director	It has fire superiority.
Minister of Defense	Yes, meaning that it has stayed between the embankment partition of the canal only approximately (1-3 km) plus or minus, the number is not exact. I had seen the force, which arrived, on the road. If it begins from the bridge location, from the bridge area which we tried to cross, it will comb through the liquidation area of the people living there and drive them out of the date field.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	The pocket which is near the edge?
Minister of Defense	Yes Sir, here. (He points)
Army Chief of Staff	Even the people living in the orchards should be removed from there.
Minister of Defense	We will remove them.
Army Chief of Staff	They should be removed.

(39 of 115)

Top Secret

[Document Page 41]

Top Secret

Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Remove them, and keep a reconnaissance force at the last line of contact between the orchards and any other nearby area.
2 nd Division Commander	There are entities to purge them.
Minister of Defense	We have allocated all available artillery to them, which consists of 122 millimeter and 5.5 barrage calibers, and tube launchers. We have deployed them, so they will grind the enemy good and purify this pocket, God willing, and we shall have the power.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	They are currently in the orchards and vulnerable and they have not taken good defense measures. The artillery will definitely harm them.
Minister of Defense	Certainly Sir.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes.
Minister of Defense	According to the information we have received up until yesterday from the aerial reconnaissance, is that there are Mushahif [TN: small fishing boats similar to canoes], boats and other means at their disposal south of Khasrawabad, and that people are moving on the road and there are families headed to al-Shaykh Badir
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	They are sneaking?
Minister of Defense	They are sneaking, exactly, from al-Shaykh Badir to the canal.
Army Chief of Staff	From al-Shaykh Badir to the canal.
Minister of Defense	Children and adults. And the information that we have received indicates that the town's people have left the towns and moved to the orchards in an attempt to avoid the artillery shelling.

(40 of 115)

Top Secret

[Document Page 42]

Top Secret

Mr. Commander-in-Chief	That is also to be expected.
Minister of Defense	Our artillery is targeting the orchards area also since yesterday.
Director of Planning	They will flee.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes.
Minister of Defense	Yes.
Director of Planning	They have to flee.
Minister of Defense	Exactly, eavesdropping confirms that. There are a part of them are in a very bad situation. There were no words to explain their situation, except that they feel, after the bridge was setup, that the next step, as was said by Tariq bin-Zayad, meaning that the second step will kill them, due to the surrounding operation will be very easy.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	It is a hopeless case for them!
Minister of Defense	Yes.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	It is a hopeless case for them, except that they resist, but what can they do? If a person were to come harvest them and prevent them from retreating, what could they do?
Army Chief of Staff	There is a very high probability that the people under siege are participating in the operation against the crossing troops.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	They want to get out.

(41 of 115)

Top Secret

[Document Page 43]

<u>Top Secret</u>	
Army Chief of Staff	This is because their children and their families took up arms and came to fight. There are large numbers between the date fields and the embankment.
Division Commander	We must give them a way for sneaking out. As an army we must give the encircle a way, as a snake path, otherwise he will stay as a cat and kill and be killed, for he will be killed or he will cause death and therefore we will give him a small way as a snake route.
Minister of Defense	Also, comrade Hamid (1 st Division Commander), with these residents, there are those (long beards) which fight at the front, and those (residents) who fight behind them.
Division Commander	Yes, you cannot say that they will cower under the threat of a revolver.
Minister of Defense	Also the Iranian army, sir, their radio stations insult them calling them cowards, meaning that they are described as cowards, this has never happened before even if they were actually cowards, but by God, they are not cowardly, but they are only scared, sir.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	But the provisions (logistical) is their highest priority. Water is the highest priority for them.
Minister of Defense	The provisions (logistical) is their highest priority, sir
Army Chief of Staff	Yes, yes.
Minister of Defense	Moreover, that army understands the situation.
Army Chief of Staff	That those, sir, who are under siege, sir, do not leave a method without trying it.
Minister of Defense	AbuMuthani (Army Chief of Staff), both of those soldiers understand the situation, they use their heads, and they know ahead of time that their battle is lost, meaning that they give away

[Document Page 44]

Top Secret

	Blood, that is un-justified, but it is imposed upon them, for those who admit defeat are killed and those who march willingly are killed. Brigadier General Shakir, did you come before or after the attack?
Director of Planning	I did not witness the encounter attack of course, I explained to Mr. President how is happened.
Minister of Defense	Inexplicable chaos. It is hard to explain from a military perspective.
Director of Planning	You have seen it, you're Excellency.
Minister of Defense	They found a group of them and their hands were severed off from a DShK [TN: Soviet 12.7mm heavy MG] machine gun.
Army Chief of Staff	They brought Turkmen, meaning Azerbaijanis!
Minister of Defense	A group of the bearded ones fell dead behind them.
Army Chief of Staff	A battalion and a company.
Minister of Defense	They brought an armored brigade to an area with no cover, like this opening, they tell them so many lies. Another example of this is that case with the minister. Imagine a minister. Two ministers said to them, go, there is nothing on this dirt road. Check out the structures and come back.
Army Chief of Staff	Three. Three ministers!
Director of Planning	Yes.
Chief of Staff	Yes, the Petroleum Minister and the former Petroleum Minister.

(43 of 115)

Top Secret

[Document Page 45]

Top Secret

Army Chief of Staff	This is who came. The former petroleum minister and the previous health minister, and their counselors were with them. They came on the same road where the operation was.
Minister of Defense	Their bodies were piled in stacks and their remains of their tanks burned. The civilian vehicles came carrying the journalist and they told them to photograph the dead Iraqis.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes, they photographed for their party this way.
Military Operations Director	(Speaking in conversation with another person, indiscernible)
Minister of Defense	I have not seen liars such as these.
1st Division Commander	Sir, I will tell you how.
Army Chief of Staff	Anyone who studies the encountered attack will see that from it comes no military logic or anything else. The battle is happening here and behind them is light water and behind that is the fortification and we found a camp. We always thought there was a camp there. Despite all that happens to their forces, they would not come out to help any person from the fortification (Danah) at all.
Director of Planning	We saw soldiers with them.
Army Chief of Staff	Yes.
Military Intelligence Director	Brigadier General Isma'il (3 rd Corps Commander) said to them to close the guard house door and evacuate them.
Minister of Defense	How is Mahran, Brigadier General Hazim? Mahran, how is it?
2nd Division Commander	By God, Sir, they say good bye to you. The civilians have left it.

(44 of 115)

Top Secret

[Document Page 46]

Top Secret

Mr. Tariq Aziz	Yes, when they saw us, they saw that we were determined. They said, fine, if you want us to participate then we are ready and if not...
Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan	Yes (Completes this conversation)
Army Chief of Staff	Nine O'clock.
Military Intelligence Director	We agree with Mr. Chief of Staff on the basis that it has been suggested to him to spend two days in al-Muhammarah and after that, we head to Dazful. We cannot contact him by phone or no...
Army Chief of Staff	No, no, we will go, we will go, as soon as I get to finish...
Military Intelligence Director	It will be a comprehensive tour of Dazful and al-Ahwaz...God willing.
Director of Planning	It will be good.
Army Chief of Staff	Yes, regarding al-Ahwaz.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	You must agree on a meeting location when you are moving about and do not travel together in a group. Arrange a certain location at a certain time and move around.
Director of Planning	Yes sir...for a reconnaissance plan.
Army Chief of Staff	Plan a reconnaissance to show on it the points where you would be going.
Director of Planning	Yes sir.
Army Chief of Staff	Arrange a meeting, because all of them would witness a certain region...plan a meeting after that...

(30 of 115) [TN: Page is out of order]

Top Secret

[Document Page 47]

Top Secret

Minister of Defense	I think that the world media is trying to scare us over your sector?
2 nd Corps Commander	How?
Minister of Defense	On the premise that the Iranians say that they will conduct operations similar to the ones the conducted (in the old war) in the Mahran sector...in the meantime.
2 nd Corps Commander	Welcome to them, let them come!
Director of Planning	This means, two brigades.
2 nd Corps Commander	I didn't say anything, because I didn't feel anything, why would I say?
Director of Planning	How is the situation now?
Military Intelligence Director	They are being logged now.
2 nd Corps Commander	They achieved it with their limited force which was able to take them to the threshold.
Minister of Defense	I don't think they have provisions (momentum).
2 nd Corps Commander	They have the 24 th Battalion. They moved it yesterday, but I do not know where to?
Minister of Defense	They do not have the push! Even if they sent it to Shahabad.
Military Intelligence Director	Their operational force would be entering your sector now. If they had the capabilities, they would.
Military Intelligence Director	Give it to the Dazful authorities now...with the 7 th and 92 nd Brigades. Most of the 77 th Division's battalions are now in the Kurmanshah sector

[Document Page 48]

Top Secret

	They were left with nothing.
Minister of Defense	Yes, they were left with nothing.
Army Chief of Staff	Ok, but it is threatening the army.
Military Intelligence Director	...completing...except the two divisions in the northern region, the 8 th Division and the 74 th Division... and they are not able to be pulled out due to continuous operations in the north.
Military Operations Director	He says that the prisoners of war are from the army.
Director of Planning	The army arrived to the river...
Minister of Defense	The situation has been calm in the four days preceding it. There has not been anything. We would like to hear the brethren's opinion, on the possibility that there is a place in al-Muhammarah to cross...flexible troops carrying the meaning of manliness and a good healthy situation, with Gods protection and their good situation...and when we are received by them, they receive us with kisses and many greetings to your Excellency and the leadership, their situation is.
Director of Planning	So it is better, Sir
Minister of Defense	Yes, by God, there is no other way it will be...they will not harm us Sir. It will be, God protect us, not more than 40 days, our situation, God be praised, is good.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Good job.
Minister of Defense	They received us well when we arrived near them (jokingly meaning the enemy).
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Who received you...the enemy?

(46 of 115)

Top Secret

[Document Page 491

Top Secret

Director of Planning	Yes, enemy artillery!
Minister of Defense	The ground, Sir, was level, and it appears that they have an observer. We went to see the tanks up close and when we arrived on the street, the car got stuck, then they tried to shell us (grace us) with their artillery.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	They are retaliating! Isn't that right? It is possible that we have accused them of blasphemy! It would seem that they desired this.
Minister of Defense	By God, Sir, it was on time...and yes, what happened, it was a blessing...those (Iranians) people do not understand, but this language...they understood our capacity and wealth of the leadership and the right of their neighborhood as a weak point.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	And even now, even this language they also do not understand.
Minister of Defense	They do not understand it also.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	They should bring them and line them up on the Kharun River and each Iraqi should step on the neck of each Iranian just like the one who is drinking from the river. Each one will see the other being stepped on. Only at that time will they really understand that the Iraqis are stepping on our necks. The problem is that their leadership does not understand the simplest principles of military action, does not understand the simplest principles of psychology, does not understand the simplest principles of economics, and does not see. Yesterday, I was speaking with a Pakistani minister. He said to me, no, they started to understand. I told him that they do not understand. He said, the whole world knows that the Iraqi army is victorious and that they are defeated. I told him that they do not understand, because they do not have an idea of what defeat means. When you say that the fighter remains in the trench for a long period of time, without giving him a mission, and his administrative support is weak. The person addressed should understand what that means, so you can have a conclusion stating that the moral of the fighter will weaken.

[Document Page 50]

Top Secret

The person being addressed should understand all of these words and what they mean...OK...if he does not understand this and does not see it, then he is sitting with fifty bearded persons, the youngest being about seventy years old. If he does not view the television and does not listen to the radio, and does not read the newspapers, or does not attend any discussions of this kind... Someone will come whisper in his ear and say, "the Iraqis came and shot some bullets and we defeated them". People are lying to each other. That is why you see him giving his speech saying that, "someone came and shot at us or threw a stone and then ran away. That is what happened, they threw a stone and ran away". Damn you...Your cities are burning, while we are affected by the least of our casualties from our side, even though we expect that is going to happen. But we feel that because we have an appreciation for the humanitarian side when we visit the families of officers and non-commissioned officers and their children receive us. Therefore, we understand all of it. We understand it because we observe the situation. We see it and keep it in our minds. We can keep it in our minds because it is not something new. It is a result of a complete education that is forty-five years old. [TN: illegible section] of eighty years old, ok, how can we forget? Laughing.

Army Chief of Staff

...with the religious scholars, Sir! Laughing.

Mr. Commander-in-Chief

Lieutenant General 'Abdul Jabar said... God did not dictate to us to undertake this attack without the mullahs. (His Excellency is laughing).

Military Operations Director

Fools...

Army Chief of Staff

I swear by God they are all fools.

Mr. Commander-in-Chief

The situation, the situation is of denial...he will not feel anything until the blood is at his feet...and then he will say to the soldiers, "advance" and the soldiers will say that they will not advance...because you have made me loose my faith...you see that I advance

Full Translation

Page 51

Top Secret

Head of the Council: Because he is going to be killed [Talking about the soldier]

President Leader: Except for this case where the (Iranian) army is going to rebel, crumble and vanish; that's when they will feel the situation.

Minister of Defense: Sir, I heard that some troop members joined the Khomeini Guard; meaning they disintegrated and have no more command. Therefore, they started to fight individually. Who is going to gather those people and give them an order they need to comply with and salute saying, "At your service, Sir," and they start the carry out?

President Leader: This is good because the attacking members are going to leave the army for the Khomeini Guard, not having any of the army's support, reinforcements and technical capabilities that are able to conceive the battles and their commands, etc... therefore, we should think of a way to draw plans to bring those gradually by attacking...

Planning Director: by tricks

President Leader: No, we bring them gradually by making them carry out an attack operation in a clear drawing process, but the Iraqi soldier must bear this situation and not just say it or for (our soldier) to feel this is a defeat situation... what kind of defeat is this!!!

1st Division Commander: We don't have to tell them... it is dangerous to tell them because once they hear a movement...

President Leader: We must educate the soldier on such a case one day before. Tomorrow, we will withdraw before the artillery or other movement starts. You see them sitting and drinking tea or having lunch in bowls...

(49-115)

Top Secret

Full Translation

Page 52

Top Secret

President Leader: We explain to them that tomorrow, we will retreat in an organized way for 2 Km in order to give the enemy the impression that we are defeated so that it will attack us. At this point, we will exterminate it and at this point we will be able to do so otherwise, the minute you tell (Abu-Khalil) to adjust his defense arrangements a little bit you will not be able to stop him; the minute the infantry attack stops, he will consider the case as if he must look back.

Chief of Staff of the Army: He must keep going; he cannot afford to stop! Indeed, this is what truly happened there (when crossing Bahmashir).

President Leader: This is the Iraqi state of mind I have been taking into account for a while; **I** mean for the last seven or eight years when **I** used to meet the comrades at the military office or at the General Command meetings continuously, I used to say we have something missing here [in this situation], the Iraqi must stand the organized withdrawal process according to a plan that requires an attack on the other side... he must stand it since this is the logic and besides, these are lessons obtained since the mankind was created. The Iraqi will not stand it; he would either run or turn around when stopping especially the infantry.

Chief of Staff of the Army: The Germans are the same way.

Military Operation Director: The Chief of Staff of the German Army says the same, Sir

Chief of Staff of the Army: The Germans have this nature.

Military Operation Director: They advance but do not withdraw

Chief of Staff of the Army: This is the way the Russians understood them [the Germans].

Military Operation Director: And that's why, Mr. President, even our advancement was always one step at a time and we will always fear this.

(50-115)

Top Secret

Full Translation

Page 53

Top Secret

Chief of Staff of the Army: Their entire army benefited from this case.

Head of the Council: And that's why our mobile defense fails since we always have to give land.

Military Operation Director: The mobile defense is gone with its school; the mobile defense school died out and so did the mobile defense!

President Leader: I wish we were successful to reach our goals quickly in the first few days, but there was one gap then. When the units that have not been in a combat before fought in the front lines, they were surprised when the enemy fought back and stopped since they have seen the enemy defeated before while it started to fight here. But the troops that eliminated the hostile resistance and continued to advance were not surprised (by the enemy fighting) and considered the matter normal.

2nd Division Commander: But, Sir, what do we call the enemy that attacks a brigade with a platoon force? I have not studied such a case in the military neither have I heard of it during the mobilization!

Head of the Council: this is Al-Milali's mobilization!

2nd Division Commander: What?

Head of the Council: this is Al-Milali's mobilization!

Planning Director: Because the superiority is reversed!!

2nd Division Commander: You see one platoon coming and opening; it opens fire at the brigade while the brigade is holding to its locations in the mountain where the platoon is at the flat land.

Military Operation Director: They don't know.

(51-115)
Top Secret

Full Translation

Page 54

Top Secret

2nd Division Commander: There is no mobilization like this one

Military Operation Director: This is the proof that it is not aware of a brigade in front of it like you said.

2nd Division Commander: It will get destroyed and eliminated.

President Leader: And that's why we must arrange to bring the enemy in gradually in all the divisions' sectors where we deceive it in order to force it or facilitate its mission to attack, or prepare limited units and wait for it carefully so that we can drain it and demoralize it... demoralize it where we don't give it a chance to regain its spirits even at a minimum level... this is the first time I am happy about Hisham's operation if it is really a drawing operation.

Minister of Defense: The first one, Sir?

President Leader: the first

Chief of Staff of the Army: Yes, the first

Operation deputy: The operation of 10/15

Chief of Staff of the Army: He went with a combat group

President Leader: La Ilah Illa Allah [There is no god but God]. How could the Iraqis be able to show such flexibility on the ground with an organized movement to the back where they gave the enemy the chance to leave its defense locations and start attacking and then they attacked it! This is the first time... I said the first time; I hope the Iraqi perceives this situation, God willing.

Minister of Defense: Perceive.

(52-115)

Top Secret

[Document Page 55]

Top Secret

Commander of the Second Division	How then, can a battalion commander attack the tanks with his battalion, and he is in his vehicle? This is the first time that I have seen this situation!
Minister of Defense	How?
Commander of the Second Division	The Battalion Commander of the tanks, they call him the tank regiment, his regiment attacks with the tanks, and he is in the Jeep.
Minister of Defense	To be able to escape easily!
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	They slaughtered Iran...
Minister of Defense	He pursed that, in front of artillery, anti-tank rounds, the marine corps, and the air force and easily succeeded, what is this insanity? In the car!! And his tanks attacking...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	The Division Commander, we have his people as well, his team was approaching al-Ahwaz and he was in the vehicle, as I thought.
Minister of Defense	Mr. Division Commander can, because between him and the line of fire is four times the distance of the artillery ... However the Battalion Commander, as you know sir, was in the middle of the line of fire.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	But then there is dilemma of ensuring contact, from him saying that these vehicles are equipped with communication capabilities to determine the orders?
Minister of Defense	Unless you take the subject of the basic speed and movement.
Commander of the Second Division	But he was strange... He was telling them to give up...Peace.

(53 of 115)

Top Secret

[Document Page 56]

(54 of 115)

Top Secret

Minister of Defense	He can turn himself in!
Commander of the Second Division	I was contacted by the commander of the force... He said, my friend, give me a minute and I will arrest him. But as soon as they captured him they beheaded him. They took his driver, a Corporal electrician... And sent him to intelligence.. We were attacked by (22) tanks, and we arrived with the driver.
Staff Colonel Muhammad Silah Yunus Secretary of the Defense Ministry	Sir, the same case happened in al-Ahwaz when they b(88) tanks attacked the fifth division... the same case, the commander of forces was a passenger in the jeep.
Army Chief of Staff	A Jeep!
Military Operations Director	It seems that he was a passenger.
Chief of Staff	He might be a mechanized officer.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	There were twenty-eight tanks and the commander of forces in the jeep.
Minister of Defense	It is not reasonable, sir...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	It is not necessary to ride by car. You may get disappointing cases of

Top Secret

[Document Page 57]

Top Secret

	<p>this type... As the retreat is painful... and disappointing... disappointment of this type... He will the direction of the tanks and he knows it will be without results, thus they say woe to those of that spirit, pray, I am not the only one, who cares if I die, let me walk to die! These are the disappointing cases... like suicide cases, instead of shooting with a gun he walks towards the tanks. Situations you wouldn't even wish for your enemy, especially when the enemy's intention is to humiliate you.... Cases of despair when you see your entire city attacked by artillery, and when your army is failing, his tanks are in the hand of the enemy. Do you remember the disappointing case of the war (5) June on the Arabs?</p>
Minister of Defense	<p>Yes.</p>
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	<p>Generally, even those who are outside of the country supporting our fight... It was disappointing. (directed to the current minister of defense) Did you stay in the same spot...?</p>
Minister of Defense	<p>By God, sir, we did not...</p>
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	<p>If I were them, I would prefer to regroup.</p>
Minister of Defense	<p>On the first night we were guests to comrade Sa'dun, the second and third night, comrade al-Ghazi al-'Abaydi. After that, we went back to comrade Sa'dun by midday and returned a little before sunset.</p>
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	<p>God give you strength...</p>
Minister of Defense	<p>May God protect you, sir. With difficulty, by God, we were deprived of this opportunity, by God. We were heading for thousands of them.</p>

(55 of 115)

Top Secret

[Document Page 58]

Top Secret

Mr. Commander-in-Chief	No... These are all triumphs... Connected triumphs...
Chief of Staff	We are linked to the kidnapping of the minister, sir. al-`Abud revealed a statement that I said to comrade Jawad, to achieve the disguise of the enemy, with the al-Vibud operation.
Minister of Defense	We set up two places, sir and we definitely took an active section from their tanks against the supports, and that is because they met the first group yesterday...
Director of Planning	Going subject, sir.
Minister of Defense	Yes.
Director of Planning	Yes, completed, sir.
Minister of Defense Mr. Commander-in-Chief	However, we found... It requires cutting down trees, and keeping the front edge near the Behemshir Canal more than other places. Cut down the trees to overlook the canal on the basis that there are more places to cross. Place three lines in front of the trees in main areas covering it, to observe any hostile force, if any, to see the passage area. Then, in the moment of crossing the cut-down trees, leap forward. They will watch in this period, and I do not think that the passing will be surprising.
Minister of Defense	We will, God willing, sir. Just the sections will be difficult for them to determine the areas of crossing... Because of the long front. There, they are prevented from crossing the Shaft al-`Arab, from the Behemshir canal and from al-Muhammarah. There, they are limited in our neighboring sections. Therefore, the group (3rd Corps) is weary and have the right, however we are required to achieve in-depth and constant surveillance on this and we may lose two planes. It is required to anticipate that. Forces may be there

[Document Page 59]

(57 of 115)

Top Secret

	assumed by al-Ahawwan or by Shaykh Badir, otherwise it would have been possible to drive away all forces for strength and pressure against them. But the points to keep in mind are the enabled bridge and two roads (al-Ahawwan — Shaykh Badir) such as Egypt to al-Haqalat could occur. I may have been in the scenario of what happened. I told the Chief of Staff to rule out the reinforcements.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	They have a lot of men in 'Abadan, and that is a total of what they have is just more than two-thousand oil-workers. The locations have been present, among other things, that which the Iranian Oil Minister came to decide to keep them or withdraw them. When a siege happens, they will have to take up arms because their goal is to leave and not for any other purpose. Their purpose is to exit and separate.
Minister of Defense	As we [TN: Illegible] sir, `Abd-al-Dhanah, as we have instructions for your brothers in the armed forces, that who raises the flag and delivers [TN: 2 words], factors [TN: Unintelligible] and the brotherhood [TN: Unintelligible]. We [TN: Illegible, 3 words], because the stage of operations requires this act to reassure them. But with them fighting (if they wanted recognition) I argue to you that there was not a fight... But am certain that they...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	This passing and return will be appropriate for them to flee, as they will say, the Iraqis could separate from us to flee to Iraq and quickly run away.
Minister of Defense	Yes, abandon, by hiding in the orchards and walking until they exit.
Commander of the Second Division	There are companies in India, sir, the Iraqi-English, which is an explanation of [TN: Review end of sentence] .
Minister of Defense	What of those [TN: Unintelligible].

Top Secret

[Document Page 60]

(58 of 115)

Top Secret

Commander of the Second Division	<p>This is soft land. It is present.</p> <p>He is the Iron Harvester... Yes use it.</p> <p>Yes.</p> <p>We have magazines [TN: Illegible]... I did not see it, but it was conveyed to me... Turning in front of the vehicle to walk to it. [TN: Unintelligible].</p> <p>Go open it and walk to it.</p> <p>Go on top of it and press on it... It appears to be showing in the [TN: Illegible].</p> <p>Both... This is what is being perceived. It must be that way.</p> <p>Both, but...</p> <p>Found.</p> <p>But that appeared in [TN: Unintelligible]... al-Muhammarah people lived in al-Muhammarah!</p> <p>By God, our army group were not there except the people, Army Chief of Staff of the people security said that there a family was returning, I do not know why... Where are they returning? This is very dangerous!</p> <p>Yes... I said to him... No... For them to leave... [TN: Unintelligible, 4 words] today</p>
Chief of Staff	
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	
Commander of the Second Division	
Minister of Defense	
Commander of the Second Division	
Minister of Defense	
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	
Military Operations Director	
Commander of the Second Division	
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	
Army Chief of Staff	
Mr. Commander-in Chief	
Army Chief of Staff	

Top Secret

[Document Page 61]

Top Secret

	to the province to get them out.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	This command [TN: Illegible, 3 words] where we work, where the army works in al-Din, civilians are not allowed with it.
Minister of Defense	Sir, it seemed to be destruction for us, I tried to send your assignment for Mr. Nakim.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes, it is not harmful, however it is important to no longer be civil with the divisions.
Minister of Defense	Sir, when you establish homes and areas...
Military Operations Director	Sir, I am afraid there's going to be an exodus, sir.
Minister of Defense	In other words, these deserters will launch sniper operations, or mines, random searches, therefore, we [TN: Illegible] in order to separate themselves from everything so that there will not be a chance for him to disappear, and there is no one where he is, at his house. We started deconstructing it [TN: Illegible] and [TN: Illegible] the bulldozers worked on the demolition four days ago, however it is big, sir. But as they said, it is completely empty. I went from its northeastern edge in order to go to the entrance from the [TN: Illegible, 2 words]. It seems that the northern area of Muhammarah may become an industrial area, like this found in the north of the disturbed governance, the area of the large train station, customs area. There are a lot of cables and steel, [TN: Illegible], wood, drums, and widgets... You will also find, sir, [TN: Illegible] vehicles, [TN: Illegible] sheds, and vehicles scattered to the left and right of the road. There are broken electrical wires fallen on the ground. The city is vacant and there is no house, only the effects of...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Where are the electrical areas located in al-Muhammarah...Have you seen it?
Minister of Defense	I have not seen it... I do not know where the electrical areas are... There are high

[Document Page 62]

Top Secret

<p>Army Chief of Staff</p>	<p>lines coming from 'Abadan... from al-Daz... from [TN: Illegible] al-Daz.</p>
<p>Minister of Defense</p>	<p>On the border of Shaykh Badir.</p>
<p>Army Chief of Staff</p>	<p>Lines come with a central way to meet and enter into the station, a large transfer in 'Abadan, and I think that it is distributed to 'Abadan and al-Muhammarah. When our tank division attacked and the tank artillery hit the towers and collapsed them, as well as the wires and iron. [TN: Illegible] and was very destroyed, there is a pipeline... [TN: Illegible, 2 words], detonated it, and flames rushed from it, indicating the presence of oil in it... there are more places [TN: Illegible].</p>
<p>Minister of Defense</p>	<p>But now there are many fires in it, so the atmosphere was of low quality, with the smoke.</p>
<p>Military Operations Director</p>	<p>After passing there was a higher intensity of the army from all sides. It seems we have hit areas we do not know, or we do not know that were in it, like fuel, and equipment, we have gotten blasts, smoke and large fires... As received in 'Abadan in the days [TN: Illegible]</p>
<p>Minister of Defense</p>	<p>Yes, sir.</p>
<p>Mr. Commander-in-Chief</p>	<p>Therefore, the city was covered yesterday with a lot of smoke from its location. I have doubt, sir, of the civilians' survival. There may be parts of houses in it, some civilians, but the rest, the women and children, left it.</p>
<p>Minister of Defense</p>	<p>'Abadan?</p>
<p>Mr. Commander-in-Chief</p>	<p>'Abadan.</p>
<p>Minister of Defense</p>	<p>But it is required from the demolition, if people of 'Abadan know that al-Muhammarah is destroyed,</p>

[Document Page 63]

Top Secret

there will not be one that did not fight to defend his home. To that, women and children will leave, but all of the men will fight defending their homes... Leave all other considerations... but the people defend their homes.

Minister of Defense

This is true, sir... 'Abadan is an industrial establishment... and the houses, they own the facilities, any to the country.

Mr. Commander-in-Chief

To the country?

Minister of Defense

To the country.

Mr. Commander-in- Chief

Yes...These are easy.

Minister of Defense

There is [TN: Unintelligible]... The coordinates were not obvious on the map.

Mr. Commander-in-Chief

By God... The maps, of course.

Minister of Defense

Mr. Commander-in-Chief

Their maps, sir.

Minister of Defense

Their maps...

Military Intelligence Director

Their own maps scaled 1/5000. That is to say they are bigger than our maps.

Minister of Defense

By God, excellent, sir. We will send for all of the coordinates. Each of theirs according to the complete set we send to them.

Military Intelligence Director

Photographed or what?

We have many copies we obtained from them.

(61 of 115)

Top Secret

[Document Page 64]

Top Secret

(62 of 115)

Minister of Defense	Scale 1/5000?
Military Intelligence Director	By the scale 1/5000 and color.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Prisoners... Are they not prisoners?
Military Intelligence Director	Both compounds... Nearly all of al-Muhammarah headquarters compounds...
Secretary of the Defense Ministry	From the base (al-Dajj) in al-Muhammarah, sir.
Military Intelligence Director	al-Dajj base.
Army Chief of Staff	In al-Dajj base there are a number of good maps.
	All maps of Iran?
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes, sir.
Military Intelligence Director	All maps of Iran!
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Both, sir. Such as we have goals... But there, the maps of the area are slightly to the east and not far away.
Military Intelligence Director	
Minister of Defense	Like us, sir. The intelligence gave the maps to the units after approval of the movements to each of their divisions because many of them become a burden on the command.

Top Secret

[Document Page 65]

Top Secret

Military Intelligence Director	A special scale...Many requests have been put aside to cover areas and name because the scale 50,000/1 required a large space.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	We sent for the Brotherhood Division leaders and the sixth and ninth division Commanders yesterday, and Brigadier General Hamid (1 st Battalion Commander) and Brigadier General Hazim (4 th Battalion Commander) today.
Minister of Defense	Thank God, it is also time for us to see them.
Commander of the First Division	God (thank God) brought us to you...
Minister of Defense	For us to see them and ask them.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Remember the year of 63 when I got the movement (July 3 rd) I think it was...
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	Yes, sir, at the al-Rashid Base.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	The Communist movement at the al-Rashid Base... When they arrested half of our entire command?
Chief of Staff	Yes, that...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Two members of command...
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	They entered the base...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	They went, not knowing what the objective was...experience... this system was ruined... We were like that; we were a ruined system. A mess, ok, they said to them they have a coup in the al-Rashid Base, and they were command, how does everyone go

(63 of 115)

Top Secret

[Document Page 66]

<u>Top Secret</u>	
	Carrying pistols... They held at the gate of the base and they are expected to fight for the leadership... Abu-Khalil, is it not? They shouted, "Stop...stop," and they were found in a room... It is good that they did not kill them.
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	Yes. They survived, sir.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	I was wondering about the song showed on the television... They are Abu-Khalil (soldiers). Right.
Military Operations Director	Yes, sir... They insulted his political guidance... It was good luck.
Chief of Intelligence	I told the Iranian Minister of Oil (the prisoner), "How do you think the result of the war will be"... He said that your army is better than our army and I saw this, I mean, you are armed well and have more weapons than us. So I said to him, "Iron weapons or not, what fights is the heart... You are, as the people say, one of (36) million, as you claim... and the Shah of Iran has appropriated many weapons and equipment for you." He said, "This is not relevant, our army is not controlled." And I said to him, "What is the result?" He said the leadership sees that the army is not capable of doing anything...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes...?
Chief of Intelligence	In the process of appealing killing half of us and the rest...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	No... tell him we are killing you, all of you (you disgrace)... Why half of you?
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	He wants to do a demonstration... Is that true?
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Tell him we want this demonstration, 1000.

[Document Page 67]

<u>Top Secret</u>	
Chief of Intelligence	By imposing that he invited and armed them, and released armed people.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Has his appeal not been brought forward until now?! He put forward hundreds of appeals! Minister doesn't hate his damned parents! He (al-Khomeini) faced appeals and I assumed that he declared jihad...
Minister of Oil	Yes, sir... more than an appeal, sir.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	And after the appeals the number of volunteers has become twenty-thousand... Sahil informed you?
Director of Planning	Yes, yes.
Chief of Intelligence	He told us the entire revolution was by al-Khomeini... I said to him, "What about the strengths of Guadalupe? He said, "What is this Guadalupe? Where is it located? What is this conference?" I said to him, " It is the name of the General al-Arayki, (General Howard) who came to Tehran and met with the officers...
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	Do they still have oil?
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	No more than three places that have oil in it.
Chief of Intelligence	We took the role (Sequentially).
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	In four places... First, they have the occupied Arab Islands... If they agree with this (foolish) Shaykh al-Sharqah, and they have...
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	Yes. But this is a small amount, sir.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	The whole production is one hundred fifty thousand barrels... They have in the Slayhan Mosque and to the east

(## of 115)
Top Secret

[Document Page 68]

	<u>Top Secret</u>
	of al-Ahwaz and in Azerbaijan and of this Iranian's great depth.
Mr. Tariq Aziz	Yes... Has (the Minister of Prisoners) spoken about the effect of the energy decrease of the military machines?
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	I don't think he knows.
Chief of Intelligence	We asked him, he said that the army took oil from us a while ago... I do not know how there will be enough of them, and how there will be enough people. But, he said that the amount that it takes is little.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	What?
Chief of Intelligence	He said that the amount it takes is not a lot.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	It would be better to direct the prison to not tell him (Minister of Oil) that we gave a statement about his capture.
Chief of Intelligence	Yes, sir.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	In order to not tell him that someone (filed) he does not understand something on the subject and tell him we gave statements about you, and ruin everything we have worked for. We have forgotten this subject... for when he hears his name.
Chief of Staff	Yes.
Chief of Intelligence	He is beginning to not cooperate!
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes.
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	If the television is put in his room for him, then of course he will know.

[Document Page 69]

(67 of 115)

Top Secret

Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes, we forget this...
Military of Operations Director	Tell him this statement... News says that he murdered and mentioned the name.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes... You are telling them insults... Tell him (they said about you) you are an insult to me, they put you in the light, and the result is that they will say that he has died, or they will say that he has lived.
Military Operations Director	Yes, sir.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Aba-Muhammad (Chief of Intelligence) I'm afraid that he hears his name on the television when he is near his television.
Chief of Intelligence	No, sir... Share a concern now... They say that it is only to spite people, who contacted by telephone... He said he was sitting near me, but there was a faint sound of a television.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes, good... ok... If he heard his name, to tell him that he [TN: Illegible].
Chief of Intelligence	Yes.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	...In order to put you with the image- and the result will say that he died or say that he had recovered.
Chief of Intelligence	But they cut the sound of the television, in order to manifest his voice, as you know, sir.
Chief of Staff	Iran without a minister of oil!
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	What?

Top Secret

[Document Page 70]

Top Secret

Chief of Staff	Security has reported that Iran has no oil... Tomorrow they will say that Iran has no minister of oil.
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	They reported on this plane... Do [TN: Illegible, 3 words]
Chief of Intelligence	Are they, Mr. Tariq?
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	Yes, they reported... They said that Iraqi planes hit a [TN: Illegible] plane in Iranian airspace... [TN: Illegible] plane...
Air Force Commander	They reported this today?
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	They reported it yesterday... I read it today in [TN: Illegible].
Chief of Staff	Is it through the [TN: Illegible, variables, changes?]
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	No, it was today.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes, they reported about it...Where (VIP) people understood well.
Air Force Commander	Now, they are only to be raised around (100km) beyond the field (Corridor) of airline borders.
Chief of Staff	No luck today, by God.
Air Force Commander	That means that it is in their intentions also.
Chief of Staff	I flew today from Dayr al-Zur.
Air Force Commander	They are flying from Dayr al-Zur and unload them and form [TN: Illegible, 2 words].

(68 of 115)

Top Secret

[Document Page 71]

Top Secret

Air Force Commander	How are you giving them, Turkey the area in this case. They are flying a lot.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	As for you inviting the Turkish ambassador? Told him I mean...
Chief of Staff	We demanded of him on the line.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	He said to him this will prolong the end, and subject the situation that we are talking about to you to danger. Why so the airlift that is being accomplished is completely operational... In that it appears on the radar screen before us, it is said that the number of flights is the same number of flights as before the war isn't correct. We are allowed to say to you that this is not true. If so then (the picture) before us is clear and it does appear to be clear, before you on the radar screen also.
Chief of Staff	Here are the numbers, Sir.
Air Force Commander	With all the times and distances.
Chief of Staff	Did you give us any of it?
Air Force Commander	I gave you all of it from the first day to the last day.
Chief of Staff	Good.
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	We see the number of flights... and the numbers of this is all of it... where are the activities of air transport.
Chief of Staff	The British newspaper mentioned it.
Assistant for Operations	Thus the news agencies sent it, the airplanes, actually, were Iranian as was shown

(69 of 115)

Top Secret

[Document Page 72]

(70 of 115)

Top Secret

Chief of Intelligence	(The Turks) want to keep a good relationship with both sides during the war.
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	Their policy is two-sided.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	The Turks are always like that.
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	Indeed!
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Always like dogs!
Military Operations Director	He is working against this war.
Chief of Intelligence	If we carried out an operation... even if it is a battlefield... in this case, the planes are a matter for our own side...
Chief of Staff	... When it is raised high... it appears...
Air Force Commander	After our operation, Sir, the Syrians fly now with them (the Iranian planes) in defending the Turkish border from what the radar shows.
Chief of Intelligence	The conference that addresses the subject with Mr. Taha.
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	What does Syria have for airports — don't they have only the Damascus International Airport?
Mr. Commander-in Chief	In Dayr al-Zur, the Syrian resistance can be supplied with the Strela.
Chief of Intelligence	a SAM...

Top Secret

[Document Page 73]

Top Secret

Mr. Commander-in-Chief	They can get it nightly...
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	Sir, I don't think that the airport at Dayr al-Zur is an international airport.
Chief of Staff	I was informed about it. It is capable.
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	It is capable of handling Jumbos?
Chief of Intelligence	Unless they were to develop it.
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	We know the airport at Dayr al-Zur. It has had planes land there previously.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes, they can develop it also Abu-Ziyad.
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	You mentioned, sir, these planes that go to the closer eastern Kurdish area (Syria) ... The airport that is capable of handling Boeing 707s is the Latakia airport and that is a basically a military airport, but it is capable of handling 707s. Ahmad Iskandar told me about it when we landed there.
Chief of Staff	I believe that there is sufficient capacity in terms of tonnage.
Air Force Commander	The length of it is three to three and a half kilometers, any airplane can land there.
Chief of Intelligence	Fighter planes need a special landing length.
Air Force Commander	In the take-off and landing... in the take-off, basically, if it were loaded.
Chief of Intelligence	If (the runway length) was three kilometers and a half, it is sufficient I imagine.

(71 of 115)

Top Secret

[Document Page 74]

Top Secret

Air Force Commander	And enough for landing.
Chief of Intelligence	But there remains the subject of pressure, because of the weight of the jumbo.
Air Force Commander	For landing it needs a long distance, but when it takes off it does not because it obtains lift and it does not get momentum on the ground.
Chief of Intelligence	Nothing. Yesterday, we talked to Lieutenant General Jinab about the group of airplanes (Boeing) 764 — 777 — 767 — 727 explaining that they are ready to go.
Chief of Staff	Ready.
Military Operations Director	Yes.
Director of Planning	Planes are good but they are used.
Chief of Intelligence	Nineteen planes in addition to the other planes.
Air Force Commander	A squadron of Mig-23 planes and a squadron of helicopters.
Chief of Staff	Here you have the news, yesterday, saying that France will deliver the planes two months before it was promised.
Military Operations Director	I heard the news of sixteen planes.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	It is not the French, the reporters that were in France, this is an attempt now to put pressure on France as such...
Director of Planning	They learned that with today (Simcha Dinitz) this Israeli

(72 of 115)

Top Secret

[Document Page 75]

Top Secret

(73 of 115)

Mr. Tariq `Aziz	Is Deputy Prime Minister.
Director of Planning	Is Deputy Prime Minister, who said that the French are trying to exploit the circumstances... in that the Zionists, actually, are trying to put pressure on.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Zionism how can it not? The Zionist position was calculated precisely even before the Zionist war began, and when they calculated precisely there is no deviation from it to leave this position. It is a part of their security. Isn't it good that they did not know? For what if these (opportunists) had exited from this war, what would have been left before them... the usurped land is not very much... what must the man do except (mutter) to himself, if he finds himself in the sea.
Chief of Intelligence	He jumped in by God, Sir.
Director of Planning Mr. Commander-in-Chief	The Syrian front is 50 kilometers...the whole front, sir, is 50 kilometers. Especially from the Jordan front... it is a disaster for them... a disaster, what can they do but (mutter), Abu-Khalil, their strength and they will find themselves sitting in the sea...
Chief of Intelligence	Yes... he jumps in.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	I mean it is only some 20 kilometers to cross over, so that the Zionist cities will all be under the hammering of artillery.
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	Enemy artillery.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	The enemy artillery... how will these bear such as this talk...?
Director of Planning	From the whole area of Umm-Qays...

Top Secret

[Document Page 76]

Top Secret

Mr. Commander-in-Chief	... There is no escape for them except by using the indicated weapons... So that these meanings became small, they are unable to use it... thus it was not connected as anti-Iraq. This is the plan that they have had secretly since the year ('69), yet it is forever. If the media relayed and it was mentioned to you as a thing stronger for us, you see them knocking it in a way not open to doubt...
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	On the nuclear technology?
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	All of it... they are knocking down Iraq.
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	Iraq is enough.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	The knocking began in the year (69).
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	The year (69) but after (75) they began to worry a lot, in the media of (75) and (76) when the role of Iraq was prominent and the revolution as a firm force...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	They began to worry when Iraq began to advance scientifically in building the state and in building the economy, and when it had an effect on the western technology and when it had an effect on policy and it could obtain western technology, and the rings that the Zionists crossed were not permitted it, they began to worry in the year (74) since my visit to France.
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	Yes.
Mr. Command-in-Chief	... Since my meeting with (Chirac), it was explained to him the role of Iraq and its future in the region, and the connection between the unity of the Arab people and their importance and the role of Iraq in leading them and the unity of Europe and their importance and the role of France in leading them.
Mr. Barzan	Sir, the Zionists began to take interest and a greater share towards Iraq,

(74of 115)

Top Secret

[Document Page 77]

Top Secret

<p>Mr. Barzan</p>	<p>in the war, and in the latest period, with the Iraqi economy, and the diplomatic activities (Iraqi) by which we were winning diplomatic battles on the international level and on the public level. All of this clarified the final look of (the Zionists) in addition to an accurate personalization of specific elements in the Iraqi regime, for we have to take that into account, and calculate the big things on the international and military levels. The Israelis, now, do not benefit from unilateral activities. They are not dominant in a direct manner or by proxy, these people who were determined as dangerous to them. It was announced that they had done assassination operations and that is the easiest for them...</p>
<p>Mr. Commander-in-Chief</p>	<p>0 Barzan. You mentioned that I was analyzing early on. How can it be that Israel uses the Kurdish elements in obtaining information on the Iraqi army and very early, it began in 1980 to warn the people who worked in public relations that had developed the general intelligence service. It said to them that the Zionists no longer had networks formed in the way found in the traditional states, because the Jews who remained in Iraq, first they are a small minority or that he came as a foreigner to Iraq and convinced them to work with them. In that the foreigner who came to Iraq will come with some contract that he ends unless he leaves. Then came the execution of fourteen (spies) and their connection in the public squares meeting any foreigner. He knows that spying means cutting off his head and according to the Iraqis that if he did not take a commission then his affair was threatened. Then how if it was a case of spying, that it began to change its policy in the area of Arab interests, and in Iraq, especially through opposition, then it found an agent among the ranks of the Palestinian organizations. If it was able to come by one of its offices (in Iraq), then this is the demand. Just as a strong connection was found with the Iranian SAVAK whether in a direct or indirect way. It demands from them that they pass on the following information about the Iraqi army, the Iraqi economy. The Kurd comes by the information through luck</p>

(75 of 115)

Top Secret

[Document Page 78]

Top Secret

~~Mr. Commander in Chief~~ in gathering the information about this or that. The Iraqi-Kurd meaning he is found beside me and beside you, and beside the others, that the available information about Iraq goes to Tel Aviv. Thus at the same time of the assassinations that I was afraid of, they were warning him on my accounts, he is that which comes not from the Iraqi of mere opposition but as a paid informant secretly and by the design of the technical operation and with the knowledge of the accurate information. Thus it stopped taking one from the accounts of Israel in the time before the collapse of the agent's pocket. I was at that stage very cautious because I had put in my accounts that it could be these terrorists. The technical plan is Zionist but the application is Iraqi-Kurdish without his firm knowledge but he is bound by his desire, but the other Zionist practical purpose is verified. Hello, my brother (to the Minister of Defense who had appeared in the meeting).

Military Operations Director (to the Minister of Defense) May God hold you in esteem, sir.

Minister of Defense May God hold you in esteem...

Mr. Tariq `Aziz Greetings, Abu-`Ali

Minister of Defense Greetings to you.

Mr. Tariq `Aziz How are you?

Minister of Defense How is your health?

Mr. Tariq `Aziz We missed you.

Minister of Defense God keep you... Hello, Abu `Umar...God is your strength, how is the Air Force?

Air Force Commander Well, Sir.

(76 of 115)

Top Secret

[Document Page 79]

(77 of 115)

Top Secret

Minister of Defense	God willing, it is well... what have we lost today?
Air Force Commander	A Mig 21, Sir.
Minister of Defense	Where?
Air Force Commander	It was...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	May God hold you in esteem...
Minister of Defense	May God hold you in wellness, sir
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	This plane was it today or yesterday?
Air Force Commander	By God, it was today... we lost one... we had a strike near Dazful on the sugar plant... both... at Ahvaz, excuse me...
Minister of Defense	
Air Force Commander	Both... striking the sugar plant there, then we sent two defensive airplanes because there were many Hawk batteries in that area. The missile planes did their duty and returned; one of the scouting planes was hit.
Minister of Defense	Bailed out or not?
Air Force Commander	
Military Operations Director	No, by God, sir, we do not know... No... the pilot bailed out.

Top Secret

[Document Page 80]

Top Secret

Chief of Intelligence	He bailed.
Air Force Commander	It was not confirmed... in the previous time, our units confirmed it because it was hit after that.
Minister of Defense	Did they bring you the Mig-21 missile that remained?
Air Force Commander	I showed it yesterday to Mr. Commander-in-Chief
Minister of Defense	Yes, sir... this has not happened in the world of aircraft.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	This that was done by missile? Definitely... if this had happened to Khomeini he would have made a thousand stories about it.
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	He would have said... until now they are saying that the issue of the American campaign is that it is the radar of God which shot down the airplane.
Minister of Defense	When was it hit on this day?
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	That these are not surprised that they planned for them in indirect or direct special military operations.
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	For the Iranians?
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	For the Iranians.
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	Yes.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Of course, if their presence (the Zionists) among the army officers and their actual presence for the Zionists was through the American relations.

(78 of 115)

Top Secret

[Document Page 81]

(79 of 115)

Top Secret

Mr. Tariq `Aziz	Yes.
Military Operations Director	The important thing is the implementation... the planning is easy, but the important thing is doing it, of these this is their level.
Minister of Defense	Roger; sir, and we did not receive an answer about it.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes, until the Iran-Iraq war, they wanted it on condition of the defeat of Iraq, but when Iraq is the one who defeats Iran, they act as if it did not happen, because it will give a big boost of morale to Iraq especially and to the Arabs. And at the same time a lesson in the broadest sense by fighting for two months, the Arabs are fighting at the utmost in the Two Month War, how many days...?
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	Two weeks...
Military Operations Director	Seventeen days...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Two weeks, in two weeks the people do not connect that to know what the issue was? If the war were extended to discover the gaps that we had, in our weapons, in our equipment, in our people, in the mental aspect. In the blood of its people, and this was their plan... we announced the imprisonment of the minister...
Minister of Defense	The minister'?
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes. We were afraid that he would leave with them as a smart person; he was made to resign when he became a former minister.
Chief of Intelligence	The newspapers started to hit on the issue of 'Abadan, and they said this is the critical point, and they said in it if 'Abadan fell and Iraq put its hands on it then this indicates clearly to Iran that it is unable to accomplish

Top Secret

[Document Page 82]

Top Secret

(80 of 115)

Chief of Intelligence	anything against Iraq or to defeat it.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	They do not say forever.
Chief of Intelligence	Yes.
Military Operations Director	We do not say it.
Chief of Intelligence	As in yes.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	They do want that, (the accursed). Whatever it is.
Chief of Intelligence	Yes.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	It is not... they want it as a burning preoccupation, good.
Director of Planning	Just as we do not enter, sir.
Chief of Intelligence	By God, in this case they are faced with artillery.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	They are hit by mortars and by projectiles (RPG) so we continue at our pleasure.
Chief of Intelligence	And if they said, It will put on them internal pressure, and Arab pressure and they might fail in these goals after a time. You have to keep that in mind for we did not say this.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	We will explain all of it to the people... when is the scheduled press conference?
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	At your pleasure, sir, we are ready.
	No... We are all agreed.

Top Secret

[Document Page 83]

(81 of 115)

Top Secret

Mr. Tariq `Aziz	Sir, there is concern on Tuesday and Wednesday, they are ready.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes, Monday or Tuesday.
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	Tomorrow?
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	After tomorrow.
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	Tuesday... but we addressed it today, I and Comrade Latif (Latif Nasib Jasim) that Tuesday, is the day of the American election.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Then it goes... I gave them an area for the election.
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	We said for the next week...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	True.
The Senior Bodyguard, (Lieutenant Colonel Sabah Waza)	Sir, the Egyptian charge d'affaires has come.
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	Elections and it brings interference in the conference.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	(with the senior bodyguard) You have him?
The Senior Bodyguard	No, sir... all of those sitting are members of the leadership.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	We will come now.
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	It will bring interference in the conference, it will be investigated by us.

Top Secret

[Document Page 84]

(82 of 115)

Top Secret

Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes, true.
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	The American elections take up a period of four or five days.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Your thinking is controlled, in its place.
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	Therefore, next Monday, God willing.
Minister of Defense	Sir, I understood that the French television, is reporting a lot of special matters about the situation and internal events (in Iran) like a photographer for (illegible word) in Tehran, where they were giving the citizens a piece of bread and soup that looks like Similac with milk spooned in.
Military Operations Director	Soup...
Minister of Defense	Are the cultural attaches sleeping, meaning...?
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	This we have on it... the funnel what is its name...?
Chief of Staff	Yes, Mahkan [TN: dialect name for funnel]
Chief of Intelligence	Not everyone says Mahqan [TN: another dialect name]
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Mahqan — everyone — it is not Mahkan... the Mahkan is for milk.
Air Force Commander	Malkaf [TN: another dialect name]
Chief of Intelligence	An oil funnel.
Military Operations Director	We call it (Gila).

Top Secret

[Document Page 85]

Top Secret

Air Force Commander	Gila, yes.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	The malkaf is for water.
Air Force Commander	For water.
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	The oil funnel's name is (Rihati).
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	It looks like the (Mahkan).
Minister of Defense	Rihati.
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	Yes.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	It is like the (Mahkan).
Minister of Defense	Yes.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	For oil, and we have touched on this machine...
Director of Planning	Yes, sir.
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	This is something else... Of course this up till now.
Chief of Staff	Up till now.
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	In the oil can. No... what Comrade `Adnan means, I believe, is that it resembles (the Rihati) an instrument, sir. We forgot it, sir.
Chief of Staff	

[Document Page 86]

Top Secret

Mr. Tariq `Aziz	An instrument for putting it in the bottle, it is like (the Rihati) closing it down and after that putting it in and opening the full bottle.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	We prepared the instructions but now we did not get anything. I thought we told the military, press, and cultural attaches to record for us from the televisions anything important, concerning Iran, to record it and send it as a tape from Europe.
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	Sir, they are able to until the Baghdad stations buy it, it is not necessary except that they record the information.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	...We are prepared to buy, and we said to Comrade Latif also and earlier even that we heard in the conference, we heard that the satellite reports the battles, excuse me, we said to him, buy it for us at any price, we have not heard anything up to now.
Chief of Staff Mr. Tariq Aziz	No... you said that the satellite took our same films, as Comrade Latif said. As in that the satellite does not record television sir.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	How...
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	This I know.
Chief of Staff	We fixed it and it is receiving.
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	Meaning this is a strategic military satellite, it does not have information that it receives.
Chief of Intelligence	Why Mr. Tariq... I heard during the war of 67, when Hamad was with you in '67, it said we are not doing anything in front of the television and we watched the Israeli flights and how...

(84 of 115)

Top Secret

[Document Page 87]

(85 of 115)

Top Secret

Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Is this a suburb of `Abadad... isn't that so? (His Excellency is referring to a television clip).
Director of Planning	Yes, sir.
Air Force Commander	They took it away.
Director of Planning	This was given to us pointing to these southern extensions of 'Abadan.
Air Force Commander	The `Abud area.
Director of Planning	The `Abud area, sir.
Minister of Defense (whispering)	It came in the Soviet news... as an interview, Mr. President... a note
Chief of Intelligence	Yes.
Minister of Defense	Like the Iraqi Consulate (in Al-Muhammarah) when the reports that were given by the Arabstanis, filed in their name explicitly.
Military Operations Director	I cannot imagine, by God, that this came to us...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Now...?
Minister of Defense	It's a big load. I told them I sent it to the Chief of Intelligence to submit it to Mr. President for him to see.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Now...
Minister of Defense	It can be up to 35-45 files.

Top Secret

[Document Page 88]

Top Secret

Chief of Intelligence	Who wrote the reports?
Minister of Defense	By God, it is from the Arabstanis only who had provided us with it.
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	We have a consulate in AI-Muhammarah.
Minister of Defense	I told them this time to put it in a big cardboard box.
Chief of Intelligence	Good, why did he say he succeeded in burning all of it?
Director of Planning	Never... never, I did it sir.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	See that it comes until you see who the author is. Learn how trustworthy they are and what is usual.
Minister of Defense	It has not come to my eyes...
Director of Planning	Mr. Minister has commented...
Chief of Intelligence	Because the first has not been started... he said the position is...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	That I mentioned the messages...
Chief of Intelligence	Yes.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	I saw it until I get confirmation from you.
Chief of Intelligence	Yes, you asked, Your Honor.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes, yes.

[Document Page 89]

(87 of 115)

Top Secret

Chief of Intelligence	I sent it on completion, and asked him in a long session, and I checked the accuracy of the details of the matter, sir. I asked him what was done; he said it was finished on covering the incident that occurred. I told him, it must be on this subject an article published in a newspaper.
Chief of Staff	
Chief of Intelligence	In a paper, sir, I remember now.
Minister of Defense	I am reassured and he said there is nothing.
Military Operations Director	It may be... a misunderstanding.
Minister of Defense	
	Sir, that it...
Military Operations Director	Yes, yes, I know... I talked to the intelligence service by telephone and told them the files from the Third Corps that I am sending, they are to send them to the Chief of Intelligence
	Yes, sir. Your command sir. Yes sir.

Top Secret

[Document Page 90]

(88 of 115)

Top Secret

Tape Number	(3) (from the Bureau of Information)
Date of Tape	2/11/1980
The Attendees	
Mr. President, the Majestic Pillar, Saddam Hussein	Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces (God preserve him)
Mr. Tariq Hamad al-` Abdallah	Chief of Staff of the Office of the Presidency of the Republic
Mr. Barzan Ibrahim	Chief of Intelligence
Staff Lieutenant General `Abd-al-Jabar Abd-al-Rahim	Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army for Operations
Staff Vice Marshal Muhammad Jasim al-Jiburi	Commander of the Air Force and Air Defense
Staff Brigadier General Shakir Wahir al-Amarah	Director of Planning
Staff Colonel Maysir Ibrahim Hamadi	Military Operations Director

Top Secret

Full Translation

Page 91

Top Secret

Air Force Commander: It is ridiculous

President Leader: Yes, we were having fun with it

Operation deputy: This is from Zaradasht protectorate; Zaradasht is in the North.

Military Operation Director: Sir, this is in the North (Pointing out at the map)

President Leader: Up top

Operation deputy: To the 94th Division Command / [UI] [Administrative] district of Orumiyeh Province; it reads, "The people in the city of Zaradasht and its outskirts lack the fuel and other necessary commodities; some of them who live an extremely bad situation follow-up with the protectorate everyday and ask for help in order to get the bread and food. On the other side, and despite the large number of wounded, the city hospital lacks the fuel, as well as the flour and rice to cook it and serve it to the patients. This protectorate supplies the hospital with flour and taking into consideration the cold weather of this region, the patients are subject to cold and the only room (to conduct) operations in this hospital, which should be ready and prepared for the surgical operations of wounded people, lacks the electricity and the electric generator of the hospital is not working, which causes the deterioration of the health of patients day after day. We ask for your help and we hope that the officials in the country would take an immediate action regarding this sensitive situation and this cold season for the sake of poor families, so that we don't face problems as a result of the lack of fuel, water and electricity. Please send us your higher orders quickly. Zaradasht is also one of the big cities, of course!

President Leader: Winter is going to cause them big harm, but we need you, Major General Mohamed, to prepare a plan and have determination before they realize he [the Minister] was captured according to the information given by the minister, because once they know that we have their minister they will make special arrangements for all the targets he [the Minister] knows.

(89-115)

Top Secret

Full Translation

Page 92

Top Secret

Air Force Commander: yes, Sir, I agreed yesterday with comrade Abd-al-Juwad that he will define for us accurately the oil locations that are the most important for them. They are two pumps; the first one near Dezful and by our troops; this one pumps to Tehran and our troops can handle this pump meaning even by artillery since it is very close. The rest of the information...

President Leader: Our artillery will handle it with the help of God when we are on the hill.

Air Force Commander: Yes

Military Operation Director: Today also, Sir, we received a letter from the 5th division... pardon me, the 9th division indicating they have found an oil well or an oil institution buried in the ground in their sector, Sir, to the South of Al-Hamidiyah Camp; I mean within the control of our troops where there is a battle group. The public Oil Institution of the South was notified, Sir.

President Leader: Have one of their experts go so that he can decide on the way to destroy it.

Military Operation Director: Yes, Sir.

President Leader: Did Major General Osama come? (His Excellency means Staff Major General Osama, the armament and supply director)

Operation deputy: No, Sir, and until yesterday, our information indicates that he has not arrived yet; I made sure of this personally yesterday evening.

(90-115)

Top Secret

[Document Page 93]

Top Secret

Air Force Commander	[TN: from previous page—Sir, the Ministry of Industry formed a delegation to go to Italy to design the models] for airplane tires, only merely the manufacture of the models there and to import them. Therefore there are possibilities available for them to manufacture them. [TN: two illegible words] the materials that <i>enter in</i> the manufacture of the tire. They have sufficient technical capability for them. They asked me to send one person with them from one of our specialists for this issue. So, I referred one person directly from us.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Excellent. Continue to put them to work, and since you have them there, to ignite these Iraqi minds.
Air Force Commander	There is not a front, Sir. We did not come to it for all of our needs.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes.
Operations Assistant	It appears that it did not arrive after, Sir, ([TN: two illegible words]) it is expected to be delayed for a period of two or three more days. So, it appears that the officer who is with him sent him a notification to return which shows that he ([TN: two illegible words]) is staying in Bulgaria.
Chief of Intelligence	Good afternoon, Sir. (He is entering the operations room)
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Hello, God bless you.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	What is the status of this Iranian friend of yours?
Chief of Intelligence	Very good, Sir. The man is cooperating with us.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes, this is, as long as he is cooperating so, what do we want from him then?
Operations Assistant	Intelligence that they extracted from an interview with a captive Iranian pilot. Would your Excellency like to see it?

[Document Page 94]

Top Secret

Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes, by God, let's watch it.
Military Operations Director	They presented a prisoner to us, Mr. President, a week ago.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	They need to prepare him for speaking ([TN: one illegible word]) on television.
Chief of Intelligence	Sir, we interviewed his assistant today and it was excellent.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes, but it is necessary to interview him personally.
Chief of Intelligence	Yes, we will begin work on it, naturally.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Tell him: Look, if you want to save your neck, then go out on television in order for us to bind together as a country acknowledge your presence with us, and unless you do, you are not with us now as a man!
Chief of Intelligence	Yes, I will interview him; today we interviewed his assistant, in addition to the information that we received from him, I made a comparison of it for us with the information that we have and that was given to us, and it was true and a little more in depth!
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Okay, yes.
Chief of Intelligence	Because the other is senior to him by rank.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes, the other is an expert! (Abu-Dirah).
Chief of Intelligence	Yes.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	By God, this is good. (Presentation of the video tape of the prisoners' interview)

(92 of 115)

Top Secret

[Document Page 95]

Top Secret

Chief of Intelligence	Did he present it to the Information? (meaning the Ministry of Information)
Military Operations Director	I believe he knows Arabic because he was ready to answer by merely listening to the last question.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	No. It is possible that they [TN: four illegible words] practice fundamentals
Military Operations Director	The two times that the Ministry of Information conducted them were not successful, since the recommendation on it was not followed after, i.e. he was saying a speech that sounded like propaganda!
Operations Assistant	Yesterday we watched a film from the Ministry of Information,
Chief of Intelligence	Here you have the majority of the words resembling the Arabic and Farsi languages.
Military Operations Director	Yes.
Chief of Intelligence	When he hears one word of the sentence, he can make progress and use it.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Is the prisoner [TN: two illegible words] his rank? I don't think so? It has become Khomeini or [TN: one illegible word] this format? Khomeini, he is saying it directly without any God or spirit . . . laughs (related to the speech of the prisoners on the television tape).
Operations Assistant	Al-Sadat could be the one good thing in what he said, he said, "I have read the Qur'an in its entirety, and I have memorized all of the verses, and it does not have a verse of Khomeini [TN: Phonetically — Ayat Khomeini]."
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Al-Sadat, yes, Khomeini is not in any of God's verses [TN: Phonetically — Ayatollah]! Laughs.

[Document Page 96]

Top Secret

Chief of Intelligence	Ayatollah [TN: literally — verse of God]! And Ruhullah [TN: literally — Spirit of God]!
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	It explains that Ruhullah is a name, it's his name!
Director of Planning	His first name!
Chief of Intelligence	Which name is that?
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Like `Abdallah, Ruhullah!
Operations Assistant	We have also a lot of Kurds named Ruhullah.
Chief of Intelligence	By God, this is the first time I have heard of it.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	I imagine it passed over me, a mention of a name like this.
Director of Planning	I imagined it was a title Iranians gave him; I thought it was a religious title.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	I thought so too, and someone asked me if it was his real name or not.
Chief of Intelligence	Really, Sir? Two months ago we knew that his first name was Ruhullah. The Iranian Newspaper published it and it was also published in al-Dustur [TN: literally — The Constitution] Magazine or al-Watan al-`Arabi [TN: literally — The Arab Nation] on this format.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes.
Military Operations Director	The Turks are named Sabghatallah [TN: literally — character of God], [TN: one illegible word] Allah [TN: one illegible word], Ruhullah. They give themselves these names.

(94 of 115)

Top Secret

[Document Page 97]

Top Secret

Chief of Intelligence	Sabghatallah, these families of Mosul have that name.
Military Operations Director	No, these are Turks, naturally Turks, [TN: two illegible words] (listening to the tape of the captive pilots interview on the television).
Operations Assistant	It seems that they did not write in Arabic only, but also in Farsi; it appears that he doesn't know the Farsi words. (comments while laughing)
Military Operations Director	Short! (The tape).
Chief of Intelligence	His information? The interview could have been stronger and better.
Director of Planning	It's short!
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes.
Chief of Intelligence	Yes, and he could have asked him about some of the subjects.
Director of Planning	Yes, of course.
Military Operations Director	Yes.
Chief of Intelligence	I intend to.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	He should tell him: What were they saying to you all? Like, when you were flying the planes? And do you know your military position and were you all beaten militarily?
Chief of Intelligence	It is possible to [TN: three illegible words] this question that you would like to, your Excellency, and perhaps [TN: three illegible words] them how many of them are lying, even to their army.

Full Translation

Page 98

Top Secret

President Leader: They should be told so.

Head of Intelligence: The situation they live?

President Leader: What do they tell you?

Head of Intelligence: Yes

President Leader: What do they tell you, are you winning or defeated? What did they used to tell you to deceive you, assign targets to you and send you inside the Iraq? They should discuss these matters with them [unspecified] because the Iraqis are not the ones meant in this interview [The interview with the captured Iranian pilot]; the Iraqis know their victorious army, do they know that?

Head of Intelligence: Yes. They lie to them at the ministers' level, also. As far as the Minister of Oil, they told him, "Go, there is nothing!" he [the Minister] said, "When we arrived, we thought this army was an Iranian army. But they stopped us and it appeared this was an Iraqi army." We had a discussion with him later on; he said, "Yes, you are there in the Southern area and it looks like you advanced. But in Qasr-e-Shirin area that we reinstated and took lands from you."

Operation deputy: Seven kilometers!

Planning Director: By God, he must visit it; I mean visit Qasr-e-Shirin!

Military Operation Director: Let's send him to Qasr-e-Shirin so that he can see himself!

President Leader: Yes

Head of the Intelligence: Of course, yes this is a part of preparing him to be on TV and to see how much they lied to him!

(96-115)

Top Secret

[Document Page 99]

Top Secret

[TN: from Document Page 98 — Chief of Intelligence]

[TN: from Document Page 98 — Of course, this isn't part of his interview in order to appear on television and to watch] how many of them lie to him.

Air Force Commander

The Minister is saying that! So how can they grant citizenship?

Director of Planning

Because it's when he sees the truth, Sir, like it is, completely.

Mr. Commander-in-Chief

Yes, when he says the information, he speaks like another.

Director of Planning

Yes, Sir.

Chief of Intelligence

According to this soldier, it is necessary to put pressure on some of the [TN: one illegible word] to [TN: two illegible words].

Air Force Commander

Is this the soldier?

Chief of Intelligence

No, this is the officer!

Director of Planning

The pilot.

Chief of Intelligence

I mean, when you say to him "What was your level in your alloy? The air force? What is the organization? How many hours flying did you spend in training in this year and a half, what's a measurement of the regular hours?" He asks these questions a lot, and when he compares it here it is noticed that there is a difference [TN: two illegible words] during the time of Khomeini. This is for him to be a soldier [TN: one illegible word] in the same level that he reached in the Army.

Military Operations Director

What effect does Khomeini have on the Army? And on the armed forces and the [TN: one illegible word] that happened?

Mr. Commander-in-Chief

Yes.

(97 of 115)

Top Secret

Full Translation

Page 100

Top Secret

President Leader: He should be told, "It is a given fact that the revolution used to consider you... consider the army as a non-guarantee..."

Head of the Intelligence: There is no guarantee

President Leader: He has no authority versus the Iranian revolution. The Khomeini's statements... he [someone who is preparing the pilot for TV] points out to the statements and reads them for him [the pilot] so that he really reminds him [the pilot] of them; he says, "We don't come up with anything; here, read it yourself. He made a statement on such a day, he announced this and that on such a day; so, how does the Khomeini look at you, does he trust you? Is there a trust in the army? How about your relationship with the Revolutionary Guard, is there a mutual relationship? Are any of the Khomeini's representatives watching you at the bases? How do the officers look at this matter, does this matter bother them or do they look at it as something normal since this is supposed to be addressed to their officers who need to listen to it?"

Head of the Intelligence: As for the officers we had on the Persian radio broadcasting, we asked them about all what your Excellency just mentioned; they started telling us stories and how the Khomeini Guard watch them at the air bases, how they eavesdrop behind the doors fearing that some officers will listen to the music! I mean to this point. They also told us how the Guards forced the officers to participate in some of their [guards] activities and if someone was tired or does not wish to participate, the Guards will have a question mark about this person and consider him hostile; they would talk in details!

President Leader: We will make an announcement today about the Minister of Oil since keeping him in secret might force them [the Iranians] to dismiss him and he will not be a minister anymore. So, when we announce it, it will not have that (impact).

Head of the Intelligence: Yes

(98-115)
Top Secret

Full Translation

Page 101

Top Secret

Air Force Commander: They have not got this intelligent yet, Sir, to make such quick move; they might remember such a thing in another four or five days!

Head of the Intelligence: Yes, but there is the fear that someone might draw their attention to this.

President Leader: There is no god but God! I am afraid there is someone smart among them!

Head of the Intelligence: Yes

President Leader: Yes, this!

Head of the Intelligence: If it is not among them there might be someone to warn them!

President Leader: So, why should we loose our joy of capturing a minister? No, he is a minister with the government and the Iranian people listen to him on Baghdad radio before they listen to him in Iran.

Head of the Intelligence: They were in a vehicle line [convoy] along with the Minister of Health and the former minister!

President Leader: Too bad, how could they let it escape?

Head of the Intelligence: They were in three cars; his car was in the front while the other behind. So, the patrol controller stopped the car of the Minister of Oil while the other two cars behind him escaped. Too bad!

Operation deputy: They were definitely within the range of light machine gun or rifle; I mean the distance between one car and another was about no more than (50) or (100) meters, right?

(99-115)

Top Secret

Full Translation

Page 102

Top Secret

President Leader: Yes

Planning Director: I wish they let them go on the road! I wish they let them get near their tanks where our troops send out one patrol daily by the damaged tanks in order to stop them from evacuating them [the tanks]. Do you remember, your Excellency, this is the patrol that arrested them when they got near it [the patrol]; the patrol gave the convoy a sign to stop and they stopped the cars!

President Leader: Yes, but what kind of patrol was it? How could they gather around the front car and let the rest of the line go? They were supposed to control the convoy by firing at it; I mean at the front and rear vehicle and stop them all!

Military Operation Director: It is a good thing, Sir that the Minister of Oil was in the front; it would not have been this wonderful if it were the Minister of Health!

Head of the Intelligence: By God, this is such a good group!

President Leader: The Minister of Health gives us the number of killed and injured people!

Head of the Intelligence: They are all useful.

President Leader: All useful.

Head of the Intelligence: I wish they captured the former minister, as well; he has a lot of information.

Military Operation Director: This one has more information!

President Leader: The former minister is [UI] and when he talks on TV it will be different.

(100-115)

Top Secret

Full Translation

Page 107

Top Secret

Head of the Intelligence: An interview with the former Israeli Intelligence director regarding the Iraqi-Iranian war, also; I am not sure whether your Excellency has read it or not. They ask him, as well, about the Jordanian facilitations and so forth and what's Israel's perspective. He said, "We are not happy about these facilitations, but we cannot say anymore, why? Because these weapons do not aim at Israel directly since we know that Iran is their target. However, we are concerned about these percentages because if the Iraq comes out with good results from this war, it would certainly be a threat to our security while we had our effort, activity and attention focused since the beginning of the war till this day on evaluating the Iraqi army movement because this battle could very well enhance its expertise and readiness, and it would not be easy for us to face this army in case of engaging in a war with them (this way or in this meaning). We now notice there are some weaknesses in the Iraqi army movement, in its supplies, advancement and something similar to this."

Military Operation Director: What's the Iranian minister's last name?

Head of the Intelligence: Mohamed Juwad Baler Talkoyan as I told you exactly; Mohamed Juwad Baler, and his last name is Talkoyan or something like this. Is the green telephone the government one?

Planning Director: Yes

Head of the Intelligence: (On the phone) May God be with you, Waddah; tell me, is this man the Minister of Oil?

President Leader: What did the Iranians do with regard to the hostages?

Military Operation Director: Since yesterday till today... [UI]

Planning Director: The Iranian Shoura [Consultative] Council has decided to release the hostages on four conditions [unspecified]

(105-115)

Top Secret

[Document Page 108]

Top Secret

Operations Assistant	Yesterday we heard it wasn't announced after.
Director of Planning	We heard that this evening, at 1800 hours, for this reason Carter cut his visit or tour down to one week, and he returned to Washington.
Military Operations Director	They had previously announced four conditions.
Director of Planning	Yes, Sir, he asked . . . not understood.
Operations Assistant	Didn't he inform him about organizing supplies?
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	This is your brother, the Popular Army at work! (Related to television show)
Operations Assistant	Al-Najaf Sector.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Karbala'.
Operations Assistant	Karbala'.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	No, Karbala'
Director of Planning	Yes, yes Sir.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Good people, yes.
Chief of Intelligence	They asked him, "What is your position if the United States of America asked you to work on the Middle East region?" Because this war, for it's part, is hurting the United States of America and the western camp for the importance of Iraq and Iran, and you know what it is, so he told them, we are

(106 of 115)

Top Secret

[Document Page 109]

Top Secret

~~friends with the United States. If you ask us something, without fail, we would take a serious look at it, in this way.~~

Military Operations Director Pardon me, sir, I am reading the special statement from the minister.

Mr. Commander-in-Chief Yes.

Military Operations Director Statement number 118 issued by the general leadership for the armed forces, in the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate, our forces are still victorious.

Director of Planning Yes, yes, welcome to you, welcome, good.

Military Operations Director Our victorious forces are still in control of the most marvelous of its victories day after day against the Persian Enemy, so our troops working in the 'Abadan Sector were able to on 31 October 1980 to capture a number of Iranians, among whom was the Iranian Minister of Petroleum Muhammad Jawad Talkuwiyan.

Chief of Intelligence Muhammad Jawad Baqir.

Military Operations Director Muhammad Jawad Baqir, yes, Sir.

Chief of Intelligence The full name is Muhammad Jawad Baqir Talkuwiyan Afdal.

Military Operations Director Is this enough sir? Are we mentioning the same date of capture? Of course the day was 2 November.

Mr. Commander-in-Chief Yes.

Military Operations Director Are we talking about the same day?

[Document Page 110]

Top Secret

Chief of Intelligence	On 31 October.
Military Operations Director	On the 31 st , yes.
Chief of Staff	It is the day of the crossing.
Military Operations Director	Meaning the same day that he was captured.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Remember: it is a phenomenon that is between them.
Military Operations Director	A number of Iranians were captured and it appears that one of them is the Iranian Minister of Petroleum Muhammad Jawad Baqir, also known as Talkuwiyan.
Chief of Intelligence	Sir, if [TN: one illegible word] to me if we say that it was among them, then this means that it was among the fighters and it leaves an impression . . .
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes, if we knew that at the first glance.
Chief of Intelligence	Yes, first, we didn't know it in the beginning, and second, this gives an impression that these ministers fight with the people.
Operations Assistant	I imagine that this will give them a push for morale that the ministers participate in battle!
Chief of Intelligence	Yes, this is what I meant with respect to the combat at the front.
Military Operations Director	We can say: It was possible that we say our troops underwent intense hardship.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	It enabled our troops to capture the Iranian Minister so-and-so, when they were completing their duties in the such-and-such sector.

[Document Page 111]

Top Secret

Director of Planning	The al-Ahwaz Sector, the 'Abadan.
Chief of Intelligence	We will explain by saying that this Iranian Petroleum Minister, came to inspect his petroleum installations.
Military Operations Director	First, we are not saying in the 'Abadan Sector, Sir, if it is alright with you, Your Excellency, are you saying the region?
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	In the Iranian territories.
Military Operations Director	This means it could be in Dazful! Meaning we give [TN: three illegible words] could be in al-Ahwaz! That would be natural.
Chief of Intelligence	Yes.
Director of Planning	In the Southern Sector.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	The ambush detachments from our brave troops were able to
Military Operations Director	The ambush detachments from our brave troops were able to on 31 October to take prisoner
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Plunge Mr. So-and-So into captivity or to capture
Military Operations Director	Plunge the Iranian Minister of Petroleum Muhammad Jawad into captivity.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes.
Director of Planning	Yes, that's true.
Operations Assistant	This is in New York — Sir — the demonstration (related to the news on the television).

[Document Page 112]

Top Secret

Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes.
Military Operations Director	This (not understood).
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	He has been moved from the front to Baghdad, from the front to Baghdad in order for them to explain the delay for this reason.
Military Operations Director	Our victorious forces are still in control of the most marvelous of its victories day after day against the Persian Enemy. The ambush detachments from our brave troops were able to on 31 October to plunge the Iranian Minister of Petroleum Muhammad Jawad Baqir Talkuwiyan into captivity, and he has been moved from the front to Baghdad.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes.
Military Operations Director	Thank you, Sir.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	These are in Detroit, in the United States of America. (The television news.)
Chief of Intelligence	Not the United States, these parks aren't in New York.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Detroit!
Operations Assistant	Not Washington, Sir. It says here Washington.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Detroit.
Presidential Chief of Staff	Washington!
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	What?

(110 of 115)

Top Secret

<u>Top Secret</u>	
Military Operations Director Chief of Staff	Detroit, Sir, it said Detroit. Yes, it said it, Detroit. Yes
Mr. Commander-in-Chief Chief of Intelligence	Detroit. There aren't parks in New York.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief Chief of Intelligence Chief of Staff	Those in Detroit, there are currently a lot of Iraqis and Arabs. Very much so, and in Los Angeles as well, there are currently a lot. This is Washington!
Operations Assistant Chief of Intelligence	Washington and this is the White House! This is the White House Street.
Operations Assistant Mr. Commander-in-Chief	This is against the Libyan and Syrian front and in support for the Arabs. What is this? What is this? Do you understand anything from this? I wasn't
Military Operations Director Chief of Intelligence Mr. Commander-in-Chief	able to understand it. (Concerning a report presented in front of His Excellency). Continue the presentation of the demonstrations on television. It says, "Today Arabistan, tomorrow Palestine." Sir, it is in this . . . I don't know and I wasn't able to understand it. What is this?

[Document Page 114]

Top Secret

Chief of Intelligence	It is indicating in this message [TN: three illegible words] it is known, if he had previously offered the message, etc.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	To the Prime Minister? Who is the Prime Minister?
Chief of Intelligence	Who is the Prime Minister?
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Where is our Prime Minister from?
Chief of Intelligence	Prime Minister, he is, Your Excellency . . . [TN: one illegible word] to enter in very urgently, either directly or by means of our correspondent who presented a public message for you on Saturday (1 November) by means of his guide.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Give it to Tariq for us to see what he understands from it.
Chief of Intelligence	Yes.
Military Operations Director	Who has the confidential Telex? Does a foreign person have it
	He gave it to Paris.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Sir, would you like to announce the capture of the Minister of Petroleum now or at 2200 hours, when it will attract attention or as usual, Sir?
Military Operations Director	No, there's no reason to attract attention now!
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	At 2200 hours, it is possible to broadcast the full story if there is nothing else, Sir.
	No, the program is cut and broadcast. This is important. It is a minister! Yes.

[Document Page 115]

Top Secret

Military Operations Director	This announces a statement for the General Command of the Armed Forces.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes. Who are these that covered their presence? (Related to the television news show and the presence of people in veils.)
Chief of Staff	Arabs.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Arabs? They could be Libyans!
Chief of Intelligence	Of Libyan descent, yes.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes.
Director of Planning	Now there are some columns in the western newspapers related to the police. They tell them that these transferred the war to you also which is what happened in the altercations they had and they are firing some barbs at them.
Chief of Intelligence	Yes, some of them are provoking civilians! This is the first time in the history of Iraq that demonstrations supporting Iraq have been brought to the public outside Iraq in this year, especially in Europe and America, and this is the second time for it to come to the open in Washington, Sir.
Chief of Intelligence	In New York, some time ago, also a large demonstration and in London for the second time.
Director of Planning	The first in London.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Objecting to the Libyan and Sudanese Embassies!
Chief of Intelligence	Libyan and Sudanese, yes, Sir.

(113 of 115)

Top Secret

[Document Page 116]

Top Secret

	(Continuing the television show of the demonstrations in America and commenting on it.)
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	The thing that caught my attention was that King Hussein agreed to stop al-Qadhafi from the war that created problems for him within the Libyan Army and within Libyan command.
Chief of Intelligence	Sir, it was mentioned to me that before Your Excellency met with him, when I visited him, he mentioned to me the same thing that, if you please, I and Brigadier General Yas were quoted by his officers since he said that our officers were there and returned, so they told us that.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes.
Military Operations Director	To be sure. It is impossible for any Arab individual to be able to stop at the Army's hostile positions, the Libyan army with the Arabs.
Air Force Commander	With the pilgrims who went there.
Director of Planning	With other elements.
Military Operations Director	Their graduates from the military college and their Arab feelings.
Air Force Commander	The pilgrims who went, the Libyan delegation.
Chief of Staff	Wasn't `Adil Ahmad Raghieb their Chief of Staff?
Military Operations Director	Yes, he was a Chief of Staff.
Director of Planning	Most of the Chiefs of Staff in the royal era.

(114 of 115)

Top Secret

[Document Page 117]

Top Secret

Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes.
Military Operations Director	This is a natural thing Your Excellency, Mr. President.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes, we consider it to be natural, however, it is serious despite the terrorism al-Qadhafi is not an easy matter.
Director of Planning	Of course not, Sir.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	It means that this upset the conscience of all Arabs, all the position.
Operations Assistant	Sir, truly King Hussein when he says it, he is sincere because we read the news that all Jordanian officers who were in Libya had been withdrawn and returned to Jordan.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	He [TN: three illegible words] his officers (meaning King Hussein).
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	[TN: one illegible word]
Chief of Intelligence	God is generous, Sir.
Military Operations Director	God is generous, Sir. [TN: one illegible word] continuation of show and listening to the television tape.

[Document Page 118]

[TN: blank page]

[Document Page 119]

Top Secret

No.	Rank	Full Name	Position	Signature
1.	Staff Maj. Gen. (Retired)	Maki Mustafa Hamudat	Head of the [TN: one illegible word] committee	[TN: two illegible words] [TN: two illegible words]
2.	Maj. Gen. (Ret.)	[TN: one illegible word] Mahmud al-Qawaz	Member	[TN: one illegible word] [TN: one illegible word]
3.	Staff Maj. Gen. (Retired)	[TN: one illegible word] Mahmud al-Qawaz	Member	
4.	Staff Maj. Gen. (Retired)	Qays Muhammad [TN: one illegible word] Jasim	Member	
5.	Staff Maj. Gen. (Retired)	Salman Hamid `Abdallah	Member	
6.	Staff Brig. Gen. (Retired)	Hamad `Abbad [TN: one illegible word]	Member	[TN: one illegible word] [TN: one illegible word]
7.	Staff Brig. Gen. (Retired)	`Abd-al-Wahab `Abd-al-Tisar Ahmad	Member	LL 44
8.	Captain	Nihad Dhakir Ahmad	Member (Military Security Rep.)	

[Document Page 120]

Top Secret

Transcript of the Tapes

Of the Armed Forces General Command Meetings

And

Statements made by Mr. President the Leader (may God preserve him)

In the Armed Forces General Command

Second Committee

1. Committee Chief. Retired Staff Maj. General Maki Mustafa Amin Hamudat
2. Member. Retired Staff Major General Qays Muhammad 'Ali Jasim
3. Member. Retired Staff Major General Salman Hamid `Abdallah
4. Member. Retired Staff Brigadier General Hamad Anjad Jindal
5. Member. Retired Staff Brigadier General `Abd-al-Wahab `Abd-al-Satar Ahmad

Representative of the Military Intelligence Directorate: Captain Mandi Muhammad Kaftan

(1 of 116)

Top Secret

[Document Page 121]

Top Secret

Tape Number: 1

Date of Recording: 28 October 1980

Attendees:

Mr. President, the General Commander of the Armed Forces [TN: one illegible word]	Staff
Mr. Tariq `Aziz	Member of Revolutionary Command Assembly
Staff Brig. Gen. Tariq Hamad al-`Abdallah	Head of the Presidential Office
Mr. Barzan Ibrahim al-Takriti	Head of the Intelligence Apparatus
Staff Lt. General `Abd-al-Jabar `Abd-al-Rahim al-Asadi	Operations Assistant
Staff Maj. General Muhammad Jassam [TN: one illegible word]	al-Jaburi
Air Defense	Air Force Commander and
Staff Brig. Gen. `Abd-al-Jawad Dhanun	Military Intelligence Director
Staff Brig. Gen. Shakir [TN: one illegible word] al-Amarah	Director of Planning
Staff Colonel Maysir Ibrahim Hamadi	Military Operations Director
Brig. General Pilot Faruq Faragh	Director of Army Aviation

Top Secret

[Document Page 122]

Top Secret

Table of Contents

Number		Date	From	To
1	1	28 OCT 1980	4	65
2	2 The first [TN: one illegible word] on 28 Oct The second [TN: one illegible word] on 29 Oct 1980	28/29 OCT 1980	66	95
		29 OCT 1980	96	116
3	1	29 OCT 1980	117	168
4	1 The first [TN: one illegible word] on the dining table	29 OCT 1980	169	186

(3 of 186)
Top Secret

[Document Page 123]

Top Secret

Speaker	Contents
Chief of Staff	[TN: one illegible word]
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes.
Chief of Staff	With regard to Mr. Tariq `Aziz?
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	What is your news?
Operations Assistant	By god, our news is good, Sir. With the except of the unfortunate downing of our Gazelle helicopter . . .
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	So?
Operations Assistant	Yes, by god, in the second division's sector we haven't left it since the morning and we have two pilots in the region. Planes have gone to rescue the two pilots, however, unfortunately, they haven't found them, and they haven't found any trace . . .
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	I am afraid that they couldn't distinguish them or that they had taken cover in some place?
Operations Assistant	We had sent three planes for them. We had combat airplanes circling in the air for a period of a half-hour above the region. But they didn't find a trace of them. The aircraft is from the effort dedicated to the teams, so it appears that the second division carried out an assignment well, and struck the force's camp, so the first pilot executed the task and during his patrol he was injured possibly by a launched pipe missile (GRAD-missile).
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	What?
Operations Assistant	Meaning, by God, the second pilot continued the circling above the region then [TN: one illegible word] to do something . . .

(4 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 124]

Top Secret

<p>Mr. Commander-in-Chief Operations Assistant</p>	<p>Your Excellency, you knew about the breaches that [TN: one illegible word] today and downed one airplane, [TN: one illegible word], and another [TN: two illegible words]! The rest of the partitions don't change except the exchange of artillery bombing on all of the partitions . . .</p> <p>Then, there's nothing new?</p> <p>No, Sir, [TN: one illegible word] the battalions that we moved yesterday and which has a special forces battalion, and a battalion from the 44th Brigade, we expected [TN: one illegible word] for the [TN: one illegible word] division.</p>
<p>Mr. Commander-in-Chief Messenger Mr. Commander-in-Chief</p>	<p>Excuse me sir, lunch is ready.</p> <p>Let's go to lunch.</p> <p>Break</p>
<p>Operations Assistant Director of Planning</p>	<p>[TN: one illegible word] the Director of Planning</p> <p>First: the work in the [TN: one illegible word] Strait is in two directions, first there is work in the direction of Gilan since the [TN: one illegible word] force focuses on Gilan. Beyond that, according to what I believe, it is an infantry battalion bolstered with armor. There is a force in the region (Daneh Khoshek), isn't there? Isn't that what it means? It can't work on this force without going to Gilan. Study it [TN: one illegible word] first time and [TN: one illegible word] the information on the enemy and explanation of the methods in order for us to get to the contentment that yes, it is [TN: two illegible words] and at that point we will do it . . . isn't that so?</p>
<p>Operations Assistant</p>	<p>By God, sir, the method if we go down to the [TN: one illegible word] of the details, it is something; and if [TN: one illegible word] the source of the threat [TN: one illegible word] to it [TN: one illegible word] it's something else!</p> <p>What is the effect on it? Where is the source of the effect?</p>

[Document Page 125]

Top Secret

Director of Planning	We are telling him yes! We feel it [TN: one illegible word] a source of a threat to the Strait and the enemy is attempting by way of the losses that occurred so it [TN: three illegible words] its troops in the place [TN: one illegible word] !
Operations Assistant	Yes, I know that! Our information now indicates that there is a force in Gilan; how do we ask [TN: one illegible word] to carry out an operation on Gilan?
Director of Planning	We are not telling him to attack Gilan, sir. What we are saying is . . .
Operations Assistant	Yes, I know, my brother! How do we not tell him? He will tell you the principal source of the threat that I am facing, it is from Gilan. So, they informed me [TN: three illegible words] that I arrange an operation on Gilan?
Director of Planning	Yes, this is what we want! Arrange an operation on Gilan, yes, if you feel that this will settle it! So, we are arranging an operation on it! Whereas if you keep sitting while the enemy gets closer everyday [TN: one illegible word] and attacks the guards, you don't do anything? No, this isn't so! This is the threat that we feel and this is what we want, [TN: one illegible word] how? Do you agree with that?
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Enters the Operations Room. Good evening. Good evening, Sir . . . God is good, Sir.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	God is good. How are things going for you today, Faruq?
Director of ...	By God, Sir, we have lost an aircraft . . .
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	This is normal; how many [TN: one illegible word] were sent off today?
Director of ...	Sir, we did not send [TN: one illegible word], however, the special forces of the division will use [TN: two illegible words].

(6 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 126]

Top Secret

Operations Assistant This (meaning the aircraft) is from the force that the division has there.
They are [TN: one illegible word] according to the recommendations they have, Sir.

Mr. Commander-in-Chief What are the [TN: one illegible word] that [TN: one illegible word] your information [TN: two illegible words] today?

Operations Assistant We don't have any information except that the second division carried out [TN: one illegible word] helicopter today.

Mr. Commander-in-Chief Yes.

Mr. Commander-in-Chief (With Mr. Air Force Commander)
How are your air crafts? Did you shoot down a single enemy aircraft today?

Air Force Commander Alright, Sir. In the region of . . .

Operations Assistant In the side streets . . .

Air Force Commander In the side streets!

Mr. Commander-in-Chief Yes, good . . .

Air Force Commander There were actually several entanglements with them, Sir, [TN: one illegible word] they fled. There was an engagement here during the raids that [TN: one illegible word] on Baghdad! In the Kirkuk Sector as well, there is unconfirmed information about the downing of another aircraft [TN: two illegible words] our pilots in that sector [TN: one illegible word] to us, information [TN: one illegible word] that the Iranian pilot had hit the mountain because of the engagement that lasted for fifteen minutes. However, it is unconfirmed. We sent a helicopter to it, and it didn't [TN: one illegible word] have an effect on it and it returned . . .

Mr. Commander-in-Chief They engaged with them for 15 minutes?

(7 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 127]

(8 of 186)

Top Secret

Air Force Commander	15 minutes. The enemy aircrafts were a pair. We have three pairs in the air
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	[TN: one illegible word] two [TN: one illegible word] aircrafts [TN: two illegible words]!
Air Force Commander	Couldn't they [TN: one illegible word] during the fifteen minutes?
	Sir, they obtained one of them and the other it is said that it hit the mountain.
	Information came to us from the Popular Army about that. [TN: one illegible word] that [TN: two illegible words] by our groups or they are sending to us the
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	identity of the pilot. [TN: one illegible word] They came to the region of [TN: one illegible word] and they struck the [TN: one illegible word] establishments.
Operations Assistant	However, they weren't able gain anything from them [TN: three illegible words] the ground only.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Did you study the results of the operation that took place with [TN: one illegible word] Faruq.
Operations Assistant	Sir, this is the report that was presented and basically [TN: one illegible word] the other operations
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes.
Operations Assistant	Today was busy with the aircraft incident until 4:00, then [TN: one illegible word] hope of finding them.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Did you give him targets for tomorrow?
Operations Assistant	To [TN: one illegible word] Muhammad?
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	To [TN: one illegible word] Faruq.
Operations Assistant	No, Sir. These are the targets sir.

Top Secret

[Document Page 128]

Top Secret

Mr. Commander-in-Chief	I would rather that he would give isolated targets in the enemy's isolated sectors. We don't want to fatigue our armored troops so that they are cut off by long distances in a small pocket strike. So he is working on this according to how he wants.
Operations Assistant	It is better, Sir, that his operations take place in coordination with the land operations like sending aircrafts to one of them, meaning directing all firepower on them, and truly this is that happened today by the force that is in front of the Second Division, [TN: one illegible word] directed to it for the aircrafts, all the available firepower, so even if you had a land force here [TN: one illegible word] to achieve [TN: one illegible word] with this hostile site they would [TN: one illegible word] the land force, and at that it would be possible for the airplanes to work [TN: one illegible word].
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	The land force in this case needs to be armored to ensure pocket movement reaches the target that [TN: two illegible words]. It will be under the effect of (Taw) anti-tank missiles from the farthest distance of anti-tank that we have. So, how can we [TN: one illegible word] that we [TN: one illegible word] between the movement required for the aircraft and its targets and between the possible losses [TN: two illegible words] this type?
Operations Assistant	We now have a prepared topic to discuss: there are resistances and I don't want to say that it is isolated; there are clear resistances in front of a section of troops from the Second Corps, [TN: one illegible word] that we are arranging with the Second Corps to eliminate them with operations to eliminate them since it forms centers for [TN: one illegible word] of the enemy and has an effect on them. [TN: one illegible word] we are arranging an operation with the Corps for the helicopters to participated in it. So, we have a battalion [TN: three illegible words][TN: one illegible word]
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Our force is here?'
Operations Assistant	Our force is at the crossing and has control over the crossing with the force of a battalion or more than a battalion and [TN: one illegible word] brigade reinforced with a tank company because it is infantry. Sometimes [TN: two illegible words]

[Document Page 129]

(10 of 186)

Top Secret

<p>[TN: continued from previous page]</p>	<p>From this direction, sometimes . . . this ([TN: one illegible word]) indicates our information that the enemy with at least a tank company (more or less than that) so they are continually exposed to this force [TN: three illegible words] or from this directions (indicating) our thinking that we agree with the Corps to carry out an operation on this force. As for this region of Gilan, it is necessary to make a decision on it because the present force is on [TN: two illegible words] with the force of an infantry battalion reinforced with a section of armor and from Khomeini's Guard as well. It is possible to discuss this in another way, but this company — it is necessary to arrange it definitely. It is isolated also and far away from the units present, and this region is mountainous [TN: two illegible words] ([TN: one illegible word]).</p>
<p>Mr. Commander-in-Chief Operations Assistant Mr. Commander-in-Chief</p>	<p>Why don't we send helicopters to them, to this isolated company?</p>
<p>Operations Assistant</p>	<p>We also used them previously.</p>
<p>Mr. Commander-in-Chief Operations Assistant</p>	<p>If it were an infantry detachment _____ the helicopters until its end, isn't that so? What is their regiment's equipment?</p>
<p>Mr. Commander-in-Chief Operations Assistant</p>	<p>Them? Yes.</p>
<p>Mr. Commander-in-Chief Operations Assistant</p>	<p>The equipment of their regiment is 54-55 tanks. Meaning? Actually present. 14 tanks in the detachment. Now they weren't staying, no, sir.</p>

Top Secret

[Document Page 130]

Top Secret

Mr. Commander-in-Chief	It is assumed that [TN: two illegible words] the helicopters in one day.
Operations Assistant	It is possible for it to be less than this number!
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Definitely. I suppose that the company [TN: one illegible word] with [TN: one illegible word] the equipment, so it is [TN: two illegible words] for the helicopters, so why do we take the corps with it? To provide power! Collect and ask! [TN: one illegible word] our tanks at this long distance and what [TN: one illegible word] in terms of breakdowns [TN: one illegible word] etc. They worked on it the helicopters (on the company) if the force were truly at most a company!
Operations Assistant	We still have the other resistances, Sir, and these, Your Excellency [TN: one illegible word] the force present in Gilan and this is that which is in Sumar, Sir. We are available here [TN: one illegible word] on this [TN: one illegible word] road. Now there is a force of around one battalion reinforced with some tanks and artillery. This artillery continuously keeps the 12 th Division busy; it is in the Sumar Sector. This battalion remained here, for it is detrimental to the division. Then it could gather together another force. We didn't find except once in awhile it had been gathered.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	It is necessary to not keep a force in order to gather and it is necessary to not keep our troops in case [TN: one illegible word] it is necessary to constantly bomb them, bombing, bombing! And don't let them gather! Why is the whole division a base [TN: two illegible words] the battalion? Why wait?
Operations Assistant	This is, among other things, what [TN: one illegible word] it with [TN: one illegible word] the Second Corps during my last visit there, clearly I said that, Sir . . . First, it is possible that he doesn't have trust in the division commander, so . . .
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	The division commander?
Operations Assistant	Yes, Sir.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	He is justified!

[Document Page 131]

(12 of 186)

Top Secret

Operations Assistant	Or that his trust isn't high ..
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Justifiably so!
Operations Assistant	Also, his trust in the 12 th Division's troops isn't high, despite its fortification by
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	the 29 th Brigade (less a battalion)!
	The division! The leader of the division, if he is not strong and brave (a
	mastermind), then the entire division experiences deterioration in morale ..
	Muhammad Isma'il doesn't give trust at all. We don't want the curse of the man
Operations Assistant	in his courage, so [TN: three illegible words] brave, whereas now, how can he
	[TN: one illegible word]? I didn't know anything about him, but it doesn't give
Military Intelligence Director	trust in battle; the leader of a division doesn't direct people's eyes ..
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Meaning the leader of the Corps talks about him and didn't [TN: one illegible
	word] in it . . .
	[TN: one illegible word] of the [TN: one illegible word] also, Sir.
	Meaning that [TN: two illegible words] for a division commander who is going
Operations Assistant	[TN: one illegible word] from these youth to receive the division from him and
	give it a new spirit!
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	44- misunderstood between the Operations Assistant and the Military
Operations Assistant	Intelligence Director
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	There is a lot of information in the Corps' sector. It was assumed that it was not
	staying up till now ..
	How many divisions are there in this sector?
	In this sector?
	The 12 th and Fourth Division without..

Top Secret

[Document Page 132]

Top Secret

Operations Assistant	From Sumar, four divisions and the Second Division in Badrah.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Five divisions . . .
Military Intelligence Director	Five divisions . . .
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Five divisions, what is there we have with the southern sector, five divisions . . . [TN: two illegible words] the operations that take place in the southern sector and [TN: one illegible word] the divisions that are here [TN: one illegible word]! From the 24 th until this very day they have carried out approximately 24 th . . .
Operations Assistant	Since the [TN: one illegible word] of the 30 th Armored Brigade from above!
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	And practically, the enemy's units here did not [TN: one illegible word] except the limited battle and [TN: two illegible words] conflict!
Military Intelligence Director	I gave them leave to pull-out...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	What?
Military Intelligence Director	Ways for them to withdraw [TN: one illegible word] Mr. President, [TN: one illegible word] a little.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Muhammad Isma'il is sick and maybe [TN: two illegible words] tired because of [TN: one illegible word] `Adnan, isn't that so? (Meaning al-Shahid [TN: two illegible words] `Adnan Sharif).
Military Intelligence Director	He was not informed of this until lately!
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	[TN: one illegible word] for the leader of the division from [TN: two illegible words] who [TN: one illegible word], the excellent [TN: one illegible word] of the brigades. Do we have a [TN: one illegible word] brigade leader at the rank of colonel? What is Muhammad's rank?
Attendees	Brigadier General, Sir.

[Document Page 133]

Top Secret

<p>Mr. Commander-in-Chief</p>	<p>Brigadier General! If we had a successful and excellent brigade commander on a [TN: three illegible words] level at the level of the Sixth Armored Brigade Commander, I mean from this level at the rank of colonel. The leader restores a division, so we give him a rank and he goes with his force [TN: one illegible word] and if you have [TN: three illegible words]!</p>
<p>Operations Assistant</p>	<p>We have, Sir . . .</p> <p>The second point is we have 122-mm artillery guns of a certain type, our stockpile of ammunition before the beginning of the war was around 83,000 rounds. [TN: one illegible word] forty-thousand (40,000) were used today. This is basic artillery for the first and fifth divisions, if ordering ammunition equipment, including the ammunition present with artillery and the other in the administrative region and with [TN: one illegible word]. A letter came to us today from the Provisions Office indicating that the stock of this type of ammunition and in the storehouses is zero, however this doesn't mean that we don't have its ammunition in the /L..)1.1./ or in the administrative regions or with the artillery [TN: one illegible word] the artillery /it follows/ all of the payments naturally. It has been suggested to us to pull out a battery from every battalion equipped with these artillery guns, the number of which is six (6) battalions and substituting them with another type of artillery guns for which ammunition is available. However, [TN: three illegible words] 122-mm artillery guns to deal with the targets that don't necessitate dealing with at a long distance.</p>
<p>Mr. Commander-in-Chief</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>Operations Assistant</p>	<p>In order to distribute the ammunition for 122-mm artillery guns, and two batteries remain from the 122-mm artillery . . . The third battery is from the suggested artillery and which is also 122-mm, but at a farther distance than the other. To deal with the targets that are at the farther distances, there was a telephone treatment with Mr. /zil now and Colonel Musayyir was on the phone and brought up the topic with him. He personally has no objection to this suggestion. However, he suggested presenting the topic to your Excellency.</p>
<p>Mr. Commander-in-Chief</p>	<p>Did you approach the countries that have this type of ammunition? Trying to find out?</p> <p>And in order to not wait until the situation has become critical, then we should do what is necessary, we are listening to ideas. The subject of the artillery and 122-mm ammunition wasn't brought up to us previously /.)i./ the topic of 130-mm artillery</p>

[Document Page 134]

Top Secret

[TN: Cont.]	And we dealt with it in a correct manner, up to now, isn't that right?
Operations Assistant	Yes, Sir.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	The party responsible for these matters should and supply us with a weekly report on that.
Director of Planning	If your Excellency would permit, Sir, weekly could be too long!
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	So?
Operations Assistant	Weekly.
Director of Planning	If your Excellency would permit, Sir, I suggest that it be less than a week. That wouldn't be difficult, Sir.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	What is less than a week? The situation that has brought a scarcity and we would make the officers bear ... the week, every three days a report also for the same purpose!
Director of Planning	Yes, Sir. Especially if there were quick operations.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	A report every three days.
Director of Planning	Okay, Sir.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Through our familiarity with the reports we say this type of ammunition every two weeks and this type . . .
Operations Assistant	It can be for each day.

(15 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 135]

Top Secret

Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Every day?
Director of Movements	Sir, we [TN: one illegible word] daily reports on the expenditures of ammunitions and this suggestion is in anticipation of the future.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes. I agree with the suggestion; the suggestion is good, there's nothing wrong with it. However, my intention is that it would not be brought up by you that we take precautions for the 122-mm ammunition. But to bring up the precaution for the 130-mm ammunition . . . we took precautions before the war, and we contracted out to countries, etc. Even here is a telegram and [TN: two illegible words] and we said, "How?" and we focused on the 130-mm artillery by name!
Director of Military Movements	Mr. President, there are three types of 122-mm artillery and ammunition: D30 (this is available in large quantities), M70 (available in good quantities), this means the M19 . . .
Operations Assistant	The talk about this artillery.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	M19, what is it? Does it include the same long-distance artillery?
Military Intelligence Director	The 122-mm artillery, Sir, has three types of guns and even ammunition as well. The first type [TN: two illegible words] direct and all of it is D30. Its range is about 15 km. The second type of 122-mm [TN: one illegible word] and this has a short range and it is what the Director of Artillery suggests to change, such as the third battery of the battalion. The third type of 122-mm has a range of 20 km [TN: one illegible word] Sir, because it is . . .
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Direct!
Military Intelligence Director	No, Sir. [TN: one illegible word] is not indirect and direct, and its range is good and appropriate for . . .
Operations Assistant	Its range is good.
Military Intelligence Director	Appropriate for the divisions' locations. Our divisions, Sir, [TN: one illegible word] to the west of [TN: one illegible word], so its targets [TN: sentence is cut off at end of page.]

[Document Page 136]

Top Secret

Operations Assistant	<p>Far...</p> <p>As Brigadier General 'Abdul Jawad said we have two divisions, the First and the Fifth. Their target is distant and they are forced to shell using this type of ammunition.</p>
Director of Planning	<p>The mechanized division is equipped with these types of howitzers. This is a close support howitzer for these two divisions. Which means we should change their weapons as proposed by Mr. Assistant and leave the types used for direct support for divisions not present, meaning the D30 howitzer here...</p>
Operations Assistant	<p>If they appear to have close-range targets, then they will use this battery. If they have long-range targets then they will use other batteries.</p>
Military Operations Director	<p>Sir, they will not change all the battalion howitzers. The battalion comprises of eighteen howitzers, they plan to change six howitzers and keep twelve howitzers. Normally a battery from each battalion has six howitzers, Sir.</p>
Commander-in-Chief	<p>I want to know which countries also have this type of ammunition, yes, what else?</p>
Operations Assistant	<p>Sir, we have discussed these points previously and it appears that they arise from time to time. Brigadier General Shakir, during his stay in 3rd Corps' sector and especially in al-Basra sector, pointed out the effectiveness of the enemy air force. Its effectiveness is exhausting to troops, whether by helicopters or light bombers. And we discussed this matter with Your Excellency. And Your Excellency posed the question, "What is the data? What is the impact that the light bombers have on the troops? Is the answer that its effects are secondary except for the effect of the bombers on the troops?" And the answer is that the effects are secondary except for its effects on the moral. This issue has been raised before and we discussed it with Brigadier General Shakir and it appears he has an opinion and the air force, as long as they don't come up short on this subject, could at least drive away the planes. That is, if you do not want them to provide close air support.</p>

(17 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 137]

Top Secret

	The brothers have not fallen short on targets which they have discovered. The subject that has been raised is related to this issue. When permission is requested from headquarters, and it is studied then approved, the enemy planes have already done their deed and returned to their bases!
Military Operations Director	A telephone conversation with the Director of Artillery about the M19 Gun, completing the discussion which took place before about changing the guns...
Air Force Commander	(His speech directed towards the Operations Assistant about the other discussion)...No, listen to me on this point, complete authority ought to be granted to the sector commander. The al-Basra squadron and the other squadron in al-Nasriyah under his authority without having to come to us.
Operations Assistant	We received a complete letter today and it was read to me by the officers in which you had put in place...
Commander-in-Chief	Shakir? When did he complain to you about the planes?
Air Force Commander	The interceptors to be precise!
Director of Planning	Sir, it was not a complaint, but a situational report.
Commander-in-Chief	No, how do we know the effects on their moral if they do not complain?
Director of Planning	First of all, Sir, we do not have maneuvers during the day and any maneuvers during the day freeze due to the effectiveness of the air in two parts. The first part is the fighter aircraft and the second part is the enemy helicopters. These two things effect ground operations, in particular the helicopters, that some of the columns, Your Excellency heard that yesterday, we wanted to send them from the Rass al-Jar area towards al-Tahari, but cancelled it due to the effects of the helicopters on it.
Commander-in-Chief	Ok, if we designated constant air cover, then all of our planes would be finished within a month's time, don't you think?
Director of Planning	Sir, we do not want the air cover and I agree with Your Excellency.

(18 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 138]

Top Secret

Commander-in-Chief	I mean even spare parts...who are we? Not the Soviet Union.
Director of Planning	Yes Sir, its true, but not the air cover, we do not want the air cover. The air cover here is also very much a burden on our brethren Sir. The sector commander has complained to me in the front of the Minister and said we have reached a level that the Israelis are saying that we are flying one sortie per day per one pilot as compared to us reaching a level of five to six sorties per pilot. And we once reached seven sorties per one or two of our pilots, but this exhausted our pilots and was reasonable!
Operations Assistant	Normally, three flights/pilot per one day!
Director of Planning	Meaning this Sir, that all of our pilots could be finished within a month?
Air Force Commander	And the depletion of spare parts?
Director of Planning	And the depletion of spare parts. We are in the process of exchanging opinions. How do we decide to lessen the effects on the pilot and the plane and at the same time lessen the effects on the opposing side.
Commander-in-Chief	What possibility Shakir, I mean it is not possible to lessen this and lessen the enemy side...how do we lessen? We lessen through M/T [TN: acronym of some sort].
Director of Planning	Yes, that is what we want.
Commander-in-Chief	All I understand is helicopters and in regards to helicopters, we have taken steps to send our helicopters to attack them, and we will continue to do that. We have said constant air cover to cover the entire skies of Iran. Preventing our helicopters from maneuvers? Unacceptable!
Director of Planning	Sir...

[Document Page 139]

Top Secret

Commander-in-Chief

~~This is the state of the war, but when we inflict losses, we bear losses on a~~
greater scale? The impact of the enemy on us must be to the level of losses we
inflict upon them or equal to it. OK, I want the statistics of losses for all enemy
shelling and for all planes each week...losses coming from bombing from
planes...? So we can see, in light of it, if it deserves sacrificing our Air Force or
continue using our Air Force as a way to respond to occurrences...? Meaning
this artillery ammunition, we will find it, we will find it, but spare parts for Air
Force planes, we will not find it on the black market. Israel provided a black
market to Iran, it is called a black market and it has been provided to them. They
went to Holland and said here it is...! This is the bidding of Israel and America
and its influence over all the countries of the world! Here it is Holland and tell
Iran that it is us selling to you by way of the black market! As for us? Who will
play that role?

Director of Planning

Sir, Clear...

Operations Assistant

We have studied the current topic more in regards to reducing the effects of the
helicopters, which is our main concern. Through experience which we achieved
today, our helicopters were attacked using missiles (Hawk) and we said to
ourselves that we have Katyusha rockets. Instead of wasting that ammunition on
the buildings of al-Muhammarah where it may or may not hit the target because
they are not guided, we could take some of these Katyusha rockets and reinforce
the troops that are greatly exposed to enemy helicopters and if we were to assign
two launchers to every unit, it may be possible to go a long ways towards
countering the helicopters, since it's range is up to seventeen kilometers and that
is a greater range than that of the helicopter...

Commander-in-Chief

Tell me, what is the most damage that we have done on Iranian moral and
operation? As far as brigade size in all of the Iraqi Army? Where?

Operations Assistant

6th Armored Brigade.

[Document Page 140]

<u>Top Secret</u>	
Commander-in-Chief	Don't you think? OK, what effect does the helicopter have on it?
Director of Planning	It has limited the movements and activities a lot on the highway 15 kilometers from the al-Ahwaz highway to the bridgehead, despite that its distance is 15 kilometers and despite that there are three spots on it, and these three spots, and I mean before the General Director's incident, the highway was crowded by the popular army and our forces have now been assembled and have taken up those three spots.
Commander-in-Chief	Yes, but are we in a state of peace?
Director of Planning	There is no activity Sir.
Commander-in-Chief	Why the activity? What would we want it for? Is there anything to indicate that? Are there any people that want to fight like we do and give vacation days during the war? We do that, us and the Syrians. What activity? An army in a defensive state probably, and has become in the situation we are in right now, OK, why the large scale activity? For what reason?
Director of Planning	Sir, there are more situations that require activity between the front line positions and the lines of communications, various and multiple situations including column activity.
Commander-in-Chief	The long war... it is not possible to guarantee such a case in a long war, it is not possible to guarantee and I have said that, Should we have constant air cover to ensure that? I mean, a normal state of activity, how? How is it possible?
Director of Planning	For example...
Operations Assistant	That is between us and the all knowing God.
Commander-in-Chief (Continuing)	In this case, yes, we decide to ensure for you a state of normal activity, whereas we divert the air activity of enemy aircraft...but within 15 days our Air Force will be finished, meaning that we work on the roads and a plane comes and attacks them and produce martyrs and injured.

[Document Page 141]

Top Secret

	This is war.
Military Intelligence Director	Carry out some of the work at night.
Commander-in-Chief	Night, and sleep in the day!
Military Intelligence Director	Even everyday constant issues for the main force can be fixed at night.
Director of Planning	(On the Map) Here is Sarwit...this has been done...this was done, even to the extent that the bridge can be taken down and set up at night and in some cases, it can be repaired...whereas there has been requests made that would have a limited impact on moral, excuse me, a limited physical [TN: or fiscal] impact, and the impact on moral would be very great. The troops which constantly complain about requests that are out right rejected or slow in getting approved.
Commander-in-Chief	It is not possible to give the Air Force to the control of the troops sectors Shakir and we do not want to discuss it constantly.
Director of Planning	Yes Sir.
Commander-in-Chief	If we give it to the troops... one tank battalion would exhaust for us the whole Air Force, for if I were to have it, I would do the same thing too and if you had it, you too and when I go among them and sit with them, I will interact with them humanely, but I must behave with what I have been dealt. I do not want to have the plane come and break his moral or have it fire on him and hit him or even graze him. I do not want that to happen...But what am I to do? Am I to exhaust my Air Force? When I ordered the brigade, it was not known what we had in place...Are we to explain everything to the parties? Don't you think? Meaning, when orders are given, we do not tell them that we have enough in reserve materials for the requests, which we have carried out for them, for a month or two weeks. That is not possible,

(22 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 142]

(23 of 186)

Top Secret

	<p>He is under the impression that his own country has no limits! I am sure that 'A' of the ammunition used is enough for them.</p>
<p>Director of Planning Mr. Tariq Aziz enters the operations room</p>	<p>At least, Sir... Good Evening Sir.</p>
<p>Commander-in-Chief Operations Assistant</p>	<p>Hello Abu Ziad, (continuing)... a quarter of it is enough for them to achieve the vital goals...they are sitting and waiting for the enemy, enemy harassment! Harass the enemy! The 122mm artillery, which you have mentioned to, the enemy is sitting in their defense positions and comfortable! It is possible for the bombs to reach, it is possible to reach! Now he has made his defensive positions outside the range of the 130mm artillery.</p>
<p>Commander-in-Chief</p>	<p>Your words Sir, are supported by the rate of fire on our troops within the recent days...the troops are entrenched very well and it does not effect them, the effect is very small.</p>
<p>Operations Assistant Mr. Tariq Aziz</p>	<p>The conservative people, to the contrary, should figure out how to send five shells and get the enemy to fire back with a hundred shells, so that as a result... They don't understand.</p>
<p>Military Intelligence Director</p>	<p>No shame...! Listen to me Sir...</p>
<p>Commander-in-Chief</p>	<p>What we have now specified is sufficient...when we reach a point where we have one pilot to conduct five to seven sorties, means what? ...that's more than... More than one hundred sorties, well what? What will we achieve? And after forty days of fighting!</p>

Top Secret

[Document Page 143]

Top Secret

Air Force Commander	(105) One hundred and five flights...(130) one hundred and thirty flights, (132) one hundred and thirty two flights Sir!
Military Intelligence Director	Most of them in the sector...
Air Force Commander	In the southern sector...
Military Intelligence Director	The southern sector.
Commander-in-Chief	The requests to us, regardless of the division commanders recounting that every situation is critical...I lean towards calling those division commanders to meetings and record the matters which are requested from us, that we talk about them, so that they become aware in how to correctly use their ammunition, their weapons, and their equipment...
Mr. Tariq Aziz	Sir, this has been approved for your Excellency in a good manner.
Commander-in-Chief	Yes it has been approved? We have approved it and give this paper to Major Sayyah (via courier).
Currier	Yes Sir.
Mr. Tariq Aziz	Far...
Director of Planning	Sir, the truth is that the intent is not to increase the effort, but the intent is to see if it is possible to find a factor whose sole purpose is to decrease the air effort and at the same time be beneficial. The truth is that we now, and from our studies of the phenomenon of air cover...
Commander-in-Chief	What do you suggest, Shakir?
Director of Planning	Yes Sir. A variety of covers, we have continuous covers. And the truth is that these covers

Top Secret

[Document Page 144]

Top Secret

	<p>were arranged and were accomplished with extensive and good effort. I have mentioned the number being between six and sometimes seven sorties per one pilot...this is very extensive effort reflects itself on the impact of the reserve materials which you have expressed concern about Your Excellency. We have said, is it possible to operate in the following manner, as long as there is continuous air penetration and the enemy is capable of penetrating, therefore, is it possible to do anything else instead of air cover? This is a technical aspect, in regards to high altitude cover...for example, there are planes that can fly low altitude and reach its targets and would not be prone to interception by air cover. Are these words not correct Sir? (Directed to Air Force Commander).</p>
<p>Air Force Commander</p>	<p>Yes, but point out to which areas you mean that.</p>
<p>Commander-in-Chief</p>	<p>No, technically that is true, but we have heard that before you said it, regardless of the areas pointed out.</p>
<p>Air Force Commander</p>	<p>No Sir, we...</p>
<p>Commander-in-Chief</p>	<p>Low altitude aircraft...the interceptors against them, its scope is technically limited. This is audibly a technical case...regardless of the view about where? But we want to know what the alternative is? What do we decide to do in this regards. The suggestions, symbolic. It seems to us that the information we have in front of us and from every discussion that we have had, that it is difficult to reconcile between the economic case in terms of material and spending time preventing enemy planes from circling above our troops with helicopters or fighters.</p>
<p>Director of Planning</p>	<p>As long as this is possible...so the question which to keep in mind is that as long as air cover is overhead and the enemy comes in low altitude aircraft, and the interceptor air cover is late, and sometimes for very brief moments, whereas it does not allow air cover by interceptors or pursuit aircraft...</p>
<p>Air Force Commander</p>	<p>What do you have in mind concerning the southern sectors?</p>

[Document Page 145]

Top Secret

Director of Planning	Sir, it is not in the South Sector, even if it is in the rest of the sectors!
Air Force Commander (completing)	You can be confident in it and what is intended according to the formations that were subjected to Air Force interference are unable to do anything to it... Do you not want it so? We have it here within the North and Central Sector in a particular order and it must have this effort that he mentioned, this real effort on the South Sector in a basic way, sir, on the Al-Muhammarah region and the `Abadan region... First by controlling around the base and the activity of the one squadron from 'Afi base to the Al-Muhammarah sector is unable to remain above our units, this was confirmed ten minutes ago, in a continuous way and they are returning... Three quarters of the time is in coming and going and this is the cause which creates a great struggle for them... Here in the Central and North Sector, the Kirkuk and Mosul Base have had coverage, there are two squadrons present, and sometimes from this squadron and sometimes from the other squadron but not continuously... the gaps are disconnected. According to the Central Sector they have the College and Saddam Air Base working on doing the trading off for that... Here in the Rashid Base and the Tamuz Air Base where they are trading off the coverage also. There is no effort on that, the effort is focusing on the 'Ali and Sha'ibah Base from the pressure arising from the units and the planes there and such, I did not realize what came of this effort there focusing in a basic way on it...
Director of Planning Air	That what we are pleased with it and what we said is we must work on the basis of a long war or similar length...
Force Commander	This is what we want!
Director of Planning	The evidence points to this basis, the question is continuing the air coverage with our complete efforts and in a way that is required or is of a type in agreement with the demands of the units because it wears us out and we might not be prepared for it.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Even this coverage for a hundred or more times, why are we doing that?

[Document Page 146]

Top Secret

Director of Planning	This is the same offer, sir.
Air Force Commander	He has the charge, sir...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Why is there this vast array of coverage? Why?
Air Force Commander	50% of this effort is specific to the South Sector sir.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Rather than doing a hundred sorties or more, we choose daily to fly all our planes and strike all over Iran another time like the first day and this has a psychological effect on the enemy, of more influence (130) air sorties hovering above our units! If we wanted psychologically to influence the enemy, we say to him: we are on the fortieth day celebrating with you again just as on the first day and we take to him (250) sorties inside his lands, and even the retaliation we bear from missiles then we target such-and-such city to fire two missiles on any four houses there, in this plan when he responds with a decision of bombing from this such-and-such place and another decision from such-and-such place and another decision or the bombing in such-and-such place, in the fortieth day and when it reaches 150 or 250 sorties, it becomes a case threatening the morale of the enemy. On this subject I did not mention it when I explained but I mentioned it for a reason...
Director of Planning	For this, sir, as long as the situation is this way...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief (completing)	What is the effects of the helicopters is like in the 51 st sortie which was sent or the 50 th plane, isn't it so?
Operations Assistant	(53) sorties, sir.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	(53) planes for sure from all over Iran from the demarcation line for his units who he told: The helicopters raided us, they got us! It affects them psychologically and shakes them...

(27 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 147]

Top Secret

Mr. Commander-in-Chief
(continuing)

maintaining our force ... maintaining the economic income during wars is the most important principle for winning. This is not something that arose from our war, rather from previous war experiences before our time. So long as we are a country that imports ... this principle should be imported as well. Also, you do not have (an end), I mean, you do not have international coverage like the air coverage for the units that want to cross al-Qarun without air coverage! How would their morale and situation be ... you do not have an international coverage, but that does not mean that you do not have people that respect you ... you see that respect is present and demonstrated, but you do not belong to anyone because you do not want to belong ... a road of a special kind!

Very well, shouldn't you economize your resources and not neglect them? Then you will be forced to say to someone: We are your friends! We are your brothers! Every time we take an aircraft we do not earn, we will owe you. We will pay something instead ... last night I met with the French and used introductions so he would understand, I then said, send it to us within the decided deadlines ... agreed! We earned this ... but anything more than the agreed upon earnings during the circumstances of war, they will hold over our heads ... we must pay them out of our economy and money, out of our political situation when some day they have an international political situation. The world is like a saw! They will then tell us, we did good by you back then in such a situation, you now got to take it easy on us ... I, for the second time want Major General Muhammad to re-study this situation ... we do not want to disregard the suggestion of Brigadier General Shakir ... can we inflict a sudden harm with less activities, even if we had to use free hunting? We send out two aircraft, and three hostile helicopters meet them and destroy them? If this happens once a week, this would be a harmful situation for the helicopters, because they will always expect that thinking that we are present!

Air Force Commander

Yes Sir. It happened at the al-Basrah sector a few more times than twice.

Mr. Commander-in-Chief

Yes, it was reported to us! I do not want to disregard the situation we previously agreed upon ... send the interceptors, to stand at the boarders, and broadcast on the radar monitor, and launch

[Document Page 148]

(29 of 186)

Top Secret

	warning whistles in Tehran and return again ...
Air Force Commander	Nothing for it, that is why, Sir, it happened four times today.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	This is beneficial for distraction and exhaustion, that is, also exhaustion of resources. They may have launched the warning whistle at that moment, and one of their aircraft passed and a stressed out person took care of it by firing upon it, as happened with us!
Operations Assistant	
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Now they are forced to send aircraft ...
Operations Assistant	Fly aircraft for resistance ... so we exhaust them, and when our aircraft come and launch the whistle for the twentieth times, they will not send aircraft, and at that time our aircraft will take their position comfortably ...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Can I go back to the point before this when your honor ordered to summon the division leaders, ... would you like us to summon them now, or await the return of the honorable Minister?
Operations Assistant	
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Let us start with the Second Corps' sector.
Operations Assistant	Now?
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Now, put it on the schedule. What is today?
	Tuesday.
	Tuesday, when is our appointment with the Navy?
Operations Assistant	Thursday.

Top Secret

[Document Page 1491

Top Secret

Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Thursday? We start Saturday ...
Operations Assistant	Very well Sir.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	We start Saturday, we do half at a time.
Operations Assistant	Half of the division leaders are from the Second Corps, and the other half from the Third Corps, twice, we make it twice ...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	The Third Corps ... My only worry is the Second Corps, there are two divisions that I do not know their exact positions even now, the First Division and the Ninth Division.
Operations Assistant	We can summon them with the first group of division leaders, if we cannot bring all division leaders in the second corps at once.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	The Tenth?
Operations Assistant	We cannot summon it!
Mr. Commander-in-Chief (continuing)	The Fifth and Third stay! Summon the division commanders for the Ninth and First corps, we cannot give each division commander so much time! ... two division commanders each, in addition to our duties, or in the morning in addition to our duties ...
Operations Assistant	Meaning we call two of the division commanders?
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Two, two at the time!
Operations Assistant	Two, two at the time ...

[Document Page 150]

(31 of 186)

Top Secret

Military Operations Director	Sir, in some situations, they can come down for one night, I do not know in what order, also, as a form of rest, they can go to the rear if they coordinate with the corps in accordance with priority of first and last arrivals, and rest in the rear, and perhaps return to Bagdad ...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	No, consider it a rest, this counts as their rest.
Operations Assistant	We did not want your honor to be pre-occupied with them for a few days, so we figured, if it was not during two days, it will be three days. Of the days, or specifying the days will be organized with the brother Brigadier General Tariq, regarding your honor's responsibilities.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	No, where are we going to agree on it? Now! The best day is Saturday at nine o'clock, the Ninth and First Division, and Sunday, division number 12 ...
Chief Of Staff	Six?
Military Operations Director	Six or Four ... Six and Four ...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Division 12 ...
Operations Assistant	We have divisions Four, Two and Eight.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Division 12 and Eight, and Monday others, Are they Monday? ... Tuesday if they were late seeing their families ... we do not want ... because in that case, time and the long distance, all division leaders will be available for that.
Operations Assistant	Tuesday, we bring the leaders of the Third Corps, or do we leave them for now? There are three division leaders.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	We said Saturday ...

Top Secret

[Document Page 151]

(32 of 186)

Top Secret

Operations Assistant	Two divisions of the Third Corps ... the First and Ninth. Sunday, of the Second Corps, Fourth, Second and Tenth.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes.
Operations Assistant	Tuesday and it returns to the corps...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	We return to the Third Corps on Tuesday ...
Operations Assistant	We have the Fifth, Third and Tenth Divisions.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Then we return and circulate every day from one place to another.
Operations Assistant	According to the situation Mr. President?
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	No, according to the situation, it has been (40) days and we have been fighting, we want to see the division leaders.
Operations Assistant	Very well, let us say ...
Military Operations Director	Sir, the situation requires specifying appointment, Mr. President ...
Operations Assistant	Let us say Tuesday, the Third and Fifth Division, and leave the Tenth since it is engaged ...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	We will start Saturday from the sectors?
Operations Assistant	Third.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Third.

Top Secret

[Document Page 152]

(33 of 186)

Top Secret

Operations Assistant	Sunday is for the Second Corps ...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Sunday for the Second.
Operations Assistant	Tuesday the Third Corps, and Wednesday for the Second Corps ...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	The second, we leave full days for corps leaders, we leave for corps leaders, except Saturday ...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Except Saturday and Sunday, after that they fill it up!
Operations Assistant	We leave it for them except two divisions ...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes, them. We want to see two division leaders daily.
Operations Assistant	One can be from the Second Corps and the other from the Third Corps.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Possible, possible!
Operations Assistant	Will it stand up, is that correct, because the division leaders, their divisions are
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	In the front ...
Operations Assistant	Exactly, it is preferred that we do not bring two leaders from one corps ...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Possible, you prepare a schedule with the assistance of the corps leaders over the phone, and if you want to do the First and Ninth Divisions, we can do that ...
Operations Assistant	First and Twelfth ...

Top Secret

[Document Page 153]

Top Secret

Mr. Commander-in-Chief	The First and Twelfth, or Ninth and Twelfth ...
Operations Assistant	Or Ninth and Eighth, yes.
Director of Planning	Yes Sir, let us finish up the one or two points that we are studying. This is an operation, even though it is an air effort, we have a stake in it. It is possible for the thing you mentioned last week, which is a meeting with the chief of staff's representatives, possible to do in light of this operation.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	That has been decided ...
Director of Planning	Was decided? And nothing happened regarding that!
Air Force Commander	I had a discussion with Lieutenant General, `Abd Al-Jabbar, regarding this subject, and there was an agreement and you were not present, that planning staff officers will come to us.
Operations Assistant	Brigadier General Shakir was not present, and Brigadier General Muhammad consulted with me regarding the same topic, and I told him that I would rather you guys move to the air force command because my knowledge of the duties of the air force officers may prevent them from coming here. We also do not want too many people here. So, I told Brigadier General Muhammad that it is okay for you to go to them.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	That is the best, to not have too many people here ... meaning as a headquarters ... we should limit the people that come here.
Operations Assistant	I gave an order to the planning group to move to the air force command, and the research they want to do, they can do there.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Good.

[Document Page 154]

Top Secret

Air Force Commander Mr.	We are ready any time for anything ...
Commander-in-Chief	Very well ...
Operations Assistant	There are targets that we will take care of, and some targets we will order the corps' leader to take care of as much as he can. The corps' leader informed me, when I visited him, that he was not in a position to take care of any targets outside the units' presence because the units were exchanging positions and new places were assigned, and some of them changed responsibilities ... we will visit him again or call him and organize the subjects that can be taken care of by helicopters and with the help of the corps as well...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Discuss it with him, the corps' leader, though, must know that we want to manage the tanks' delay without an excuse ...
Operations Assistant	Yes, of course, Brigadier General Shakir must be cleared on this ...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Prepare a car for Mr. Tariq and Abu Muhammad
Military Intelligence Director(whispering)	No, not his concern ...
Operations Assistant	Colonel Maysir, want to say something?
Director on Military Movements	No Sir, nothing.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Do we have anything for Brigadier General Muhammad" (he means the air force commander).
Military Intelligence Director	Sir, the assistant is asking if we have anything? Do I tell him, we have nothing other than hostile pockets that we want to take care of, since it stood firm since a while and has not been

(35 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 155]

Top Secret

	<p>taken care of up to now ...</p>
<p>Director of Planning</p>	<p>We have Sir, use the officers in the commanding headquarters as staff officers for the helicopters.</p>
<p>Air Force Commander</p>	<p>... The officers present at the division headquarters are the ones in control (Directing his words to Mr. Commander-in-Chief) ... we discussed the subject with your honor present and we talked about the necessity of the presence of a helicopter officer pilot at the headquarters of each division. We now have available pilot officers at the headquarters of each division, if we added another ten helicopter pilots available for that, the number will reach twelve officers. The helicopters do not have this number of officers available for organization purposes because of the requests regarding using or the work of helicopters. I, with the support of the director of army aviation agree on this. That we make a continuing effort devoted to the divisions. The senior helicopter officer pilot who is present at the division headquarters, is the helicopter officer pilot that is responsible for planning the tasks that are wanted by the division!</p>
<p>Mr. Commander-in-Chief</p>	<p>'The senior officer?'</p>
<p>Operations Assistant</p>	<p>For example, at the division's headquarters, we have (3) or (4) aircraft. For each aircraft, there are one or two pilots, we, therefore, see that the division headquarters should have four or five helicopter pilot officers. The highest in seniority is the commander of the formation present at the division headquarters. He is the one that sits with the chief of staff's representatives and plans according to the tasks requested by the division. He will certainly lead the tasks, or we specify an officer from here, permanently available at the headquarters division for helicopter planning purposes, then move this officer to the pilot officers present at the division headquarters ... I believe this ... I do not believe that the director of army aviation has abilities for things like this?</p>
<p>Director of Planning</p>	<p>We have at least enough officers for the main divisions. We have situations where some divisions were facing pressure and at the same time the helicopters were almost paralyzed. The helicopter officers were saying, they do not brief us, and the divisions say</p>

[Document Page 156]

<u>Top Secret</u>	
	we are not benefiting from the helicopters! Despite the work you have done, do you now have officers with colonel rank present at your headquarters? (Directing his words to the Director of Army Aviation).
Director of Army Aviation	They are working!
Director of Planning	Yes, I did not say that they are not working! We can take a few of them and specifying an officer, two, three, four of the ones we need to the main division headquarters for the purpose of executing these duties for the purpose of saving you the trouble the aircraft are having now, and at the same time implementing a common language through the plan that was executed, why? The plan was deliberate and was executed, and not one aircraft was hit, why? Last night not one aircraft was hit, and all your aircraft flew and did not hit a single aircraft, never mind the results and its usefulness ... it means something happened to the front units and connecting that to the relation between the formation headquarters and the executing force, and this is what needs to be dealt with ...
Director of Army Aviation	Very well, right now we ...
Director of Planning (continuing)	Going back to the technique before the hit, what is the use of not executing the plan?
Director of Army Aviation	Forgive me, I now have my aircraft Gazelle [TN: name of French-made scout helicopter] in Badrah, very well, those do not work in planning situations, there are four pilots!
Director of Planning	There is an officer with captain rank, he may not be able to communicate with them!
Director of Army Aviation	We do not have a rank higher than major!
Director of Planning	What rank do you have ... The director of army aviation intervened.
Operations Assistant	He should offer

[Document Page 157]

Top Secret

Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Let us hear their comments
Director of Army Aviation	I always give my best efforts Sir.
Director of Planning	Very well, how many do you have with a rank of lieutenant colonel and higher at your headquarters?
Director of Army Aviation	Can I find ten officers? Those are formation leaders!
Military Intelligence Director	Not possible Sir ...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Is it a technical consultation? Or leadership?
Director of Planning	Technical and leadership Leadership mainly!
Director of Army Aviation	Then ... allow me Sir ...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	How many officers do you have at the headquarters?
Director of Army Aviation	Sir, I now have (3) officers and I sent them to the corps, and they all have high ranks and wise ... so if anything happened or if there were trouble in the front corps, they call them, and they go and organize...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Very well, if we designate two officers at the headquarters of each corps, one mobile and another stationary for briefing and moving for the division. The division that we need to coordinate with more than the other divisions on the first and second day, and so if necessity called for moving to the other sector, would that be sufficient?
Director of Planning	It would! Good idea Sir, however, the problem we are suffering from, Sir, is that the corps' sector is large ... the dilemma may be the roaming person, good idea Sir, the idea of the roaming officer, but they may be now at the second corps' sector, we may not need him for all

(38 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 158]

Top Secret

	divisions for example But he surely
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	The presence of two officers in one headquarters makes them deliberate with each other.
Director of Planning:	Correct Sir, your idea.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Why be alone when the other can help, right now, don't we help one another? An idea from here, another from there, but after deliberating one goes to the field and so forth, they rotate working.
Director of Planning	Very true Sir, there may be in the effective sector three instead of two, each of them three with their appointed direction!
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Let us hear the opinion of Lieutenant General `Abd-al-Jabbar?
Operations Assistant	I swear, Sir, what ever we said will reinforce their position, and I personally say, even if there are two, it is impossible ... for example, let us talk about the Third Corps's sector Sir, these are the two that will be in al-Amarah, the need sometimes becomes immediate... and to move from al-Amarah and go to al-Thalamiyah to go to the third corps' sector. In the Third Corps' sector, at the division headquarters, there is a helicopter asset available to the division. The most senior officer in the helicopter will be like the missing link between the helicopter formations; he will sit with them and plan with the help of his group because he is the one who will lead. Meaning, there will not be a person to plan and another to lead, he will come and plan with the headquarters division, and he will lead the formation going to deal with the tasks. But if they became two, it is better without a doubt. But when we see the Air Force sending three officers to the division's headquarters, when it was assigned to our brother Lieutenant General, Isma'il (commander of the 3 rd Corps 3), and the first day he arrived and within an hour, he summoned one and assigned him to the Third Division's headquarters, because the three were at al-Amarah for the purpose of providing support for the working units, why were all three in al-Amarah? So I called by phone and talked to

(39 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 159]

Top Secret

	Lutfi Alufi, and we now have reports about his investigation. Sir, for your information; he discourages the helicopter pilot officers, and a pilot with a Captain rank filed a report against him, we brought him to help us!
Director of Planning	This is the situation Sir, the apparent situation that I saw at the Third Division headquarters, where Major Sayyid came... Sayyid, I do not know his name!
Director of Army Aviation	Sayyid, the tall one?
Director of Planning	Yes, the tall one, he is the most senior officer and a good pilot. He came, and talked with the division headquarters representative, I did not want to interfere, I said: let us see how this officer completes his duties and how he executes them? First, there will never be an evening meeting to confirm duties, make certain with the officers!
Operations Assistant	The evening meeting is not taking place currently, not for the helicopters, rather for the division, they do not sit in the evening with all classes. That is a violation! Therefore, we want the division commander to continue roaming either with the 26 th Armored Brigade or with the 6 th Armored Brigade.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	That is what we said regarding him, we said that the front leader does not mean that he should be physically present in the front all the time, who would organize his headquarters? Who would oversee the central structure? Who would organize the efforts? He is the leader ... the leader, not for a fighting group or battle group, rather the leader for the entire division
Operations Assistant (overlapping conversation)	It was supposed to have the evening conference
Director of Planning	Let me give you an example Sir, does your honor remember our travel day 23, the honorable Minister, and Mr. Raj and I, we went to the Basrah. Left Basrah as directed by the honorable Minister and went to the al-Amarah Sector in the evening where I wanted to witness the efficiency that was taking place at the division's headquarters to organize the work, and I did not find anything as the

(40 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 160]

Top Secret

	assistant stated. We then sent for the intelligence and operations officer in the presence of the chief of staff, and then the Honorable Leader came who went to his room to rest, so I said to them, tomorrow the honorable Minister will come and Mr. Raj, and it is possible that they will ask you about the situation and what is your analysis, beliefs and problems? We started the same work, and the helicopter officer was not present ...
Director of Army Aviation	Did you send for ...
Director of Planning	We did not send for him! That was the problem, not the lack of representative from the helicopters because this officer has a major or lieutenant colonel rank, excuse me, a captain rank, so he feels that he is a pilot and he has a duty, he goes to execute then comes back, and does not feel that he is a leader in a certain group, in a certain headquarters where he has to plan duties and solve problems with intended parties, then execute, that is what I felt Sir
Director of Army Aviation	If the Honorable President allows me ...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	I asked you a question, you are yet to answer, how many officers do you have at your headquarters?
Director of Army Aviation	Sir, I have about 12 pilots, three of them in the corps ...
Operations Assistant	Good ..
Director of Army Aviation	My operation division is working day and night, and at my headquarters I have an officer that allegedly belongs to my group, he is a colonel pilot, but I cannot assign him duties, notwithstanding the administrative issues and its problems ... then I have the situation of the pilot officers for the whole army aviation, from the Mi-25, the Gazelle, the Super [TN: This may refer to the Super Puma], the Alouette and the Mi-8, and I cannot give up any of them, I have a great deficiency. Even pilots of the Mi-8, I have (110) suitable aircraft and (204) pilots. Each aircraft has two pilots, the Mi-25s, I have (25) suitable aircraft, and (37) pilots when there is supposed to be (60) pilots! Of the Gazelle aircraft, considering what happened today, there are (39) aircraft and it has

[Document Page 161]

Top Secret

(40) pilots while there is supposed to be (78) pilots. There are (9) Supers and (18) pilots, it is the only one fully staffed. There are (27) Alouette aircraft and there is supposed to be (54) pilots but there are only (25) including the speaker, so I can give three others so we would have two pilots at each corps headquarters, but if I give the rest, it will be at the expense of the Mi aircraft, not the others. The Mi-8 pilot cannot plan like A Mi-25 pilot who will do the actual flying. I can draw from them and give them, I have no problem with that, but I was informed before the planning to prepare (70) Mi-8 aircraft for emergencies and I constantly think about that.

Director of Planning

We are not going to tell you anything less than 48 hours in advance.

Director of Army Aviation

But I cannot give them up.

Director of Planning

I would like you to inform me of that, how many lieutenant colonels and higher do you have? As a rank, lieutenant colonel and higher?

Director of Army Aviation

I have two engineers who are lieutenant colonels.

Director of Planning

No, Lieutenant Colonel [illegible word] has the credentials to lead the army aviation, lieutenant colonel, colonel, how many do you have? Please, is it possible or not possible?

Mr. Commander-in-Chief

Let us not get preoccupied with details, solve that with Brigadier General Faruq, and find the proper solution.

Operations Assistant

The easiest solution is possibly the suggestion your honor stated, I mean reinforcing the headquarters, we are discussing that, and the divisions will continually make an effort towards that.

Mr. Commander-in-Chief

Study that, my suggestion was not for a detailed daily organization that is not possible; I rather meant to increase the technical awareness level for the divisions' headquarters regarding the

[Document Page 162]

Top Secret

	<p>best way to care for the people that they work and deal with, and not to come (suddenly) saying: take this, go there, do that! They should come and call him, he is a human being also, they should hear his opinion, he would tell him we have targets, what are the proper air plans for these targets? Can you execute such objectives and what are the difficulties facing you? What do you expect from us as a division headquarters to make the execution of your task easier?</p>
Operations Assistant	<p>This cannot be accomplished with a rank less then lieutenant colonel/colonel to treat him the way your honor stated.</p>
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	<p>No, this is what we want, we want to summon those here before sending them, and tell them that their main task is how to raise technical awareness for the headquarters (divisions), and when they go, a certificate is sent with them to the headquarters instructing that the delegates should be treated as such ... so we can reach the best results, the purpose is not to move to organize field work tomorrow in some division, so he moves! Where is the work? Where is the moving target and when will it arrive?</p>
Operations Assistant	<p>Sir, the suggestion discussed is organizing work between the division headquarters and helicopters duties.</p>
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	<p>The main point up to now is that there is no readiness, there is no real leadership work at the division headquarters, meaning they do not come and have an evening conference, sit with the division leader and certain group administrators and its chief of staff, and have discussions like we do here, discussing symptoms and ways to treat them, the enemy and his situation? Using the proper and better weapons etc, it appears there is no</p>
Military Intelligence Director	<p>In that case Honorable Leader, we can let go of the officer suggested by Brigadier General Shakir, because the same pilots designated at the division's sector will attend the conference and will discuss it with them!</p>
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	<p>The most senior in rank will attend, brief the rest, they hear his opinion and it is over. It is possible</p>

[Document Page 163]

Top Secret

to solve this through an order saying: first, it had been noticed that the helicopter is not used properly, or when it is used it is not done correctly, or not being used. This is impairing efforts that should not be impaired. So the helicopter pilot most senior in rank will attend the evening conference, so we can direct their attention to the importance of the evening conference, we then tell them afterwards that it was noticed that there is no attention being paid to the evening leadership conferences of the division commander and his staff officers with the unit administrators present with him and squad commanders. This as an organization for the work so we can direct their attention to the importance of this work.

Director of Army Aviation Excuse me Sir, together we are ten commanding officers in the province, five of which are outside the province, and the rest are with me, I included ...

Mr. Commander-in-Chief Not many, not many!

Military Operations Director Sir, they have guards and movement tasks ...

Director of Army Aviation Sir, two of them are at the main command center in [eligible word] and three in the corps ...

Director of Planning I do not think there is a need for these two at the center command.

Director of Army Aviation I appointed them with an order, and when an order issues to withdraw then, I will withdraw them

Military Operations Director Sir, these two officers are here to express to us the army aviation position, the whole army aviation is portrayed through some mentioned colonel or the other major present with him.

Director of Army Aviation When I say something to him now, he obtains agreement

Mr. Commander-in-Chief Very well, if you reach a good idea, we'll hear it, let us see if Major General Muhammad has certain objectives?

Air Force Commander Sir, they gave us one target for hostile artillery in the area of Dar Khawin

(44 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 164]

(45 of 186)

Top Secret

Military Intelligence Director	Regiment 175
Commander of Army Force	Regiment? Artillery regiment in Dar Khawin
Military Intelligence Director	It could be that this is the only unit that is affecting the units in the direction of al-Qarun and to the north; it can be assigned to the helicopters and not necessarily to the air force.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Very well, let us assign the Mi-25 aircraft for it, to these targets present in al-Tahiri, between al-Tahiri and Al ...
Operations Assistant	Al-Tahiri in the west riverside and Dar Khawin in the east riverside...
Director of Operations	We have a force here Sir, a regiment from the 25 th brigade in the place
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	We avoid our force and move by the outskirts and strike them, or from the left or right outskirts
Military Operations Director	We can organize with the regiment present here ...
Operations Assistant	It appears he
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Conduct coordination, and organize a thoughtful effort to continue the situation for three days unless the results and damages are serious, so we stop and study the situation. Whisper, unheard communication
Commander of Army Force	Tomorrow?
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	The day after!

Top Secret

Full Translation

Page 165

Top Secret

Planning Director: After tomorrow!

Air Force Commander: Sir, we have an operation tomorrow because this... (UI) tomorrow, I will send the Air Defense Director, the Air Defense Movement Director to Kirkuk so that he can directly lead the operation there to strike the transport aircrafts coming from Syria through Turkey; we are ready for them tomorrow morning.

President Leader: Good.

Air Force Commander: After we agreed on the main lines of the plan... we dedicated the entire effort for this operation, an entire squadron for it (UI)

President Leader: Just make sure to down the aircraft inside the Iranian borders

Air Force Commander: This is very clear; they assign a protection to it at the rate of (4) aircrafts each time.

Mr. Tariq Aziz• Sir, Can't they hunt it and force it to land by us?

President Leader: No, this will not help us; they would say, "They downed it while it was in the International air zone."

Mr. Tariq Azi• Yes, let's see what it has itself; is it weapons or officers?

President Leader: It has everything; let them down it since this would be better than forcing it.

Air Force Commander: He may not comply, Sir, and then we will need to strike it.

President Leader: Strike it, it would be better! Down one or two aircrafts and they will know then...

(46-186)
Top Secret

[Document Page 166]Top Secret

Air Force Commander	When one is shot down, no one will be able to reach them.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes, the civilian pilots and other pilots will have an excuse and will say that the Iraqis shoot them down! Yes, Maysir.
Military Operations Director	Mr. President, our comrade Nuri Sabah called today and before that he received your authorization to distribute ammunition to those in the Kurdish area; the ammunition is for the artillery.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	He asked for a 105mm cannon!
Military Operations Director	105mm sir, the required amount is about one thousand bombs. We fear that if we gave them this amount they will expect it again in the future, sir, so let's give him a small amount according to their actions. Sir, what do you recommend?
Operations Assistant	We tried to find out the number of cannons in order to determine, but frankly, we were unable to find out.
Military Operations Director	It is possible that they do not know either.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes, give them 200.
Operations Assistant	We said to give them 150!
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes, give them (200) two hundred...
Military Operations Director	One hundred and fifty or one hundred and twenty, too. For 106, let's give them about 100 now. This is relatively low, sir.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes, even 150 for them, same as 106.

(47 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 167]

Top Secret

Military Operations Director	Sir, Mr. Rajj called and sent you greetings from the minister. He also said that they have two points related to transportation from the regions of al-Basrah and al-Amarah to Baghdad. It seems that some of the enlisted who come are on assignment or are on their vacations and some of them were injured so they traveled in civilian cars, which was costly for them since their current salary is only ten dinars. So they suggested that the railroad increase the number of cars...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	increase...
Military Operations Director	Public transportation should increase the numbers of our lines. They asked for more military buses, sir. We have some with the First Corps, I ordered them, sir. We can some and arrange something for the companies in al-Basrah and the other in al-Amarah to transport military personnel...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes, I agree.
Military Operations Director	The other point regarding the ammunition for the A-19 122mm, sir. The primary source for it is the Soviet Union. The cannon is currently discontinued, which means that weaponry, ammunition, information, equipment, and artillery...
Operations Assistant	122mm?
Military Operations Director	A-19 122mm
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	The cannon we were talking about now?
Operations Assistant	We are looking for...
Military Operations Director	Alternative source!

[Document Page 168]

Top Secret

Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Did you contact India?
Military Operations Director	They have still not done anything about that, sir.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Contact India and Yugoslavia...
Director of Planning	Is it possible for the administrative assistant to attend the evening conference? He is responsible for monitoring these matters.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Why not? There is no reason why he should not come...
Operations Assistant	The days that...
Director of Planning	Yes, it should be taken care of...
Operations Assistant	We do not research administrative affairs daily, when we have a point to discuss regarding research of administrative affairs, lets invite him, sir...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Well, we do not have any objectives for the Muhammad Brigade tomorrow?
Air Force Commander	Sir, we work according to your directions, sir. On the fortieth day, a complete strike.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Choose any day; I wanted to use reprisals in a strike operation, even on a village!
Air Force Commander	Your order, sir. Do you have any specific types of targets, sir?
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Everything, everything around on that day...
Military Intelligence Director	Do we recommend any targets, sir?

(49 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 169]

Top Secret

Mr. Commander-in-Chief	By God, trust in God, but I do not want any targets that cause lots of casualties...
Air Force Commander Operations Assistant	Your order, sir. Refineries, sir? Yes, the refineries are secondary aerial targets...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief Operations Assistant	The targets have become clear now and well... They now have a clear picture through reports and prisoners. We now have everything on them. Can we find out exactly where? Except that the targets and the day are top secret; they should not be known by many!
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	The same treatment on day one...
Operations Assistant	Treatment on day one!
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Treatment on day one, sir...
Air Force Commander Chief of Staff	Excuse me, sir. Taken into account... that have emerged and the cases where saboteurs did it... and the individuals who will supervise the loading. Investigation of the identity and safety of the individuals responsible for loading...
Military Intelligence Director	Let's change them. List them by names. These matters should... and check the bombs and make sure they are ready and then open our eyes and pay attention to them.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	
Chief of Intelligence	A small crew should be prepared, sir, to inspect them after loading and arming, checking the compass, inspecting the primer and the fuses and then trust in the protection of

[Document Page 170]

Top Secret

	God and his mercy!
Air Force Commander	We assigned an officer and a person from the party for that...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	On that day I do not want anyone to go up or down! No making or receiving phone calls; I want complete silence. That is right, whether it be for two or three days that we arrange positions or if it is done in one day...
Air Force Commander	Your order, sir.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	I mean that our force should be divided into three forces or that we should do it in one day.
Director of Operations	By limiting it to one day, it gives the impression that we are stronger and able to launch another strike.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	That is what I wanted, that is the psychological side of it.
Air Force Commander	The psychological side...
Director of Operations	Usually!
Military Operations Director	We now want to find out if they want to fight. Did you check all of their scenarios?
Air Force Commander	Yes.
Director of Planning	There is a point, sir, I was thinking about the navy...
Air Force Commander	Tal'at Zubaydi!

(51 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 171]Top Secret

Director of Planning	The navy is carrying out an operation to mine the head or opening of the Bahmshir Canal!
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	They mined it?
Director of Planning	The possibility of mining it was suggested!
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes.
Operations Assistant	They will mine the entrance of Bahmshir from behind if they can, sir.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	They will come, God willing, okay. They specified it as a point to discuss with them. (His Excellency refers to the meeting of the navy.
Director of Planning	Good.
Operations Assistant	They are occupying... (incomplete).
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	(To the air force commander) Did Hadith Lutfi al-Wafi attend our sessions?
Air Force Commander	No, sir.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Is he a colonel?
Air Force Commander	Staff colonel...
Operations Assistant	I saw him when I left.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	What is his position where he works?
Operations Assistant	Instructor... air force!

(52 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 172]Top Secret

Air Force Commander	Instructor at the Staff Academy, sir. He worked for us for a very short time at the air force administration, which proved to be a miserable failure, actually. But at his job as an instructor...
Operations Assistant	This reflects on you guys, too—he proved to be a miserable failure—and he gets assigned as an instructor at the Staff Academy.
Air Force Commander	Listen to me, he spent seven years as an instructor at the Staff Academy... Look at the reports from the Staff Academy about him! He worked in the administration as a staff officer...
Operations Assistant	Sir, to be honest, in the past I said... I was a commander at the Staff Academy during the time of `Abdu-al-Diri and the former Air Force Commander... They used to assign the worst officer in the navy and air force to teach at the Staff Academy in the naval and air force departments. I was suffering because of this and worked hard to make them understand that these are departments of the Air Force Depai _talent and Naval Department of the Staff Academy where staff officers are graduating for air and naval. A professor or teacher who is not qualified to teach in either of these departments is worthless and it would be better of to close the departments. I saw Hadith Lutfi al-Wafi at the headquarters of the Third Corps when I went there. He was part of a group sent by air force command for cooperation purposes!
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Was he arrested one day as a dissident?
Military Intelligence Director	Yes, sir.
Chief of Intelligence	Year 1980, sir.
Military Intelligence Director	In the year 1979, sir...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Did they stop him yet?

(53 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 173]

Top Secret

Air Force Commander	No...
Operations Assistant	Sir, we have...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Stop him!
Military Intelligence Director	We received a memorandum from him today, sir. Should we form an investigative committee regarding him?
Operations Assistant	I sent a memorandum to the Directorate of Military Intelligence to form an investigative committee regarding him. An officer holding the rank of Pilot Captain submitted a report on him saying: instead of helping morale, he hurts it! He tells them that they are nothing but taxi drivers. Isn't that right?
Air Force Commander	Sir, he does not have the greatest personality. I tell you, wherever he goes, he breaks the rules!
Army Flight Director	Instead of improving your department, you are bringing it down. (Comment on the departments.)
Operations Assistant	He says that your departments are down like helicopters...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Stop him! Okay, sir. When will we rid
Military Operations Director	Iraq of these traitors?
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Sir, corrosion and traitors for how many years... I do not want to say that we
Operations Assistant	need the same time, it will take a long time to get rid of these problems.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes.

(54 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 174]

Top Secret

Chief of Staff	Sir, he was accepted at the Staff Academy and then dropped from it! How was he accepted a second time to the Staff Academy? Isn't that something that should be thought about? How did he infiltrate the Staff Academy?
Military Intelligence Director	... unknown who was behind his graduation from the Staff Academy? Mr. President, he is a relative of Munthir al-Wandawi...
Air Force Commander	A cousin!
Military Intelligence Director	The person responsible for him was the criminal Walid Sirt, one of the dissidents. Muhadith al-Wafi, is my friend, Mr. President.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Your friend?
Military Intelligence Director	I met him during our cycle at the Staff Academy and his room was next to my room during the first year before the July revolution. I became friends with him because he was polite and had good character. At that time, the revolution was underway and he accepted. He accepted on the condition that I be responsible for him. I told him that there are no conditions like that in that party. The secretary of the organization was the criminal Walid Sirt at the time. When I said his name to the organization, he was surprised and said that Hadith does not fit. I said to him that Hadith does fit... and I received authorization for him. In my opinion, I present him to you and he received the party's authorization to work if I was responsible for him. After that, I saw him when he left from special arrest with the dissidents in the year 1970. Walid informed him and said: I returned to the party and was contacted. Will you inform the party? So he said, I will tell them... Walid left them and this caused his arrest and this is what he was arrested for. This means that none of those who were arrested knew him. He was released a while after his arrest... after he joined the party things went well and he became a member of the division's leadership. He became a staff officer in the air force with you (speaking to the Air Force Commander.

(55 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 175]

Top Secret

Operations Assistant	but he was demoted within the party. When I was commander of the Staff Academy, he held the rank of Nasir. (TN: Nasir means supporter)
Military Intelligence Director	He returned after that, after his arrest, to the side of the party and ascended within it.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes... the pilots have very high morale.
Air Force Commander	Very high, sir.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes, I saw them today. Their morale is very high. This means they have the same enthusiasm. By God, their enthusiasm is greater than the last time I saw them before the war. I know them from before the war. Their enthusiasm today is greater than then...
Operations Assistant	Sir, what increased their enthusiasm was certainly the results that they achieved...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Prepare dinner...
Messenger	Yes, sir...
Operations Assistant	Before execution it is possible to... They have some concerns about execution. Certainly now when they see the matter, they can arrive and achieve...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	I do not want you to go easy on commanders or officers who fail.
Air Force Commander	Never, sir, never, sir...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	With all due respect, if you go easy on someone, you do it at the expense of the truth, the results are more important than intentions. You want to say that a certain person is unfortunate! Jawad, what do you want us to do? Let's talk about it... as a result you will kill twenty brave people because of this coward or inefficient person. If he is inefficient, what should we do with him? We do not have this person. This is the one we have... so we will reward him

(56 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 176]

Top Secret

and let him go as an officer to headquarters. But you go and lead or be the commander... command and leadership have their own characteristics. Not everyone has them, even within the army, but every person is as I told you. When someone becomes an officer, there is a limitation and he should be above that limitation, but this does not mean that others will not be braver than him ... When a limit is put in place, officers should not go below it... because he is an officer. When there is an officer who does not want to exert effort to do anything because he is too important, people can have an influence on him, but they will be greatly affected by him. When you see such a person... okay, you say, hey you take the position of your buddy as the division commander? Hey so-and-so, you are now the brigade commander. Hey you, so-and-so, be a naval commander; he you, so-and-so, be the air force commander—and so on until our army's morale raises as a result of the commanders and leaders and stays high... If we treated `Aziz al-Hadithi the same way then we would have killed the brigade and failed at the crossing during this operation that was done by those who came to the brigade. It came to the point that one of the non-commissioned officers said: sir, I swear by God that our commander is a coward. How is that possible? If it gets to the point that the non-commissioned officer recognizes that his brigade commander is a coward, how can we expect him to fight with good morale? Look at this boy. Is he an officer in the Iraqi army? Is he our brother? What keeps this from becoming his position? And so is his relationship with others... our uncles, grandfathers, friends, brothers. Now these are the results of the war because there is nobleness in the country. We are not blind to this

result. Never.

Operations Assistant

We always reiterate that there should be a distinction between position and reward.

Mr. Commander-in-Chief

Never.

Operations Assistant

A person could be rewarded, but not with a position if he is not qualified.

Mr. Commander-in-Chief

That's okay, that's okay.

Operations Assistant

Reward him anyway.

[Document Page 177]

Top Secret

Mr. Commander-in-Chief	<p>Look at Muhammad Rida' Abd-al-Wahid, commander of the sixth division. Look at how he collapse and he did not know who he was with. Is he with us or the enemy? Who is he working with? What is his task? The tasks of the division... We studied him. As a result, we could not find any reason to be harsh on him. We brought him to leadership headquarters and met with him... how do we want to settle the problem with him? We said to him: You come to us and someone goes! After that, go to the Military Academy... but we will not hurt the division. Don't kill it. Don't kill the division. Don't kill the brigade or the unit. Even if it is a secondary unit. Replace the person with someone else.</p>
Air Force Commander	<p>Did you notice anything when you visited al-Habaniyah today, sir?</p>
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	<p>No, on the contrary, I did not notice anything except that morale is very high, which makes me proud... I did not notice anything that would affect their morale... When I was visiting them, I found their morale to be high, but this time their morale was higher than the days when I saw them before the war... I only saw a number of the officers, not all of them, of course. Several of them were standing on the side so I called them and spoke with them. Then I went to the enlisted, too. I did not speak with them, but they were of the same enthusiasm as before...</p>
Air Force Commander	<p>It is the same everywhere, sir. Certainly you would see the same thing on every base.</p>
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	<p>Yes, of course.</p>
Chief of Intelligence	<p>Sir, the injured have high morale, too. Those who have lost an eye, hand or leg say, I am injured, but I have not been taken...</p>
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	<p>We did not fulfill our role! Yes.</p>
Chief of Intelligence	<p>They were saying that today!</p>
Air Force Commander	<p>There was one among them who said: Where did they go? We will recover and go back at them!</p>

(58 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 178]

Top Secret

Mr. Commander-in-Chief	<p>God is gracious. Whenever we see a commander at the General Leadership Headquarters who can not live up to his level, our duty is to remove him and replace him. Our brother is tired and I do not know why. This is humane. We are ready because we will give him all that he needs in order to maintain human loyalty in work. We want to maintain continual allegiance. When someone ceases to be loyal, we need to replace him with someone else, right?</p>
Chief of Intelligence	<p>Certainly, sir...</p>
Operations Assistant	<p>This is what I told him, that one should distinguish between reward and position.</p>
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	<p>Always.</p>
Operations Assistant	<p>A position is not a reward, but a responsibility!</p>
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	<p>Duty, duty and responsibility.</p>
Operations Assistant	<p>When someone does a good job we want to reward him, but there are many ways to reward him. We should not promote someone to a position that he is not capable or qualified to work in!</p>
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	<p>I wanted to ask a technical question. As we are here working in general leadership, I wonder if it is better for those elements who are involved in planning to continue doing so until the end of the war or is it possible, like today with Abd Al-Jawad, a planning officer, to name him Colonel Jawad... it would be possible to put him in charge of a division and say to him: hey Colonel Jawad, go and be a division commander. Is it better to keep him as a planning officer until the end of the war?</p>
Operations Assistant	<p>Basic planning is only 80% complete. If only 80% of the plan is finished, this means that those who are involved in planning cannot be replaced by someone who has not been involved ... because what is left from the planning is only a small part and the subsequent work needs</p>

[Document Page 179]

Top Secret

	renewed planning... the person who does the new planning will be either someone who has participated in the past another person who receives the responsibility later on. In my opinion, a person who has been involved in planning a mission should not be allowed to leave and pass his responsibility to someone else who takes his place. We would never take everyone involved in the planning at one time and replace them with others...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	I presented it only as a technical
Operations Manager	question. I do not see any reason why
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	not, sir...
Military Intelligence Director	What is the consensus...I see nothing wrong with this. In my opinion, if today we needed someone from among us to be a corps commander, for example, it is possible for him to be the commander of a corps, right? Why keep looking? Why cannot we say to someone: you go. Take this rank and be the commander of a corps or you are a colonel; take this rank and be the commander of a division. Is this possible?
Mr. Commander-in-Chief (continuing)	Maybe...
Operations Assistant	Or this affects our planning and hurts us in this phase...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	No, sir, it does not affect us at this phase...
Operations Assistant	Maybe today, as long as Barzan is still here with us and sitting with us. He is a planning officer, but he will be better than those we have been looking at as corps or division commanders... Why is he prohibited from getting the opportunity? Or why are none of us able to have the opportunity to lead a
Operations Assistant	Sir, I give you an example. When General Isma'il Tayah substituted me and was put in charge of a corps for a day and a half or two days. When he took over the corps he did not have any idea about it.

(60 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 180]

Top Secret

Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Ismail is a different case... everyone sitting here has an idea about central planning, our ideas to get to the group!
Operations Assistant	What I mean is that when I took his place, I did not have to ask a staff officer or artillery commander or anyone else anything because I already knew everything from the levels of the units and where they were and what they did. Why? Because I had contributed to the planning and knew about intelligence and units because of my visits. That is my personal opinion...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes, I have just a question. If one day this came to our mind, we will find an answer and an opinion to it. Except that the idea came from General `Abd-al-Jabbar. So there is an opinion and answer to this question! Let's say that I am just talking... not the preferred opinion of General `Abd-al-Jabbar.
Military Operations Director	By God, I have the same opinion, Mr. President.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	General Shakir! Do you have a different opinion?
Director of Planning	Sir, this is an acceptable principle that works in all countries, experiments most of the time have more detail than this ... says...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	I am convinced that one of Sabih's secrets to success is that he stayed with us for several days. He is more motivated and has a broad mind... he was transferred from the friction at the center of leadership. We will call it friction. Sometimes when the man was attending and listening—and he attended several times—his mood changed, his thinking expanded, and he had more enthusiasm and motivation at the headquarters. He did wonders.
Operations Assistant	Of course, when we go to him, we spend less effort and time than with others. I called him on the phone once to tell him something and he said he already took care of it!
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	He took `Aziz al-Hadithi's place.

(61 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 181]

Top Secret

Mr. Commander-in-Chief	He was the commander of the crossing force.
Chief of Intelligence	Commander of the crossing force. Yes.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Commander of the Sixth Armored Brigade.
Chief of Intelligence	Staff Colonel, tall—was he at the headquarters of the Ministry of Defense?
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	He was at the presidential cabinet of the Ministry of Defense... they are a group of officers whose names were submitted to me for awards. One of them is the Staff Colonel Sabih and the other is a staff major who is a battalion commander.
Operations Assistant	al-Haqq Tank Battalion.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	His name is also Sabah
Operations Assistant	Morning.
Director of Planning	Us, sir.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes, the other is the Staff Lieutenant Colonel Thabit Sultan. He did not take anything from them. They did good work... We all hear about it at headquarters so what are we waiting for?
Operations Assistant	What we have heard is transmitted from the units and the divisions.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	On the contrary, with all this frequent news, not all people deserve to be honored this way...
Air Force Commander	Why do they not deserve it, sir? They deserve to be greatly honored!
Military Intelligence Director	Sir, they deserve to have people follow them. Seniority has importance in the army,

(62 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 182]

Top Secret

	<p>Mr. President. As long as the information he gives us is 100% accurate and he includes the opinions of the leaders, then there is likelihood that there are others.</p>
<p>Mr. Commander-in-Chief</p>	<p>No, we do not forbid others... As we gave the division commander six months of seniority and the corps commander one year of seniority. The main headquarters can also practice its authorities. It practiced its authorities in the air force until before this time. Despite that, as far as the ground forces are concerned, I do not think we gave them enough recognition, except for the martyrs... We gave the martyrs the rank of captain, but I am of the inclination that the person who does a good job... I want those division leaders who are present to bring the best officers they have, those who have worked above and beyond their duties to others, who have distinguished themselves. I want them to record these cases, which they were involved in, and record their suggestions for the level of recognition. He should bring it in writing.</p>
<p>Operations Assistant</p>	<p>Including non-commissioned officers?</p>
<p>Mr. Commander-in-Chief</p>	<p>Including non-commissioned officers, in rare cases. Today or yesterday, General Shakir spoke with us about a staff sergeant. This means that now is the time to honor him. This is the time for men to recognize him, to push the others. If you tell him that he is promoted to lieutenant, then all the non-commissioned officers will race to battle without hesitation. He has not come to the level of wearing a star on his shoulder (TN: this last sentence is unclear)... This type of recognition among the thousands of enlisted... recognition that creates officers, isn't this a great honor? A great social honor!</p>
<p>Operations Assistant</p>	<p>We had desired that one of the methods of the development phase would be to open the door so that some non-commissioned officers get appointed to specific participatory roles so that they can become reserve officers.</p>
<p>Mr. Commander-in-Chief</p>	<p>This is a long process. First give them their rights so that when they come to that point, give them what they deserve! This is not just us! This is used by all the armies of the world in battles.</p>
<p>Operations Assistant</p>	<p>Yes, sir. They entered with little rank and by the end of the war they were leaders!</p>

(62 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 183]

Top Secret

Tape Number: 2

Date of Recording: 10/28/1980

Attendees

Mr. Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti

Staff Lieutenant General `Abd-al-Jabbar `Abd-al-Rahim al-Assadi

Staff Major General Muhammad Jassim Hanis al-Jiburi

Staff General `Abd-al-Jawad Dhanun

Staff General Shakir Wajir al-Amarah

Staff Colonel Yassir Ibrahim Hamawi al-Jiburi

Flight General Faruq Kharij

Staff General Sami Qasim Zanil

Head of General Intelligence

Staff Deputy of Army Operations

Air Force and Air Defense Commander

Military Intelligence Director

Director of Planning

Military Operations Director

Director of Army Flights

Staff Officer of the Military Operations

Director

(66 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 184]Top Secret

Military Intelligence Director	They have 1/250,000 (referring to the map) This river... barely.
Director of Army Flights	I can not believe this... impossible!
Military Intelligence Director	There is no explanation for it because we will give it to an artillery group. We will let them open fire accordingly and accurately hit the target. Dazful Base is very clear 1/50,000...
Director of Army Flights	Sir, that was not discussed yesterday!
Operations Assistant	(Whispering to each other, not understood.)
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Good night.
Chief of Intelligence	Good night.
Military Operations Director	We did not give him any duties, sir. The duties in the sector of the Second Corps...
Chief of Intelligence	This meeting will be here? Let's say to him that we will read this memorandum... (not understandable)... he said 99 officers...
Operations Assistant with the Military Intelligence Director	We cannot give him those duties... (not understandable)... Yesterday, in spite of all the direction from the divisions, at the time that all the helicopters were in the air... (not understandable)...
Operations Assistant	Let's contact the 12th Division. The planes from 12 th Division are over the target. They began to shoot at 12 o'clock. General Faruq: In order to balance between capabilities and facilitating the work, with respect to flight officers, I prefer to assign an officer from the Third Division!

(67 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 185]

Top Secret

Director of Army Flights	The Third Division?
Operations Assistant	Yes, write that down! We will see the capabilities. And the Fifth and Tenth Divisions, these are sectors of the Third Corps. Same with the Second Corps because we prefer that there be two officers at the corps headquarters instead of one. I cannot imagine that the Second Division needs helicopter officers because it does well with helicopter officers. So if there are two officers, one of them can sit in the division headquarters while the other is with the rest of the divisions and all of them will be on the same axis. That way, one officer does not need to focus on it...
Director of Army Flights	He has Gazelle helicopters. (A whispered discussion between the Chief of Intelligence and the Military Intelligence Director.)
Military Operations Director	This includes the link between the Gulf, let's say where... Then why did those come?... Some think that... (interrupted discussion that is not understandable) accomplish an air strike...
Chief of Intelligence	Does this close the lower road?
Military Operations Director	Yes, this is Bahmshir. This is 360 km.
Chief of Intelligence	360, excellent.
Military Operations Director	Let's face him with the 270. What is the degree of accuracy... of the strike? (not understandable)
Operations Assistant with the Director of Army Flights	In total you will have two officers at first, there is one, three, four, those! Sir, you will have a total of seven officers. Originally, there was one. Three, four, those...
Director of Army Flights	

(68 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 186]

Top Secret

Operations Assistant	If he is a staff major, that is wonderful... wonderful.
Director of Army Flights	Wonderful, that could be enough, sir.
Military Operations Director	It is ...
Director of Planning	I hope that the Gulf do not help!
Military Operations Director	It is possible that there is some coordination...
Chief of Intelligence	When making the decision... they, until now and since the start of the war opposed... (whispering, not understandable)...
Military Operations Director	The divisions are between us and that... (a whispered discussion that is not understood)
Military Operations Director	
Operations Assistant	Sir, there are dozens of issues!
Military Operations Director	Yesterday, when I spoke with you and I met with the president... obviously the helicopters, this is what happens in every battle...
Operations Assistant	This is not... sir, the fact here is that it is not struck!
Military Intelligence Director	We asked you; do you remember when I told you to show the Mr. Commander-in-Chief?
Chief of Intelligence	
Director of Army Flights	By God, not here! Yes, I know that Good, sir...

(69 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 1871

Top Secret

Military Intelligence Director	Is there an operation...? There?
Chief of Intelligence	In God's protection...
Attendees	In God's protection ...
Operations Assistant	What targets do you have for the helicopters tomorrow? Limited targets so that the divisions can find them and also provide fire control?
Military Operations Director	Sir, I see...
Operations Assistant	The forces in front of Second Division, should we conduct a revenge operation?
Director of Army Flights	That is for today?
Military Intelligence Director	Sir, certainly
Director of Military Flights	Sir, tomorrow I will send an officer from headquarters to Badrah...
Operations Assistant	Where does this officer go? Over this? This does not mean that we do not give other orders... The company that is in Dahirahh. Do you know that the latest letter reached corps headquarters... I was there at the corps when they said that there was a confrontation! After the corps' insistence about their forces and their direction, another letter came to corps headquarters saying that the forces were scattered! We cannot do anything—that is the problem! The targets that are in the sectors of our divisions, the divisions are better than we ourselves are, sitting here, knowing this today!
Military Intelligence Director	Except that base, except... God is great!
Operations Assistant	Except... the... defensive positions... the defensive positions, the battalion in Somar

(70 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 188]

Top Secret

	which occupies a defensive position. 'Where did this go? It means that it is here, but with a company force... a company or more...?'
Military Operations Director	This Chinook helicopter is destroyed! (referring to report)
Operations Assistant	Where?
Military Operations Director	It is possible that that is the one that was distracted by a plane and collided into their group.
Operations Assistant	Today?
Military Operations Director	It fell in Kurdano. When did that happen?
Staff General Sami Zaynil	Sir, Nazr calculated it with a representative from the helicopter after takeoff.
Military Intelligence Director	Above Qalat Hayr, on the border of...
Director of Movements (reading)	At 1300 hours, a Chinook aircraft left from LS. I do not know why, in the direction of Shibu. The information available indicates that the pilot had made a phone call to Shibu, after which the plane crashed in Kurdano and the people inside were burned!
Operations Assistant	They did it!
Military Operations Director	Shibu appears on the map approximately...
Director of Army Flights	What is the time and date of the event? 1300
Military Operations Director	hours.
Military Intelligence Director	Its sectors did not appear?

(71 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 189]

Top Secret

Operations Assistant	Behind Ilam, Kermanshah...
Staff General Sami Zaynil	They contacted me at approximately four o'clock.
Military Operations Director	The pilot was headed towards Kermanshah.
Attendants	That is it then!
Operations Assistant	We have information indicating that the aircraft were concentrated in Kermanshah...
Military Intelligence Director	Correct, there is Kermanshah. 200 helicopters, yes.
Director of Military Flights	Sir, so that is one thing that the (Bil) aircraft is Brishtin and not like our planes.
Operations Assistant	... and it was rattling... or shaking...
Military Operations Director	Mountainous area!
Director of Army Flights	The Chinook aircraft is heavy and it was carrying five tons of weight!
Operations Assistant	It carries five tons if it is solid...
Military Operations Director	And it passes over them... over the mountains.
Director of Military Flights	Now they will come to take it!
Operations Assistant	Hopefully, God will use us...
Military Operations Director	Tomorrow it will show up on the news and after tomorrow...

(72 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 190]

Top Secret

Military Intelligence Director	By God, it was in the same area!
Military Operations Director	Sir, it may have followed it...
Operations Assistant	If it was in Ilam-Kermanshah then that is what happened!
Military Intelligence Director	I will take it to the 81 st Division Headquarters to check that. The division commander just asked me to bring it right away!
Director of Movements (continuing)	Between Ilam and Kermanshah.
Director of Military Flights	Sir, what is going on with Riyadh (referring to Flight Captain Riyadh Muhammad), whose Gazelle helicopter was shot down in Muhiran sector the other day?
Operations Assistant	Didn't you give us a report about a strike yesterday? Don't you have a group that can do this special mission? Don't you have a group that was fired on in certain positions? Aren't you supposed to give it to us so that we can plan our operations according to it?
Director of Army Flights	Sir, do you want each of them in pairs? (pair — pair).
Operations Assistant	Yes, yes. The president requested it so I expect you to respond.
Director of Army Flights	Sir, for tomorrow's operations, too? The Darkhawin region?
Operations Assistant	Yes, Darkhawin, Darkhawin, behind Al-Tahiri in the middle of the road.
Director of Army Flights	We will do the strike in the morning. The commander made an order to strike three more times in three days.

(73 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 191]

Top Secret

Operations Assistant	Three days is a lot! I worry that they could get trapped and then struck?
Director of Army Flights	Let's do it in one day with four planes.
Operations Assistant	Four planes make a big target. If they do not get one, they'll get two!
Director of Army Flights	No, sir. As two come out, two come in!
Operations Assistant	Two come out and five seconds after execution... this one! You have a tank company in Dahirah!
Director of Army Flights	In Dahirah? I will take the coordinates from the group now. After a while, when the Intelligence Director completes...
Military Intelligence Director (on the phone)	God help you, who is talking? The officer on duty? I am General `Abd-al-Jawad, how are you? Good, God willing. Buddy, I want to ask Comrade 'Ali al-Hassan something, is he there? Good, thanks...
Operations Assistant	(With the director of intelligence.)
Military Intelligence Director	Abu Ahmad, if you order one of our buddies to give us the locations of the Dahirah force, the Allah al-Akbar force, and the Darkhawin Battalion?
Military Operations Director	The battalion is there and we have its coordinates, but I told you that in an area...
Operations Assistant	
Military Intelligence Director	The Somar force, sir?
	I hope also for the Somar force so that there will be four targets tomorrow. I will write them down and bring them to you!

(74 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 192]

Top Secret

Operations Assistant	They were on the basis of two/two, meaning that four came at the same time. Now they became one/one, so I think it is possible.
Director of Army Flights	Sir, also to speak with the commander of the navy, if it is possible for me to come, because there are many points to cover regarding the aircraft.
Military Operations Director	Has the division commander has been contacted, sir?
Operations Assistant	Yes?
Military Operations Director	There is a division commander with this directive, sir.
Operations Assistant	Yes, and during that minute you give us the sequences that you want (with the division commander) of about one commander daily.
Military Operations Director	If it is determined by us, they are concerned that he will have a mission that day or a tactical position that prevents him from coming. But if we leave it up to the corps then the corps would be able to...
Operations Assistant	No, no. Contact them now to get the sequences...
Military Operations Director	Saturday, Sunday, Monday, daily...
Operations Assistant	Until Wednesday, an average of two daily...
Military Operations Director	One from each corps. I will contact the corps to get one, when? Evening time?
Operations Assistant	In the morning we inform them that if in our view we are unable to in the morning, it will be possible in the evening or night!
Military Operations Director	He will stay 24 hours then?

(76 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 193]**Top Secret**

Operations Assistant	We bring him in the morning, if there is meeting in the morning, then we will be forced to delay until the afternoon...
Military Operations Director	Let's take the worst possibilities, sir!
Operations Assistant	It would be best for us in the morning, nine o'clock.
Military Operations Director	Nine o'clock in the morning? This means that the other will not leave when the other arrives and that the appointed time could vary.
Operations Assistant	Yes, because they are one; one after the other.
Director of Army Flights	The helicopter is available.
Operations Assistant	(laughing)
Military Operations Director	Do you want to kill him, God bless you?
Director of Army Flights	No, how do we kill him? Because none of them use helicopters. They are all in cars, right? And they are secure, right? When there is an attack, say...
Operations Assistant	As for the equipment, was the authorization issued for it?
Military Operations Director	This is it, sir. Go ahead.
Operations Assistant	And for the trains.
Military Operations Director	Sir, you already gave the directive regarding trains and buses to General Tariq (Chief of Staff) and he...

(77 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 194]

Top Secret

Operations Assistant	General Tariq will issue it!
Military Operations Director	Regarding the buses, we are now studying them for supply and transportation, sir.
Director of Army Flights	Sir, regarding the major who was named? With the girl! This ridge... Did this go up to the president? Sir, do you remember the building that... a month had already passed, daily, if it has not... then it
Operations Assistant	What?
Director of Army Flights	Sir, between the minister and the army chief of staff... the Army Chief of Staff authorized it and sent it up to the cabinet...
Military Operations Director	Regarding the corps commander, the division commander is bringing them...
Operations Assistant	Yes, this is a directive of the president. He wishes to see the division commanders and talk with them regarding their responsibilities within the divisions. They will bring with them lists of names of those who have earned recognition from the start of the war until now as well as those people who have been bad.
Military Operations Director	They will bring names for both, sir?
Operations Assistant	Both!
Director of Army Flights	It is the desire of the Mr. Commander-in-Chief that they be in writing...
Operations Assistant	Yes, yes, of course, when he says we want to give recognition to more people, their actions should be written down for us... and they should give us their order of attendance...
Military Operations Director	Yes, sir...

[Document Page 195]

Top Secret

Director of Army Flights	Sir, I did not want to interfere about what the president wants. On the first day, we wrote to the pilot who was with Muhammad Abiid—may God be gracious to him—we wrote to him about the coming year... then we received a letter from you saying something to the effect that the cabinet requested that that be facilitated.
Operations Assistant	That had been the directive from the beginning.
Military Operations Director (on the telephone)	<p>With the commander of the second corps: Hello, sir, Colonel Muyasser, how are you? Good, God willing. By God, no sir. We are relieved because of that. May God preserve you. Excuse me, sir. The president has decided to see all the brothers who are leaders of divisions in order. The idea, sir, is for everyone to come so that the president can see and greet them. Everyone will bring with him a list or report of names of people who deserve recognition as well as a list of those who have shown incompetence or do not deserve recognition and should include both officers and non-commissioned officers. The purpose of this is to honor the people who have demonstrated courage, excellence, and ability while leading troops. Sir, this also includes officers of various ranks, officers and noncommissioned officers, who have shown incompetence or are unwanted as well as derogatory statements about them... we wish for you to give us a schedule as you see appropriate, sir, starting Saturday. The intention is that one commander will come on Saturday at nine o'clock in the morning. We hope, sir, if it is possible that you will put the leaders in order as Your Excellency finds appropriate. So that the news can be shared, sir. Yes, sir. Yes, sir. Yes, sir. The chief of staff of the army, sir. You are welcome, sir. Yes, sir. You are welcome sir.</p> <p>The Army Chief of Staff is not here. In the southern sector, sir. He is not coming Regarding what place? Yes. Regarding that above.... Yes, sir. That is true, sir. Correct. You are welcome, sir, with pleasure. Yes, sir. Clear! Yes, that is true, sir. Yes, sir, by phone. First is Rahim, then Jamil, for example, sir. As you see appropriate, sir. I am present, sir. Regarding your Excellency, I will tell the president and then I will tell you. Your order, sir, which of them? Yes, that is it. This talk is helpful, sir. Yes, sir. Of course not, sir. I know and my position is the same. I know the status on that, sir. Yes, sir, daily. The Army Chief of Staff. Where? I told him</p>

(79 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 196]

Top Secret

	(nothing) sir. You're welcome, sir. Good night, sir...
Director of Planning	By the way, sir, shall I stay here?
Operations Assistant	By God, Shakir, I cannot tell you anything. You came here by order of the president and so you will go by the president's order, too.
Director of Planning	For information...
Operations Assistant	What did the minister say to you?
Director of Planning	My God, sir, you invited me!
Operations Assistant	What?
Director of Planning	You invited me...
Operations Assistant	Yes, I know that. When you left there, did the minister not tell you when you would stop working and return?
Director of Planning	The minister does not know the man. All that happened was that there was an instruction for so-and-so to return.
Operations Assistant	No, on the basis that you come to the briefing.
Director of Planning	This so that no one says later that so-and-so came and so-and-so went without there being a need for him there!
Operations Assistant	Tomorrow we will ask the president. You did not come out of your own desire, nor by anyone below the minister. You came...interference...

(80 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 197]

Top Secret

Director of Planning	At any rate, I received a phone call this morning from Colonel Muhammad Salih. He said to me, when will you return? I told him, by God...
Operations Assistant	We had better ask him if those are his words or the minister's...
Director of Planning	The minister did not... then it was a surprise when we were sitting and he said...
Operations Assistant	Not a surprise...? He said to him: send him to us so he can inform us of things.
Director of Planning	and if it was the desire of my group for me to be with them...
Director of Army Flights	My God, you have a respected group!
Director of Planning	Of course.
Director of Planning (continuing)	By God they are respected, and frankly, they do not have time to relax!
Director of Army Flights	On that day when the intelligence officer Staff Colonel Muhammad came, they worked all hours! So when you tell him it is enough even from far away! (TN: this phrase is unclear in Arabic.) From the morning until eleven o'clock at night without any rest or sleep.
	Can they give the time?
Operations Assistant	I will go tomorrow.
Director of Army Flights	Let's see there when the strike occurred...
Operations Assistant	I thought it was armored, sir!
Director of Army Flights	So you can inform? Planes flew over it and you photograph it!
Operations Assistant	

[Document Page 198]

Top Secret

Director of Army Flights	I asked him to bring missiles...
Director of Planning	I submitted it for the second time. They did not accept it until the night before last.
Operations Assistant	Who?
Director of Army Flights	Sir, didn't the president say that in front of you? And we said to him that we are sending them and that the tenth division does not agree? Does your Excellency remember when I came to you in the afternoon?
Operations Assistant	Why do they not agree?
Director of Army Flights	Sir, you were here and the Mr. Commander-in-Chief was sitting here. I came to say to you, sir, they do not want them! They have no way. So the Mr. Commander-in-Chief said this is the order of the general commander. Accept them and fly them (referring to the aircraft). I said to them this is the order of the president of the republic.
Operations Assistant	Yes.
Military Operations Director	I call Abdullah Division, the commander of the 2 nd Corps!
Operations Assistant	What does he have?
Military Operations Director	He will come...
Operations Assistant	Who will come?
Military Operations Director	No, sir. He said: he will come down Thursday. If you inform the Mr. Commander-in-Chief and Your Excellency the deputy authorizes it. He will come for an hour and a half. He has a few points to discuss and will give the perspective of those who will come!
Operations Assistant	He should come here to us?

(82 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 199]

Top Secret

Military Operations Director	He said if you approve of it!
Operations Assistant	Friend, you said that. You need to get permission from the Mr. Commander-in-Chief.
Director of Army Flights	One time they informed us that it was a good strike. They requested that the Tenth Division do another strike! When they called me.
Operations Assistant	Who brought you this news? Is there a letter?
Director of Army Flights	By phone. General Hashim informed me of that and he said, they contacted me that way.
Operations Assistant	Who contacted Hashim?
Director of Army Flights	Tomorrow I will bring him to you, sir. Colonel Ahmad al-Sa'di, the officer we sent as the sector commander. It is he who called by phone and said that the division commander wants a second strike.
Operations Assistant	Not bad. Buddy, you must confirm this! And inform me whether or not the person who called is so-and-so, and then, hey Muyassir, we have to know when the strike happened on the tenth division that yielded lots of casualties. And it may not be by aircraft?
Military Operations Director	No, he says: they opened fire on us. They came from our group, he says all that? Okay?
Director of Army Flights	We tomorrow, General Muyassir...
Military Operations Director	We have counted missiles for you, General Faruq, you will receive them tomorrow. We have written a letter for you to send an officer... with an official letter... reply with an official response.
Military Operations Director (on the phone)	(With the chief of staff of the 3 rd Corps) Hello... God help you! How are you? How's your health? Good, God Willing. God bless you, sir. Do you have contact with the corps commander? Hello, do you have contact with

(83 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 200]

Top Secret

<p>Operations Assistant Director of Movements (continued)</p>	<p>the corps commander? I have called General Ismail twice and not reached him (with the Operations Assistant).</p> <p>Inform Na'imah, chief of staff (of the 3rd Corps) and he can inform him...</p> <p>Is he near you? Can I speak with him? Sleeping? Well, sir, the president wishes to see the division commanders periodically starting on Saturday at 900, next Saturday, what day? Monday? Tuesday, he records it! He looks at the calendar, we do not which days! Tuesday, Saturday is 11/1 at 900 hours. We want the division commanders to come periodically. One on Saturday, one on Sunday, one on Monday. One each day according to the divisions there and according to how you consider most appropriate. We only want one of them. If it did not help the position, then there is no need to send one. Yes, yes, no. (not understood)... This, sir, one every day starting next Saturday, Sunday, and so on. The purpose is to meet with them and ask them to provide a list of names of officers and enlisted who have acted with courage, bravery, so that they can be honored! Another list should include the people who have been weak or fearful. That is it, the division commander is aware of that. We have time now. Inform us tomorrow about the times and sequence of their coming. So-and-so on Saturday, on Sunday so-and-so, etcetera. If it is necessary to change it, it is not unchangeable from a principles point of view... Good bye.</p>
<p>Military Intelligence Director</p>	<p>Every unit should coordinate them, Al-Tahiri... and it is their duty to check (Dahirah) I don't know, sir, who do we give them?</p>
<p>Operations Assistant</p>	<p>There is no one in Dahirah except the corps, if it is still in its sector!</p>
<p>Military Intelligence Director</p>	<p>It is in the middle, between... sir, we say to the corps...</p>
<p>Operations Assistant</p>	<p>Between the Eights Division and the Fourth Division, yes, it is best if it coordinates with the Fourth.</p>

[Document Page 201]

Top Secret

Military Intelligence Director	Where is the Fourth Division, sir?
Operations Assistant	The division's headquarters is in Kuhina...
Military Intelligence Director	In Kuhina...
Operations Assistant	Coordination is done between the corps and the Fourth Division.
Military Intelligence Director	Then it is an attack on the Bin-al-Walid Brigade between the orchards and Somar. (whispering among themselves) ... This map is 1/25,000. Point it out on the map.
Operations Assistant	This is the base... and this is the city! Point it out on the map.
Military Intelligence Director	These are the base's facilities... Let's strike these facilities. I told you we give these as artillery targets for the artillery of the Tenth Division. They have this transparency. We tell them to strike it with Luna missiles.
Director of Movements	The commander of the Third corps in al-Amara appears to be sleeping now, sir. He will try...
Operations Assistant	Faruq, is that clear? What is the rest? The issue of restricted weapons remains and this follows the same method. Every unit is appointed a specific time, right? Do we leave you the issue of restricted weapons with the formations or do you want us to assist you here?
Director of Army Flights	Here, sir!
Operations Assistant	Here? Okay, buddy. Go study it with your group, record the times for us, and give them to us. We will contact the formations in order to restrict weapons from such an hour to such an hour...

(85 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 202]

Top Secret

Director of Army Flights	Tomorrow morning, God willing. Roger.
Military Intelligence Director	It is the field, sir. He will contact the field officers and they will help!
Director of Army Flights	Sir, that has been reported.
Operations Assistant	It will pass not just from above that formation, but from above the other formation!
Military Intelligence Director	Regarding the 12 th Division, when going there, it will already be close!
Operations Assistant	I know that, aren't the people's army and the other units there?
Director of Army Flights	Sir, regarding the unit that went there yesterday, they needed ground forces the day before yesterday. It lasted two days, and we had three officers in every headquarters, each according to his duty. Then I arranged the level... (not understandable)
Operations Assistant	Regarding the operation tomorrow, let's send an officer there, too. There are some targets that one officer could deal with, like Dahirah and Somar even though they are very far away!
Director of Army Flights	We have two planes there (Mi 25)
Operations Assistant	We do not forget to give Gaylan... Gaylan is still standing and they are still in the city.
Military Operations Director	Can't the artillery, sir?
Operations Assistant	Too far! Out of range!

(86 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 203]

Top Secret

<p>Military Operations Director Military Intelligence Director</p>	<p>He is in Warsaw. On the phone with Air Force Operations God help you, buddy. Brigadier General Muhammad, please? I am General Abd Al-Jawad. How are you? May I speak with him? Good evening, how are you? I am General Abd Al-Jawad. Buddy, our friend Muhammad was with us. We have a target and we assigned the helicopters to engage it. Now the opinion to engage Gaylan instead of him. That target by him is the brigade headquarters and the Khomeini Guard. We want him to have an airstrike tomorrow, God willing, and bombs (Gaylan) is well known, General Faruq. It is not close to me, if you want I will give you the coordinates. One moment...</p>
<p>Operations Assistant Military Intelligence Director</p>	<p>Kaylan city... laughing... tell him to look on the map...! Yes, Kaylan city. Clear, everyone knows it. Yes, the same city. Yes, by the sector Qasir Shirin. Yes, when he reaches you and he has contact, contact us. Yes, the duty of Darkhwin We gave him General Faruq. Army Flights. He has no more work. For that reason. Yes, buddy. Thanks. General Faruq is new. Isn't he the commander of the academy?</p>
<p>Operations Assistant Operations Assistant</p>	<p>Yes, Commander of the Air Academy. With the Director of Movements in enquiring about Brigadier General Osama al-Mandi ... Can't we talk to him about 122mm ammunition? They have and we have... everything that is left... not understandable...</p>
<p>Military Operations Director Operations Assistant to the Military Operations Director Military Operations Director</p>	<p>Through intelligence, sir, by letter. Yes, but didn't I tell them from the captured ammunition? Yes, usually, even it is from the non-captured ammunition.</p>

[Document Page 204]

Top Secret

Director of Planning	Sir, it is possible that the status of this ammunition... for who? Record them in our records. We were surprised that day when the subject of 122mm ammunition was proposed.
Operations Assistant	It was not shown in the status, but it was in a letter.
Director of Planning	Where did it go?
Operations Assistant	A letter was received!
Director of Planning	Where did it go?
Operations Assistant	Not every... (incomplete)
Director of Planning	Sir, if no one knew the statuses, then supposedly...
Operations Assistant	We were all here when the letter was received and it was discussed.
Director of Planning	Sir, the issue is different when something is proposed that should be studied previously to confirm the statuses and make decisions based on them...
Operations Assistant	Yes, I know that. You all are supposed to follow that, not us. How many times have I asked you that?
Director of Planning	We do not have it, sir, and no one has shown us any status!
Operations Assistant	It was sent to the army chief of staff.

(89 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 205]

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[Document Page 206]

(TN: blank page)

[Document Page 207]

(TN: blank page)

[Document Page 208]

(TN: blank page)

[Document Page 209]

(TN: blank page)

[Document Page 210]

(TN: blank page)

[Document Page 211]

(TN: blank page)

[Document Page 212]

(TN: blank page)

[Document Page 213]

Top Secret

Operations Assistant	This Roland? No, sir, I do not know that for sure...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	There is a radar detector...
Operations Assistant	Visual, televised, and radar...
Director of Planning	An existing independent fire unit.
Operations Assistant	To every tank: when static appears on the television, look at the radar. If there is static on both of them, then engage visually. The crew said that there was no visual or radar detection.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Let's have lunch so that it does not get cold! His Excellency and the attendees go to the restaurant. After returning in the afternoon, the dialogue continues.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Go ahead, relax.
Air Force Commander	Good, thank God, sir.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Good, thank God, you're welcome.
Chief of Staff	(on the phone) Hello, Abu-Ahmad. General Tariq, please. God bless you. General Shakir. Yes he is here. Do you want the army with him? Okay.
Operations Assistant	The General `Abdallah al-Harishi? Give him to me!
Chief of Staff	He asked for you a half-hour ago and we told him during lunch!
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Do not contact him then. Do any of you have something with General Najib?

(106 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 214]

Top Secret

Operations Assistant	Yesterday, your excellencies wanted to know about ammunition?
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Our status for basic ammunition. We prefer basic ammunition!
Staff General Najib Abtir (Deputy of Supplies)	In general the status of ammunition is good for the support battalions nearby. Regarding the primary cannons at the division, for 130mm our original inventory contains approximately 293 thousand; so far we have fired 88 thousand bombs, or almost a third of it. If we consider it 90 X 3 at a rate of 40 days of fighting, there is enough for 80-90 more days. The status of D-30 cannons is much better. We have one type of ammunition for A19 122mm for the First and Fifth Divisions. The inventory of ammunition was 80 thousand bombs and so far we have fired 40 thousand of them, or about half.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Isn't that the ammunition that you indicated to be reviewed by your general directive? That surprised us, this ammunition indirectly...
Deputy of Supplies	No sir, the truth is that our directive for ammunition and all the support battalions nearby was to monitor the firing of it. Regarding this ammunition, the support battalions near the divisions differ from the other divisions. Some of the divisions have three, others have 130mm, and some other divisions have A-19. Since day one we determined how much ammunition they could use. So Brigadier General Osama Al-Mandi (Director of Weapons and Supplies) is looking for sources. So his stockpile was 80 thousand and 40 thousand, or half of the quantity, have been fired in the last forty days and the other half will be gone in the next forty days! For this, the Artillery Directorate has a plan for the next thirty days, which is to replace half of the cannons in the batteries with others that are being stored in order to reduce use. The plan of the Army Chief of Staff is...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Reduce disbursements of ammunition and replace it with other battalions...
Deputy of Supplies	
	They reduced it to half, sir. So if it was forty days before, then it will be eighty more days. Regarding the status of all aspects except this one that had a problem, we had 80

(107 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 215]

Top Secret

thousand. 40 thousand have been fired and 40 thousand remain. The stockpiles in the front, rear, and middle stores of ammunition were zero because it was delivered by the units. Initially we checked with the director of artillery. In the beginning the divisions reported small numbers. Each division claimed that it had two thousand bombs; others said three thousand. I am sure that all the ammunition is at the divisions. So we sent to groups to check. The artillery also sent a group to the battalions and administrative regions in the front. I sent a group to the front stores to check the possession of these 83 thousand bombs according to the documents. We will be able to know which units that received ammunition...

Mr. Commander-in-Chief

They have prepared dinner for us...

Messengers

At your orders, sir...

Deputy of Supplies

We sent a group yesterday. The divisions claimed that they had two thousand bombs; they returned today and informed us that there were five thousand bombs. I said no, we will find them all. Our representatives should check the amount of ammunition you really have. Truly, why did you reduce the amount of ammunition that you have? Because the orders issued to them stated that they should carry only the first and the second lines of ammunition. All the divisions without exception carried with them 6 or 7 additional lines with them! This ammunition was without vehicles. When I went to the divisions, I went to the Ninth and Third Divisions and asked them about the status of their ammunition and they said very well. I said "How much ammunition do you have?" One of them said to me, "We carry seven or eight lines of ammunition!" I said to them, "How is that you received seven or eight lines when the orders stated you to carry only one or two lines? The vehicles of the division are not sufficient except for one or two lines. The rations are not bad; we had asked them to be six days; however, some of the units had thirty days of rations!" They said to me that the rations for six days were for the first phase and now it was nearly winter... transportation roads get cut off so we had the opinion that it should be thirty days... it means that the idea is acceptable. I told them that thirty days was okay because thirty days of rations does not require many vehicles. Three or four or five vehicles could

(108 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 216]

Top Secret

<p>Mr. Commander-in-Chief</p>	<p>be enough to carry the allocation for the entire division... but the ammunition? Where are the vehicles? It appeared that the divisions had taken them from the provinces.</p>
<p>Operations Assistant</p>	<p>Vehicles?</p>
<p>Operations Assistant</p>	<p>Yes, vehicles. The divisions took approximately a hundred heavy ground transportation vehicles without the general headquarters! From the provinces. Through the Directorate of Mobilization and Statistics we control the vehicles and we use them centrally. It is supposed that the vehicles will not go to the front formations. In all the divisions: the Third, the Fifth, the Ninth, and the rest, have things that they did not have originally and are not military that will hurt them in the long run. They believe that this is the generosity of the province. The man is good at cooperating! And good with us! (He is a good guy), he is such a great guy? He gave you Mercedes 30-ton vehicles for ammunition? The statuses are sent to me and your Excellency daily. You see the destruction of a vehicle here, right? Division vehicles have specific characteristics and should have three axles (six-wheel drive) so that they can keep up with the tanks and troops carrying small amounts of ammunition so if it is hit it will not cause a big loss. I saw something strange in the newspapers and on television. Mortar shells were being fired and behind them a 30-ton ground transportation vehicle was stopped. What hindered their ability to move were the vehicles that were taken from the provinces. In addition to that, sir, the provinces asked for money to use these special vehicles, especially Nineveh province. The governor wrote to me explaining his willingness to secure the number of vehicles that had been taken at a cost of 100 dinar each. Those vehicles have been used for so many days so I hope that we will pay the amount to the facility.</p>
<p>Mr. Commander-in-Chief</p>	<p>Hello. God bless you. How are you? Sit down, you're welcome! (To someone inside the operations room).</p>
<p>Deputy of Supplies</p>	<p>This type of ammunition is the only type that there is little of in stock for a while and I had a concern about that!</p>

(109 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 217]

Top Secret

<p>Deputy of Supplies (continuing)</p>	<p>With that day, when inspected the units that gave their status of ammunition. We found seventeen thousand bombs in the place. We sent eight groups to return tomorrow and I believe that we will get them all. They did not give us their status correctly. So I contacted them personally and said to them that we will count them so give me the status correctly. Where did the 25 thousand or 30 thousand bombs go? You did not give me the status of shooting or our stockpile. We will know who received the ammunition from the front storage and who gets it!</p> <p>There is also the Strela M; its status has been small from the beginning. Contracts are being made regarding that. The army chief of staff is taking care of it and the delegations went out. We have some contracts that wait to be signed. We have nearly 400 with Bulgaria and 14 rocket launchers. We have some recent contracts with Yugoslavia for ammunition, including A-19 and about 10,000 bombs. They agreed to give them to us soon. The contracts wait to be signed. With Yugoslavia we have contracts of different types including 130mm ammunition.</p> <p>Regarding A-19 cannons, we have many reserve cannons that will substitute for three days or half of the battalions. In total there are 18 batteries. 10 batteries will be replaced with other types of cannons that have been removed from service or been kept for reserve. The stockpile for some of these is about 45 thousand...</p>
<p>Mr. Commander-in-Chief</p>	<p>45 thousand?</p>
<p>Deputy of Supplies</p>	<p>Yes, 45 thousand...</p>
<p>Mr. Commander-in-Chief</p>	<p>What is their range?</p>
<p>Deputy of Supplies</p>	<p>The range is good, approximately 15-16 km. Some of them will be replaced with M-20 cannons, which have a range of 18-20 km and others will be replaced with M-30 cannons, which have a range of about 16 km. Our stockpile of the latter is 450 thousand. The cannons were taken out of service and replaced with others that had a longer range and a heavier bomb. They were removed and placed in storage with their ammunition. For the next three days, ten batteries will replace 18 batteries or more than half...</p>

[Document Page 218]

Top Secret

Mr. Commander-in-Chief	450 thousand bombs?
Operations Assistant	It is a large number, without a doubt!
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	If someone launched it like gravel it would not run out!
Deputy of Supplies	Then if this was done?
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	15 km isn't too short?
Deputy of Supplies	Less than that sir, 13-14 km...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Even if it was less than that, 11 km!
Director of Planning	Excuse me, sir, 11 km!
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	If they were discussing counterstrikes to find the locations of artillery. Their artillery is always out of the range of the 122mm bombs counterstrikes.
Deputy of Supplies	True...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	As for bombing attack or support objectives, they are within an acceptable range.
Deputy of Supplies	Mr. President, the truth is that the plan of the Directorate of Artillery includes leaving one battalion with 130mm in order to fire on far-away targets. Then, one of the battalions that was armed with an A-19 gets replaced with a 152mm cannon, which has a shorter range. The other two battalions get replaced with this type of cannon. The division's artillery will not all be of the same caliber, or two batteries of this type. Two batteries for two battalions or two batteries of all cannons in each battalion will remain with one battery of this type.

(111 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 219]

<u>Top Secret</u>	
	of cannon. The third battalion will substitute 152mm cannons, which have a longer range than that cannon. 130mm cannons will also stay and these have the longest range out of all of them. You will give all different ranges. For this cannon there is a large quantity of ammunition, 450 thousand, if they fired from a distance, they will fire the 130mm...
Director of Planning	Difficult to use!
Military Intelligence Director	A counterstrike requires a heavy bomb and a longer distance!
Deputy of Supplies	So the divisions will not all have this type of cannon, which paralyzes it. There are 103mm in the division, which is the strongest battalion...
Messenger	Dinner is ready, sir...
Deputy of Supplies	Then if we implemented the ammunition for these eight batteries, we have a large number of 105mm Yugoslavian cannons, which are new. They were taken out of service and replaced with better cannons. For this type of cannon we have a large quantity of ammunition, approximately 336 thousand bombs. If we took these we would have three-quarters of a million bombs of this type.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes, General `Abd-al-Jabbar!
Operations Assistant	I imagine that the thing to do now is to make a decision. We now issue directions to the divisions to keep the first line and two other lines of different types of ammunition and return everything that is left over. First, because this ammunition is all outdoors; second, because winter season is coming; third, to protect it from aerial and artillery bombardments... The measures they have taken regarding ammunition are contrary to the basic directions issued to the formations...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	The directive will be strict, unquestionable, and will not allow any procrastination in implementation...
Deputy of Supplies	Mr. President, regarding the search on this side, the thing is usually in the supply of

[Document Page 220]

<u>Top Secret</u>	
Operations Assistant (interrupting)	<p>ammunition. We have stores of ammunition in the front that are open to everyone who asks for it in principle Ammunition from the stores are fired without anyone taking count or keeping track of how many were fired. What happened is that the formation gathered them, but all of their vehicles were not enough for more than the first and second lines and they took their vehicles with them...</p> <p>General Najib, listen to me. If the order was issued for the unit to keep the first line and the second line then why does the store distribute three secondary lines when the units ask for it. Extra lines should not be distributed. One secondary line should be given because the first line is basic to the unit. The unit takes from it and replaces it automatically because the store can stop distribution and tell you that you can withdraw only one secondary line, not three lines. But how did it become six lines and who were they distributed to? The store distributed them! At any rate, it amounted to more than a secondary line; whatever happened because of the units...</p>
Deputy of Supplies	<p>Ammunition requests are submitted to the stores saying we have this many high explosive rounds, this many air burst rounds and this many smoke rounds. The preliminary directions include a period for transportation and a period for advance. Then the division commander will come up with excuses and say to me that he has a fire plan. When there is a fire plan or there is a need to shoot to sweep the area and the ammunition he has in the first and second lines is not enough so he is right, or the division commander is right about that...</p>
Operations Assistant	<p>He is not right! When a fire plan is set up, sir, it is set up as a result of an attack operation. If there was an attack operation, then a fire plan is set up and we are the first people to know this formation has an attack operation and needs a fire plan. In that case, if there is an attack operation, an additional attack request is submitted to the attack plan...</p>
Deputy of Supplies	<p>You know the drill for ammunition and that the ammunition points in the front return the empty vehicles to the rear and deliver a replacement without any final account.</p>
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	<p>At any rate, a clear order is issued about that. They all should return the lines that are not included in the ammunition directive...</p>

(113 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 221]

Top Secret

Deputy of Supplies

Mr. President, in reality they cannot carry the first and second lines of ammunition... by their vehicles. But they have the right whenever they have a duty for that, which is recognized by the division commander. Of course, they obey their division commander. If he gave them an order to do it, they would execute it! Except some of them pile up the ammunition in an unusual way, without the division commander or the corps commander having any knowledge. They got the vehicles that way! There are currently 600 vehicles carrying ammunition from the front stores. During the evening conferences we learned that these numbers have been reduced to 40 vehicles/day. So I asked Kamal Jamil `Abud (Director of Supply), where is the rest? There are 40 vehicles here, the same here, and others do not exceed the total of 200 vehicles, so where are the rest? When we went to inspect in Basra, for example, we found a group of ammunition stores where 168 heavy vehicles had been gathered from sources of ground transportation, all of which had ammunition. They had been

hidden in one of the camps. I said to him, why? He said that the units need it and that the division commander told me to hide it here. When we need ammunition, I'll send the vehicles! I have seen ammunition request forms, which do not specify lines or quantities, they should specify certain quantities, like this many bombs. says to him give me ten (Mercedes) LB vehicles! I reprimanded this person while six more vehicles arrived. He said to me, by God, the mistake is not mine. The group requested six vehicles of different ammunition. When I sent it to them, they returned it, saying that it did not fit their cannons! Honestly, we emptied all the ammunition in the region, prepared the vehicles and issued the order to concluding that the divisions do not receive any ammunition except the second line. When the fire plan requires ammunition, and of course the artillery commander authorizes the fire plan, then they receive the ammunition they need from ammunition and pile it up...

Mister Tariq Aziz

Mr. Commander-in-Chief

Good afternoon... he enters the operations room

Deputy of Supplies
(Continuing)

Hello, Vibu-Ziyad, God bless you...

They are taking ammunition and using vehicles, which came from the provinces

[Document Page 222]

Top Secret

Mr. Commander-in-Chief	What is our status for the ammunition?
Deputy of Supplies	Good, sir...
Operations Assistant	Anti-tank?
Operations Assistant	Good...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	We saw that previously, large quantities...
Deputy of Supplies	<p>Large quantities, the same for antiaircraft ammunition. As for tank ammunition, there is a little...</p> <p>General Najib, you always have to have your eye on ammunition because those in the front do not know how much there is in the rear. They just shoot randomly to aggravate them! They open every cannon to shoot without killing or injuring a single person. It means that you have to follow up on that and make sure they do not do that</p>
Deputy of Supplies	<p>Sir, we hold them responsible several different ways. For example, they inform us every time ammunition is released and we receive the daily status of how many rounds were fired. We also have a process for shipping to the ammunition stores. We divide it into three lines: the first line, the second line, and the third line. Now all the first line shipments include ammunition stores in al-Amara, al-Kut, Diyala, and al-Basra. It is withdrawn well at the Supply Directorate and sent there. Then, twice a week we send an officer from General Headquarters to check the stores in the front and the amount of ammunition that has been distributed. We check that in more ways than one, but what is the amount? When we wanted to know the amount of ammunition there, the forty thousand bombs, where did they go? We said we saw half of the amount, so where is it? The divisions that kept more than the first and second lines? Some of them tried to use excuses, but most of them began to fear that we would ask them: how did you receive this amount of ammunition that you have? At first they said to us 2,000 when we told them</p>

(115 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 223]

Top Secret

that we would send an officer to check the ammunition. After two hours they told us that there were vehicles full of ammunition!

I have confidence in the officer who went to check and inspect. We found seventeen thousand bombs; there are still 20 thousand waiting for the inspection results of the four groups. Then, Mr. President, the ammunition that is used up from the middle and rear stores will warn the Directorate of Weapons and Equipment or before it is sent to the front stores. A while ago, we informed them that the following ammunition like this and this...

Mr. Commander-in-Chief

Yes, come here in the evening once and a while so they know that we are still in the picture and so that we can foresee any situation.

Go ahead to dinner

Whispered conversation.

(116 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 224]

(TN: Blank Page)

[Document Page 225]

Top Secret

Tape Number: 1

Date of Tape: 10/29/1980

Attendees:

The Honorable Mr. Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces
Saddam Hussein (God bless him)

Mr. Tariq `Aziz

Mr. Tariq Muhammad `Abdallah

Staff Lieutenant General `Abd-al-Jabbar `Abd-al-Rahim al-Islami

Staff Brigadier General `Abd-al-Jawad Dhanun

Staff Brigadier General Shakir Wajir al-Amarah

Staff Colonel Misrah Ibrahim

Chief of Staff of the Presidency of
the Republic

Staff Deputy President of Army Operations

Military Intelligence Director

Director of the Directorate of Planning

Director of the Directorate of Military

Movements

(117 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 226]

(118 of 186)

Top Secret

Mr. Tariq Aziz	This is regarding our friend the poet --- (talk that is not understandable)
Operations Assistant	I am afraid that this is submitted... Tariq!
Chief of Staff	By God, I cannot deny it.
Mr. Tariq Aziz	The plane that was hit and fell, what happened to the bombs that it was carrying?
Operations Assistant	If it was struck directly, they might have exploded in the air!
Mr. Tariq Aziz	Then fragments of it would have fallen on them.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief (On the telephone with King Hussein)	Yes, hello. Good afternoon, Abu Abdallah. Beg your pardon, friend. I was busy and I was late getting to you. How are you? Thank God that you're well. God willing, everything is good. All things are good and excellent, God willing. How was the meeting of Arab foreign ministers? Good, God willing. Very good, yes, very good (not that important). Excellent. Better. God bless you, Abu-` Abdallah. Yes. A hundred hellos, a hundred hellos, Abu Abdallah. Okay Abu-` Abdallah, it is like that. All the brothers say hello to you and thank you for this wonderful Arabic message. God bless you, friend. God bless you and take care of you. The brothers were with Ali Abdallah Salih; he has a good stance in all aspects. We had a few small matters with him as well and all were settled. He is a good man and he agreed. Yes, by God. God bless you. God prosper you. God bless and prosper you. God bless your whole family. Okay, friend, have a good night. Good bye.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Talal, Talal Saudi, the director of a bank that I cannot remember the name of.
Chief of Staff	Bank al-Tanmiyah (TN: Development Bank).
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Bank al-Tanmiyah.
Chief of Staff	Which came for projects.

Top Secret

[Document Page 227]

Top Secret

Mr. Tariq Aziz	How is the conference, sir? The conference of foreign ministers?
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	He says it is good.
Mr. Tariq Aziz	With no problems?
Chief of Staff	I Called him and he said it was good.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	He says it is good and that the position of the Kuwaitis is good.
Operations Assistant	That is tomorrow. (whispering and unintelligible discussion among the attendees)
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Abu Ziyad
Mr. Tariq Aziz	Yes, sir.
Military Intelligence Director	Sir, I reduce it. I reduce it, sir.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	No, good.
Military Intelligence Director	Did you imagine your side needing to be reduced?
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	No, thank you. This requires a stance. I think that you should take a more moderate position. (Whispering among the attendees that is not understandable.)
Chief of Staff	Yes, I will tell them. I will tell them that I will bring the keys from...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Abu-Najji (referring to the English) says that today the Iraqis

(119 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 228]

Top Secret

Mr. Commander-in-Chief	They will strike with twenty bombs; one over the other, one after the other.
Chief of Staff	There are a number of ships there; we still have not reached...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	(Abu-Najji is killing us) What is he doing there, Abu-Najji?
Director of Planning	I believe that the rest are in Abadan—no, al-Muhammarah
Chief of Staff	In 'Abadan.
Director of Planning	Then in 'Abadan.
Chief of Staff	In 'Abadan or in al-Muhammarah. It has oil.
Director of Planning	But we have the 120 Battalion, it crossed over to the second side.
Mr. Tariq Aziz	Sir, regarding the subject of Afghanistan, we can withdraw without participating in the vote.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	We do not participate in the vote.
Mr. Tariq Aziz	Not for and not against!
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Because the Afghan resistance is against us in favor of the al-Khomeini side, so that is what we will tell the Non-Aligned States when they ask. Why give them something for free?
Mr. Tariq Aziz	We withdraw, which means we do not vote, and we advise silah, when he talks about infiltration (referring to Salah `Amir al-`Ali, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations).

(121 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 229]

(122 of 186)

Top Secret

Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes, he infiltrates.
Mr. Tariq Aziz	Yes.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes, Muhammad Ali came to me saying—You cooperate with Kuwait on this, too—he says we will not stop shooting and we will not negotiate with Saddam Hussein even if the war lasts 10 years, until Saddam Hussein. We are waiting for a non-Saddam government.
Chief of Staff	Yes, and he is Qays...(intermingled talk)... to Mr. Tariq
Mr. Tariq Aziz	On the basis that his position is secure and in good form.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	How do we communicate with them? No one is at ease with them except for Abu-Muthanah, by God! How did we fall into this with the Mullahs interfering in the war!
Mr. Tariq Aziz	Mullahs and crazies.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Write it down so you do not forget it. And inform Hamid about it tomorrow.
Mr. Tariq Aziz	Yes, by God. Yes, sir. I will inform him tomorrow.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	This is Turkey. Someone arrested a Turkish employee in that place and I am afraid it was sabotage...
Chief of Staff	We asked about that, sir. There is still no information.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Follow up on it. Inform the intelligence and security agencies to find out the group.
Chief of Staff	I will call Fadil (referring to Fadil Barak, the director of National Security).

Top Secret

[Document Page 230]

Top Secret

Mr. Tariq Aziz	This is intended, sir.
Chief of Staff (on the phone)	Good afternoon, Abu-`Ali. There is an employee that yesterday... yes, they took him, but no one knows... this is for you.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Our heroes shot down the planes! Ha!
Military Intelligence Director	Your Excellency, you are too protective of them. A long time has passed and you have not given them any assignment, but we need abilities in this area. Regarding the long-term defense of the Air Force, it is not a very small percentage of their long-term targets.
Mr. Tariq Aziz	Sir, the press conference is still an ongoing project.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	By God, I see that it is beneficial.
Mr. Tariq Aziz	When do you like?
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	The project is currently in Al-Muhammarah.
Mr. Tariq Aziz	Because I dealt with Comrade Latif. He can at the latest on Sunday, so he can prepare until we can call a press conference, but do not tell them the purpose, of course. When we call them, is Sunday or Monday suitable for you?
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	What do you want from them? What if we said to them, what is going on?
Mr. Tariq Aziz	We will arrange this, sir. We will bring the numbers, sir.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Saturday.

(123 of 186)

Top Secret

[Document Page 231]

(124 of 186)

Top Secret

Mr. Tariq Aziz	We will bring the numbers only if you request?
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Monday or Tuesday, I'm ready.
Mr. Tariq Aziz	Monday or Tuesday, today I wrote comments about Khomeini's speech, sir. I did not bring it because I didn't expect you to be in the mood to read it. When I heard the news about the plane, we criticized it in a good way.
Chief of Staff	Tomorrow I will bring it.
Mr. Tariq Aziz	We sent it, now it is being broadcast.
Chief of Staff	Ha!
Mr. Tariq Aziz	I will send it to the al-Jumhuriyah Newspaper (TN: The Republic newspaper) Today we will see the cover page. The commentary from yesterday was broadcast by Persian radio.. I sent it to the al-Jumhuriyah and told them to publish it in Arabic because the original was in Arabic.
Chief of Staff	How many issues?
Mr. Tariq Aziz	They divided it into two issues because it is so long, 29 pages. After tomorrow, another commentary will be published (liberation policy). Sir, I asked you at the time about the newscasts and reports. Why not broadcast the Persian radio? And the military position for that? It is all broadcast in Persian radio in addition to the interviews that have been conducted with prisoners...
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Excellent—Comrade Jawad?

Top Secret

[Document Page 232]

(125 of 186)

Top Secret

Military Intelligence Director	Yes, sir.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Go ahead and relax. Pardoned. There is a major among you(tell Tariq to approach you until he informs you) who spoke well in prison. This is the one who told them: Say Allah Akbar (God is greater) and it is the Iraqi army.
Military Intelligence Director	Yes, sir. I wrote a summary and sent it to your Excellency.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	You suggested that I present it to the news and the radio, agreed.
Military Intelligence Director	Yes, sir. Okay, sir.
Chief of Staff	Sir, Comrade Hakmat went to Qabus last time.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	Yes, tell Comrade Hakmat to come.
Chief of Staff	Yes, sir.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief	I did not respond about Industry equipping the armed forces? I wanted the committee that was formed by the presidency of the ministry of industry.
Chief of Staff	I know about it. The memo was issued from our office, sir.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief (Continued)	To improve industry and to improve production.
Chief of Staff	Yes, and to improve quality.
Mr. Commander-in-Chief (Continued)	Regarding quality, renew the production lines at any cost; it is authorized. This is the about which I wanted to know what happened to it. They did not buy what I wanted, so what did they buy? What they bought is not what I wanted...

Top Secret

Full Translation

Page 233

Top Secret

Head of the Council: I even called the sewing manager personally

President Leader: When we went to them regarding the sewing

Head of the Council: Yes, Sir, and you gave incentives that they circulated

President Leader: By God, if only the two aircrafts issue, if only one of them came back!

Head of the Council: What can we do, Sir!

Planning Director: Sir, this is war, your safety is what matters to us.

President Leader: This is war, but...

Mr. Tariq Aziz It is painful!

President Leader: Painful!

Operation deputy: Yes

Planning Director: Sir, it is a loss; Sir, think of it as if this is...

Operation deputy: Sir, think of it as if it were the first batches

Military Operation Director: The early ones; No, the result of the sorties so far.

President Leader: Have they announced it?

Head of the Council: They said they were the MIG!

(126-186)
Top Secret

Full Translation

Page 234

Top Secret

Mr. Tariq Aziz: They don't know them, huh!

Head of the Council: By God, they were three.

President Leader: The Soviet will recognize them; they are devils!

Mr. Tariq Aziz: Every time they announce it is a (MIG), all what they know is the MIG as an Iraqi aircraft.

President Leader: They have such a bad luck, those Iranians are not lucky; they have no luck. Anyone who does not protect his luck loses.

Planning Director: Yes, by God.

Mr. Tariq Aziz: By God, those are evil, Sir.

President Leader: I said they have not protected their luck and that is strange; this old man (with the grimace), man, you are eighty years old; don't you want people to remember the good in you? You did what you did and, turned things upside down and you burnt your country this bad...

Mr. Tariq Aziz: This is one of the comments I wrote today in this regard, Sir; I told them, "These people are going to be prosecuted as war criminals in the history of Iran because he destroyed his country and he is still determined not to negotiate and does not want the cease-fire.

Military Intelligence Director: Many Iranians escape the military, Sir; here is the tank regiment that is, following this failure...

President Leader: they escape; therefore, why don't you, Juwad, make an inventory of Azerbaijani, Kurdish, Baloch and Arab and we will release groups of them and send them so they would be an incentive for others...

(127-186)

Top Secret

Full Translation

Page 235

Top Secret

President Leader: ... and we will create an atmosphere that will make all these nationalities renounce where whenever they will be asked for a soldier, they would say, "We don't want to fight; you, Persians, go fight alone."

Military Intelligence Director: Sir, thirty non-commissioned officers and soldiers from this regiment, the tank regiment, they all escaped following the counter attack failure; their names and ranks are all confirmed.

President Leader: They have the right [to do so]

Operation deputy: The only ones left are the ones wearing the turban and the Revolutionary Guard.

Military Operation Director: The eavesdropped cables indicate that (the Falahi) is the one leading in the Southern sector. The losses afflicted to the regiment three days ago...

Mr. Tariq Aziz: It looks like his capability is this...

Military Operation Director: Yes

President Leader: It looks like their tank (Chieftain) spare parts are in a bad shape.

Military Intelligence Director: Sir, the battalion's cadre is (53) tanks to start with while it only has twenty tanks; I mean here is Al-Muhammarah regiment...

President Leader: It looks like these tanks are also not working; we only need to move them from their defensive locations.

Planning Director: We destroyed (10) of them, Sir; ten out of twenty.

President Leader: The twenty are not a part of the cadre; the battalion's cadre means...

(128-186)
Top Secret

Full Translation

Page 236

Top Secret

Planning Director: Yes, (53) tanks

President Leader: Yes, the cadre of each tank; how many (Chieftain) they have?

Military Intelligence Director: Sir, they have about (600) Chieftain Tanks

Mr. Tariq Aziz: The contract was for (800) tanks

Military Intelligence Director: Eight hundred... about six hundred because the 92nd armored division is fully equipped with the Chieftain and so is most of the 81st division.

President Leader: Would it be useful to form a division out of it, out of this tank?

Operation deputy: For us?

President Leader: Yes

Mr. Tariq Aziz: Well, this is a good tank, Sir.

Military Operation Director: You mean as a new weapon to adopt, Sir, or with what we have seized?

President Leader: As a new weapon.

Military Intelligence Director: In comparison with the weapons of the Arab countries it is useful; I mean within the area where we might be fighting...

Military Operation Director: The German one is better, Sir.

Planning Director: leopard... Leopard.

Military Operation Director: The Leopard-2 from West Germany, but it is expensive.

(129-186)

Top Secret

Full Translation

Page 237

Top Secret

President Leader: Better than this one?

Military Operation Director: Yes, Sir.

Planning Director: Very good.

President Leader: What's the price?

Military Operation Director: About one million [unspecified, but most likely Iraqi Dinar], Sir.

Planning Director: Like the taxi, Sir; I rode it; like a taxi!

President Leader: By God, I am not going to worry about the weapon's price.

Mr. Tariq Aziz: Sir, with the three hundred millions that we give to Syria we can buy a quantity every year.

President Leader: If God grant me a long life I will not leave any advanced weapon in the world that we can reach either directly or by assigning someone to buy it for us and I will bring it to this army.

Mr. Tariq Aziz: We can buy these expensive weapons with the money we used to give to Syria; with the three hundred sixty millions we can buy two hundred or three hundred tanks.

Military Operation Director: The German Leopard is for one million.

Mr. Tariq Aziz: The easiest thing is to take it [the money] back from this traitor and buy new weapons with it. Thank God, the money issue is not a problem; Abu-Muthanna was hurt because the soviet weapon is inexpensive.

President Leader: (The pipeline shall be open for five days and it will bring us...) (his Excellency means the oil)

(130-186)

Top Secret

Full Translation

Page 238

Top Secret

Head of the Council: This is Shah's oil, Sir.

Mr. Tariq Aziz: (continuing) when you compare this with that one, but the weapon became politics.

President Leader: By God, it is not only inexpensive, but effective, as well.

Operation deputy: Effective, but they gave the Syrians and the Egyptians; it is useful for them.

President Leader: This experience made us have analogy in our army where it always has two wings working; one Western and one Russian.

Planning Director: It is necessary, Sir; this is necessary.

Military Intelligence Director: Flexibility.

Planning Director: But as a tank, Sir, first of all, the Chieftain is heavy...

President Leader: (UI) as if it was a house!

Planning Director: With projection

President Leader: If someone, even with a weak sight, he would see it and strike it.

Military Operation Director: The British armors are underdeveloped, Sir.

President Leader: There is nothing better than the T-55

Operation deputy: And the T72

President Leader: I have never seen it before.

(131-186)

Top Secret

Full Translation

Page 239

Top Secret

Operation deputy: We have it, Sir.

President Leader: I have not seen it yet.

Operation deputy: We have it.

President Leader: I did not come across it.

Military Operation Director: The T72, Sir.

Head of the Council: The T.72

President Leader: I have not seen the T-72

Military Operation Director: The 14th Ramadan Battalion has the T-72, Sir.

President Leader: But the T-55 is better than the T-62

Operation deputy: The force on the inner road (inside the palace) has it, Sir.

President Leader: It has a low, oval and light projection.

Military Operation Director: The T-72 is smaller, lower and more organized.

Operation deputy: On your way out of here... from the inner road of the palace

President Leader: Huh!

Head of the Council: Near the pool.

Operation deputy: There are also some camouflage ones near the pool.

(132-186)
Top Secret

Full Translation

Page 240

Top Secret

Head of the Council: There is equipment mounted on it, Sir.

Operation deputy: This table is higher than it.

President Leader: It is an excellent tank; I wish the Soviet would give us five thousand of it.

Planning Director: They won't give us; there are attack intentions.

Military Operation Director: They know we use it to storm through.

President Leader: I told the Minister of Defense six months prior to this war, "By God, buy all the tanks available in the weapon market." He replied, "There is the T-55." I said, "Buy more and stock it." It did not occur to me that we should push the T-55 tank instead of the T-72 when we assault the areas with mines or extensive tank resistance.

Military Operation Director: He knew from the beginning they will be damaged.

President Leader: Yes and the T-72 & T-62 will be used in the armored clash.

Military Operation Director: Sir, there is an armor competition now between the Germans and the Americans because the British one is now underdeveloped followed by the French one.

Operation deputy: The German one is expensive.

President Leader: The French one is more expensive.

Military Operation Director: Yes it is truly advanced, sir, but they are not at the required level as far as armors.

Planning Director: Sir, The Leopard was a French-German joint project...

(133-186)

Top Secret

Full Translation

Page 241

Top Secret

Planning Director: But then they split during the (Prototype) phase. The French manufactured the (AMX) with all its different numbers and the German manufactured the (Leopard). The Americans and the Germans joined the AM-70 tank project.

President Leader: The Arabs did not try to encourage the French; I wish the Arabs encouraged the French for armament so that they can develop their weapons.

Mr. Tariq Azi• Of course, there is the investment issue.

Operation deputy: But I wish the French would be a little bit more conservative about their prices.

Planning Director: Their prices are unreal.

Operation deputy: outrageous... their prices are outrageous; there is no way to compare their prices with this price...

President Leader: Also, take the Roland missiles

Operation deputy: I also said to take them; they are still there.

President Leader: They are still there.

Head of the Council: We will send the soldiers to get them.

Operation deputy: They are there; they are six. Even if our folks train on them; they will be useful to them in a future deal.

President Leader: Yes, that's fine.

Operation deputy: But **I** believe we should not go for the (Krotal), Sir, because it is very underdeveloped!

(134-186)

Top Secret

Full Translation

Page 242

Top Secret

President Leader: One of them

Head of the Council: Yes, Sir, if this is what is suggested, Salah Al-Qadhi shall be moved from the 5th division in this case to be replaced by Asaad (meaning Juwad Asaad Shitbah) otherwise, Juwad shall go and replace the 12th division commander; this is an inspection officer.

President Leader: Is Juwad Asaad fit to be a division commander?

Operation deputy: But his seniority could...?

Head of the Council: His seniority is late with regard to...

President Leader: He is a Colonel.

Military Operation Director: New Colonel, Sir.

President Leader: I am asking with regard to his technical capability, with regard to combat; it is obvious he is a first class fighter... sit down... huh... sit down.

Operation deputy: I heard of him when he was a Lieutenant Colonel for the 6th brigade. Yes, he is a good officer as a brigade Lieutenant Colonel who became a mechanized regiment commander.

Military Operation Director: He became the 6th brigade mechanized regiment commander.

Operation deputy: The 6th brigade.

Military Operation Director: And he became the 46th mechanized brigade commander. There was a new formation in the 12th division and he was with Mohamed Ismael's division (meaning Staff Major General Mohamed Ismael Al-Weiss), but he was in Sarsank, Sir, with the Northern movements...

(151-186)
Top Secret

Full Translation

Page 243

Top Secret

Military Operation Director: ... the brigade did not receive carriers and vehicles yet.

Operation deputy: He proved himself here as a brigade commander with capability that will enable him to lead more than one brigade; indeed, the brigade he lead had more than one brigade, Sir.

President Leader: Shaker

Planning Director: Sir, I was the one who taught him I was his teacher. He was sharp, can analyze things and conclude many things, courageous and fighter and his command qualifications are perfect, except for one thing and that is the seniority since he was promoted on the 14 of last July. But...

President Leader: Seniority is not an issue; we can grant him a rank to become Brigadier General.

Planning Director: I don't know; I mean...

President Leader: And he will be qualified.

Planning Director: And he will be qualified.

President Leader: He was one of those prominent people whom we were looking for...

Planning Director: Yes, he will be qualified.

President Leader: OK, Salah Al-Qadhi will be moved to the 12th division while Juwad Asaad will be moved to the 5th division.

Military Intelligence Director: The 12th division, Mr. President, is an armored division and that was our excuse.

(152-186)
Top Secret

Full Translation

Page 244

Top Secret

Head of the Council: Armored and that is an armor.

Military Intelligence Director: Colonel Juwad works mostly with the mechanized units and the 5th division is a mechanized infantry division; this is the indication we have and nothing else.

President Leader: Not too bad, OK.

Military Intelligence Director: And we suggested his replacement for the brigade, Mr. President, to be...

Head of the Council: Walid

President Leader: The Staff armor Lieutenant Colonel Walid Mohamed Saleh shall be moved from the Military Academy to be a brigade commander.

Operation deputy: Does he have to quit the academy?

President Leader: The academy is over.

Military Intelligence Director: No, the academy is not over yet.

Head of the Council: The academy was over.

Operation deputy: The session was either cancelled or postponed.

Military Intelligence Director: Postponed.

Operation deputy: We postponed it, Sir.

President Leader: Yes, it is over; there is no more...

(153-186)

Top Secret

Full Translation

Page 245

Top Secret

Head of the Council: Until the situation is settled.

President Leader: We can bring him back once the war is over; he can come back.

Military Intelligence Director: He was a brigade commander for a short time, about six months, it was all defense matters. His work and production are not clear yet and no clear conception whether he succeeded or failed in the brigade is made.

President Leader: Who is he?

Military Intelligence Director: As far as Staff Lieutenant Colonel Walid Mohamed Saleh

President Leader: How do you appoint him as a brigade commander if you don't know he is...?

Military Intelligence Director: He was already a brigade commander for a short time; he is not...

President Leader: Was he with the 30th brigade?

Operation deputy: The 30th brigade, yes.

Military Intelligence Director: The 30th brigade.

Head of the Council: The 16th brigade.

President Leader: Yes

Head of the Council: After that the 30th.

President Leader: Yes, Hussein Al-`Alkawi, didn't we receive a remark about him from... Thabet?

(154-186)

Top Secret

Full Translation

Page 246

Top Secret

Military Intelligence Director: Mr. President, if you approve this suggestion, the other suggestion is excluded.

Head of the Council: In this case this suggestion.

President Leader: that's it.

Military Intelligence Director: The other one is excluded.

President Leader: Just like this as a name mentioned; that's it.

Head of the Council: Honestly, Sir, the 20th brigade...

President Leader: A good disciplined commander should be the commander of the 20th brigade.

Head of the Council: Yes, Sir.

President Leader: Because its commander is disciplined and its location is sensitive.

Military Intelligence Director: Yes, Sir; we will review it tomorrow, God willing.

Planning Director: Yes, very sensitive.

Head of the Council: He had a good position in the war of October when his finger was cutoff.

Military Intelligence Director: This was not confirmed, Abu-Mohamed (He meant the Head of the Council).

Head of the Council: I meant Walid Mohamed Saleh.

President Leader: Walid had his finger's issue and left for treatment.

(156-186)

Top Secret

Full Translation

Page 247

Top Secret

Head of the Council: Yes, but it is...

Operation deputy: All is known in his division as a distinctive officer; Ali `Uwayd if you remember?

President Leader: No, it is over with his issue.

Head of the Council: Sir, `Adnan Daham is a good fighter if the folks know him well.

President Leader: Yes, but `Adnan Daham is a Colonel; he is now with the...

Operation deputy: 1st Staff officer in the corps.

President Leader: Yes

Operation deputy: This means he is the absolute master in the corps now.

Head of the Council: Yes

President Leader: I agree.

Head of the Council: OK, Sir, as far as the National Defense Academy, should we divide them [unspecified] among this group?

Military Intelligence Director: Mr. President, the majority will be with the 2nd and 3rd corps and the minority with the 1st corps.

Head of the Council: The Air Force is one and the Navy.

President Leader: Yes

(157-186)

Top Secret

Full Translation

Page 248

Top Secret

Military Intelligence Director: As far as the divisions and the corps Headquarters, they will be as [UT] and the specialized officers of the air forces and the navy.

President Leader: Yes, review it with the comrades; they might have a remark regarding the distribution.

Military Intelligence Director: No, by God Sir, we have no remark.

Operation deputy: We already reviewed it, Sir; what matters is that the high ranking officers will be distributed on the corps' Headquarters, even the corps commander may send someone as the Chief of Staff... as a deputy commander for two or three days until the commander leaves.

President Leader: I agree.

Head of the Council: OK

Operation deputy: And the small ranks such as Lieutenant Colonel or Colonel

President Leader: I agree

Head of the Council: Sir, there are branch members that are sent to Al-Muhammarah

President Leader: I received it this afternoon and wrote on it, "Jabbar, the Sudanese and the group."

Head of the Council: Do you agree?

President Leader: I approved it, except for the second one; he will be the political official and his work will not be limited to the Party organizations, etc...

(158-186)
Top Secret

Full Translation

Full Translation

Page 267

Top Secret

Mr. Tariq Aziz This is a good weapon, the Luna.

Military Intelligence Director: Yes

Head of the Council: We said this is for Saturday, Sir... [Whispering]

Mr. Tariq Aziz: This is like the Chinese.

President Leader: An ancient nation.

Mr. Tariq Aziz: Yes

Head of the Council: For the workers... [Whispering]

President Leader: Yes, issue it [unspecified]; what day is tomorrow?

Head of the Council: Tomorrow is Thursday.

President Leader: Yes, issue it tomorrow.

Head of the Council: Yes, Sir.

President Leader: Or on Saturday as you like; Saturday.

Operation deputy: The Chinese were interested in wisdom and war at the same time.

Planning Director: The first Chinese intellectual whom the Western intellectuals quoted.

Head of the Council: This is regarding establishing a joint company, Sir.

President Leader: Nothing happened to it; it had a gap for a while now.

(149-186)
Top Secret

Full Translation

Page 268

Top Secret

Head of the Council: Yes

Mr. Tariq Azi• Their philosophy (Confucius); Confucius is the one that Major General Shaker meant the one who did...

Military Operation Director: Militant (Xianzu)

Planning Director: (Xianzu)

Head of the Council: This one, Sir, should I give his salary to his family?

President Leader: Give his salary to his family... [Voices overlap]

Military Operation Director: Xianzu, this was 2000 B.C.

Mr. Tariq Aziz• That one who was interested in the modern issues... the one who established the republic.

Military Operation Director: I mean at the same time Confucius

Planning Director: He left him [unspecified]

Mr. Tariq Aziz• Yes

Head of the Council: (conversation about choosing the 5th and 12th division commander) (whispering with the President)... [Whispering]... Staff Colonel Juwad Asaad Rasul, the 20th infantry brigade commander, the 5th mechanized division commander... [Whispering]

President Leader: Of the brigade or the division?

Head of the Council: Yes, Sir, a division commander.

(150-186)

Top Secret