

~~TOP SECRET~~

#1

Saturday, June 26, 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

FROM: JOHN GORDON *JG*  
SUBJECT: Supporting Material for Press Briefing on Iraq

Your statement for tonight and relevant supporting material is attached:

- Tab 1: Your statement -- cleared by all, but we need to look at two points raised by General Powell
- Tab 2: Fact sheet on evidence -- to be declassified and released at the White House after the President's statement
- Tab 3: Photos of evidence -- to be released at the backgrounder
- Tab 4: Q&As prepared for administration officials as background for press events DRAFT
- Tab 5: **Draft** of President's remarks -- note: these could change significantly
- Tab 6: Talking Points for Congressional calls -- Rudy will make these

Declassified in Full  
Authority: EO 13526  
Chief, Records and Declass Div, WHS  
Date: 28AUG2024

Office of the Secretary of Defense Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS  
Date: 28AUG2024 Authority: EO 13526 + 5 U.S.C. § 552  
Declassify: Declassify in Part: X Deny in Full:  
Reason: FOIA 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(6) + (7)(c)(e)(f)  
MDR: 18-M-0706

~~Declassified to Secret~~  
~~Date: 14 MAR 2018~~  
~~Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS~~

COPY NO. 1

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~See Dist Cont No.~~ **X70558**

18-M-0706

AS-2311



Statement by  
Les Aspin  
Secretary of Defense  
Announcing Action Against Iraq  
June 26, 1993

Good evening. You have all heard the President's statement earlier this evening announcing that U.S. forces have taken action against the headquarters of the Iraqi Intelligence Service in Baghdad.

Tonight, General Powell and I will give you additional information ~~on planning for the operation and~~ its ~~basic elements~~. Since the operation has only recently been completed, we do not yet have <sup>information</sup> ~~details~~ for you on its results. We expect to have <sup>some</sup> ~~more~~ information by tomorrow afternoon.

Tomahawk cruise missiles from U.S. Navy surface vessels were directed at the headquarters building of the Iraqi Intelligence Service. This operation was designed to be a strong and unmistakable response by the United States to the attempt by Iraq to assassinate former President George Bush during his visit to Kuwait last April.

The assassination attempt was not the act of a small group of people acting independently -- the evidence is conclusive that it is the work of the Iraqi Intelligence Service and is an action that would have had to have been approved at the highest levels of Iraqi government.



After reviewing the evidence, the President ordered the Department of Defense to develop a range of possible military responses, <sup>The Pres then</sup> ~~and then~~ <sup>an</sup> selected ~~one~~ option that would <sup>target</sup> ~~be targeted~~ directly ~~as the central feature of~~ the agency we believe immediately responsible for planning and conducting this crime.

The Iraqi Intelligence Service, the IIS, is the largest of the Iraqi intelligence agencies. It is responsible for investigating and acting against any suspected disloyalties, monitoring Iraqi citizens and political activities, countering dissident Iraqis and opposition groups outside the country. It is responsible for conducting terrorist attacks abroad, as it tried to do in this case.

45-20

The IIS has carried out numerous covert activities including assassinations of Iraqi political dissidents, defecting scientists, and Kurdish leaders; a terror campaign in Kuwait; car bombings in Northern Iraq, and bombing of UN relief convoys and attacks on UN personnel -- and now an attempt on the life of a former President of the United States.

The central core of the IIS is in its large, multi-story headquarters building in Baghdad. That building was the target of the just completed attack. It contains the offices of the director and is the focal point for all IIS domestic and overseas operations. It is the hub for IIS operational planning, interrogations, communications equipment, and computer operations.

By selecting this facility for attack, late at night, ~~we believe~~  
we have designed a response that is proportional and <sup>^</sup>will  
disrupt Iraq's capability to conduct future such actions  
<sup>we believe</sup>  
and <sup>^</sup>will be seen correctly by the people of Iraq -- and the  
leadership as well -- as targeted solely against the  
regime responsible for the attack on President Bush, and  
not targeted against the people of Iraq.

Tonight's action was conducted exclusively by  
U.S. forces. The crime was committed against the  
United States and we elected to exercise our right of self-  
defense under Article 51 of the UN Charter, ~~to respond to~~  
~~it~~ Behavior such as the attempt on President Bush's life  
could not go unanswered. If the regime in Baghdad is  
allowed to believe that it can escape responsibility for  
such behavior, it will only be encouraged to repeat it.

Tonight's unilateral action in no way diminished U.S. support for coalition action or for the authority of the U.N.

While we do not yet have the specific results from the operation, I want to point out that it is the capability and professionalism of the U.S. Armed Forces that gave the President the range of options he needed in order to respond appropriately to this attack on a former President.

Colin ...



## OPENING STATEMENT

Good evening. You have all heard the President's statement earlier this evening announcing that U.S. forces have taken action against the headquarters of the Iraqi Intelligence Service in Baghdad.

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The assassination attempt was not the act of a small group of people acting independently -- the evidence is conclusive that it is the work of the Iraqi Intelligence Service and is an action that would have had to have been approved at the highest levels of Iraqi government.

After reviewing the evidence, the President ordered the Department of Defense to develop a range of possible military responses ~~and then~~ *The Pres. then* selected ~~one~~ *an* option that would be ~~targeted~~ *target* directly ~~on~~ the ~~central feature~~ *of the* agency we believe immediately responsible for planning and conducting this crime.

The Iraqi Intelligence Service, the IIS, is the largest of the Iraqi intelligence agencies. It is responsible for investigating and acting against any suspected disloyalties, monitoring Iraqi citizens and political activities, countering dissident Iraqis and opposition groups outside the country. It is responsible for conducting terrorist attacks abroad, as it tried to do in this case. The IIS has carried out numerous covert activities including assassinations of Iraqi political dissidents, defecting scientists, and Kurdish leaders; a terror campaign in Kuwait; car bombings in Northern Iraq, and bombing of UN relief convoys and attacks on UN personnel – and now an attempt on the life of a former President of the United States.

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By selecting this facility for attack, late at night, we have designed a response that is proportional and will disrupt Iraq's capability to conduct future such actions ~~and will be seen correctly by the people of Iraq -- and the leadership as well -- as targeted solely against the regime responsible~~ *we believe*

for the attack on President Bush, and not targeted against the people of Iraq.

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Colin ...



## IRAQI INTELLIGENCE SERVICE

IIS

- Foreign Service
- "CIA"
- Sabit al-Duri

## DIRECTORATE GENERAL SECURITY

- INTERNAL
- ~~Aziz~~ <sup>Ranman</sup> al-Duri

## Directorate 5, Military Intelligence

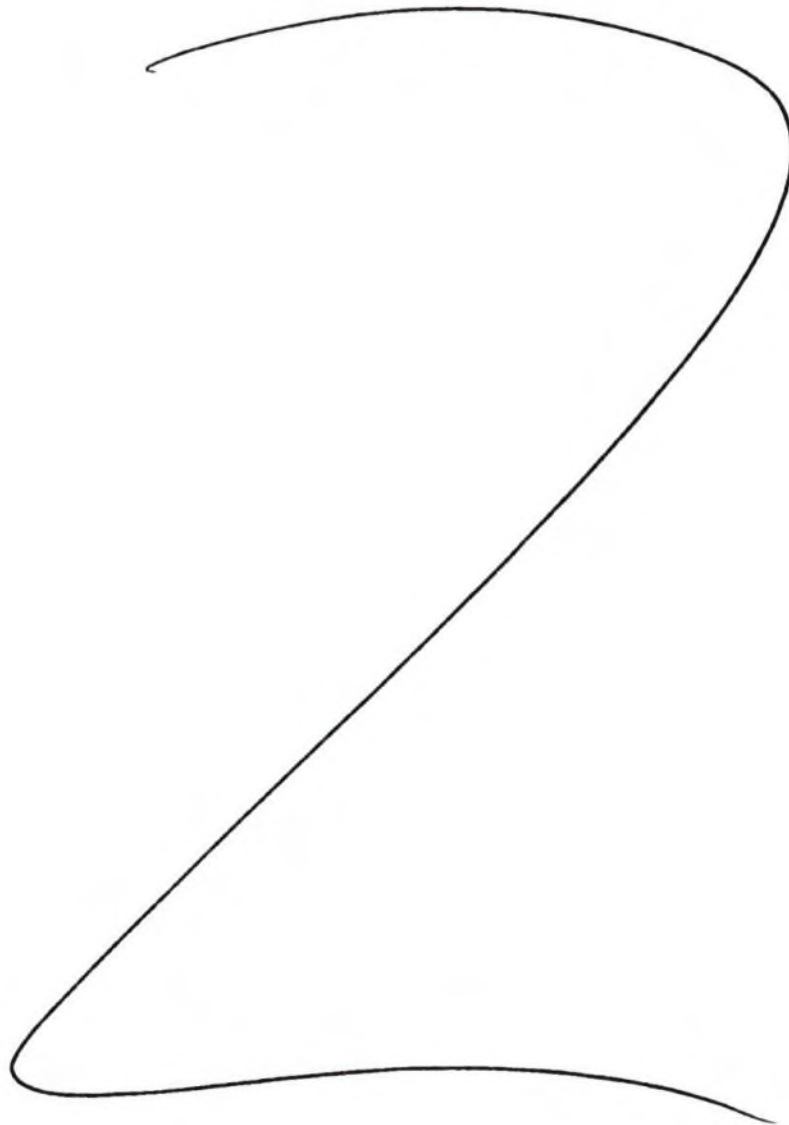
- 'DIA'
- Aziz Al-duri

## Special Security Organization

- Qusay Saddam Hussein - SON
- 'extra-legal'
- peculiar to Iraq
- Presidential Protection
- Monitor other Services

AP 23,11





~~TOP SECRET~~

June 26, 1993

Background Statement  
On Iraqi/Bush Plot

On April 14, 1993, while former President George Bush was beginning a three-day visit to Kuwait City, Kuwaiti authorities thwarted a terrorist plot, seizing a powerful car bomb and other explosives and arresting 16 suspects, led by two Iraqi nationals.

In the succeeding two months, U.S. investigative teams from the FBI and the Intelligence Community have conducted a thorough investigation of this operation. Based upon that review, the Department of Justice and the Central Intelligence Agency have concluded that Iraq planned, equipped and ran the terrorist operation that threatened the life of President Bush in Kuwait City in April. Further, it is the firm judgment of our Intelligence Community, from all sources of evidence available to it, that this assassination plot was directed and pursued by the Iraqi Intelligence Service (IIS).

The evidence that forms the basis for these conclusions includes the following:

A. Forensics

1. A car bomb, hidden in a Toyota Landcruiser, was smuggled across the Iraq-Kuwaiti border by the suspects during the night of April 13, 1993. This bomb, and the other explosives that were seized, have been directly examined by FBI forensic experts. In the judgment of these experts, [REDACTED]

~~TOP SECRET~~

Declassify on: OADR

AS. 2312

FBI FOIA 5  
U.S.C. §  
552(b)(7)  
(e), (f)

OSD FOIA  
5 U.S.C. §  
552(b)(7)  
(e), (f)

[REDACTED]

2. According to the forensic experts, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

OSD FOIA  
5 U.S.C. §  
552(b)(6),  
(7)(c), (e),  
(f)

3. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

FBI FOIA 5  
U.S.C. §  
552(b)(6),  
(7)(c), (e),  
(f)

B. [REDACTED]

1. The FBI conducted extensive interviews of the sixteen

[REDACTED]

They told the FBI [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

2. [REDACTED] told the FBI [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

FBI FOIA 5  
U.S.C. §  
552(b)(6),  
(7)(c), (e)

3. [REDACTED] told the FBI that he  
[REDACTED]

OSD FOIA  
5 U.S.C. §  
552(b)(6),  
(7)(c), (e)

4. The [REDACTED] told the FBI that his  
[REDACTED]

C. Intelligence Assessments

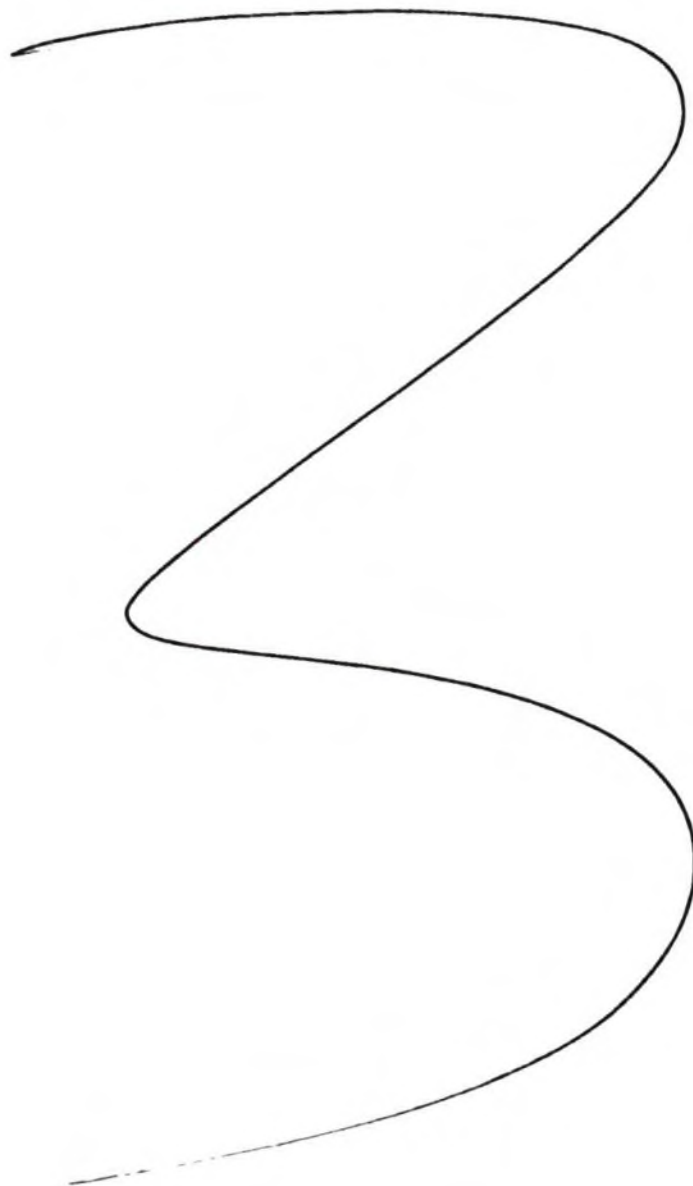
1. During and since the Gulf War, Saddam--through the media he controls--repeatedly has threatened to assassinate President Bush before and after he retired from office. This intent is confirmed by various other intelligence sources.

2. From all the evidence available to it, the CIA is highly confident that the Iraqi government, at the highest levels, directed its intelligence service to assassinate former President Bush during his visit to Kuwait on April 14-16, 1993.

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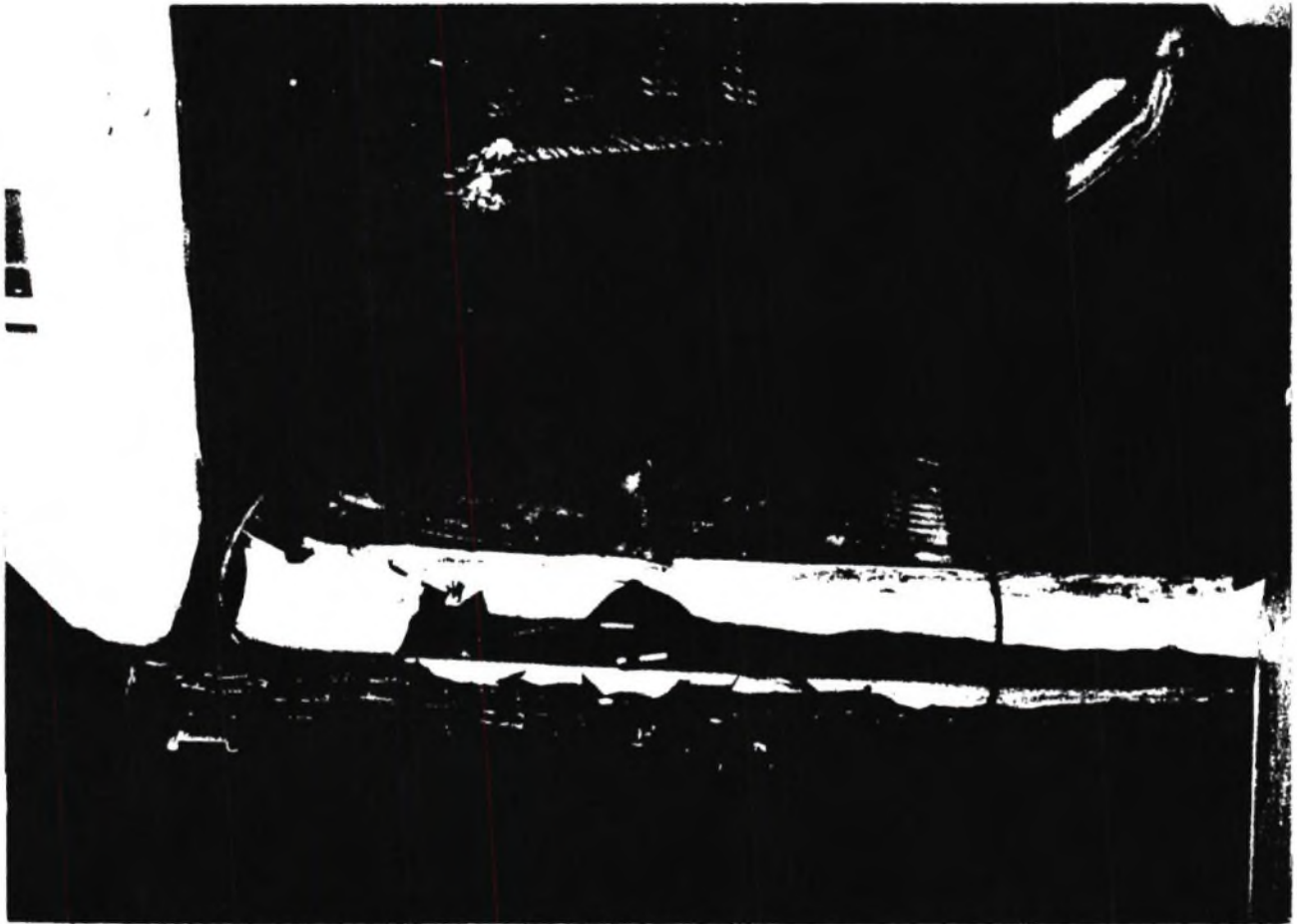
43-276







**Toyota Landcruiser Seized by Kuwait Authorities**



**Toyota Landcruiser Seized by Kuwait Authorities**



**Radio Controlled Firing System-Known Iraqi Device**

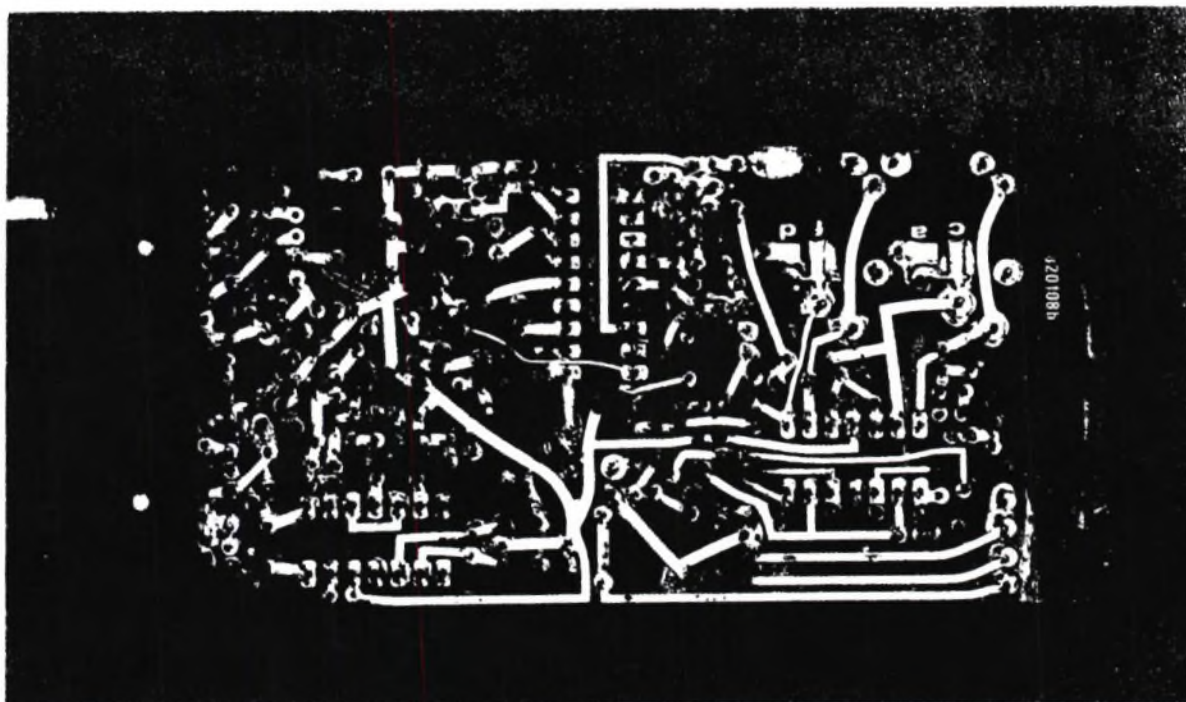
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Authority: EO 13526  
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Date: 28AUG2024



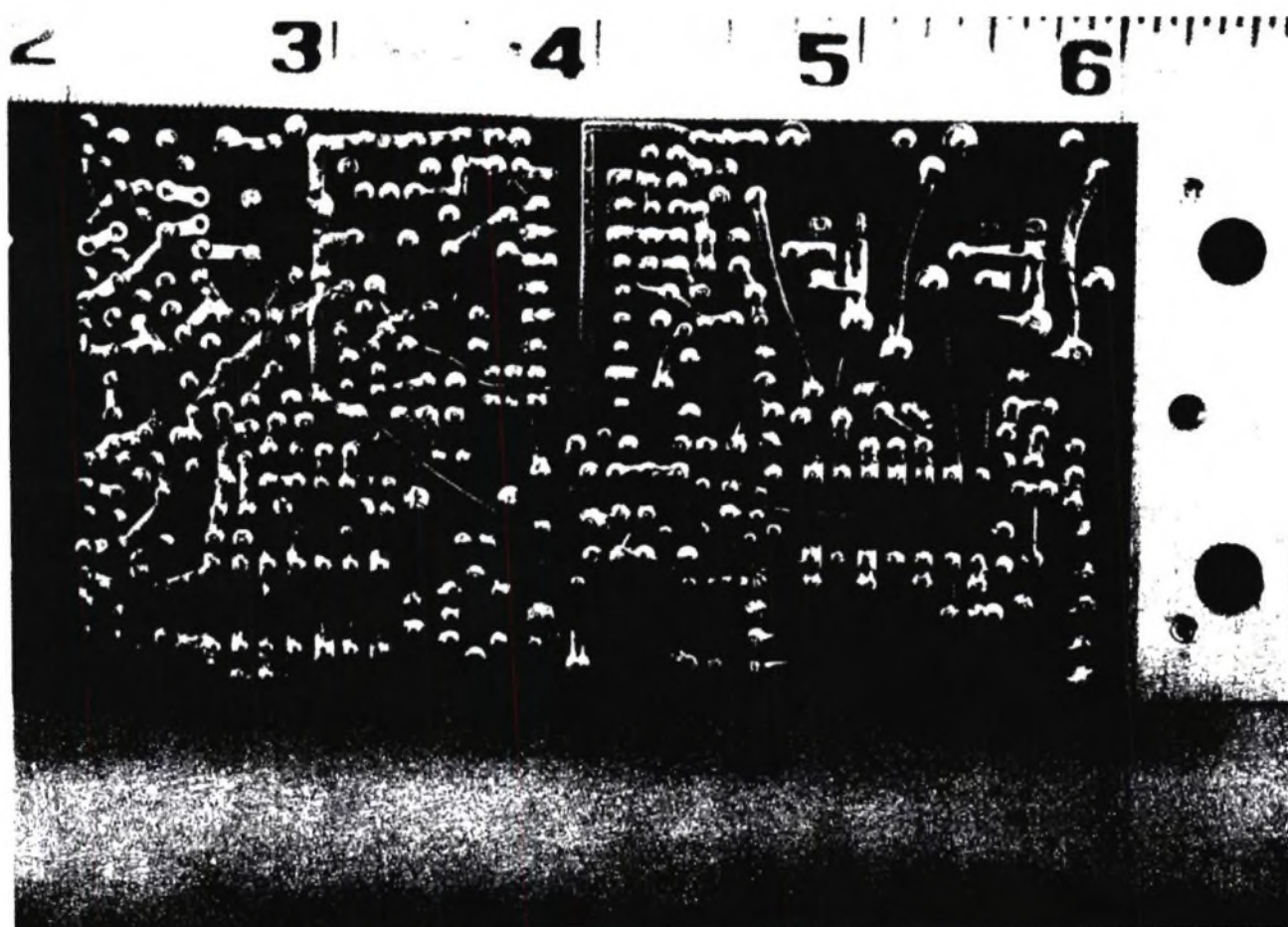
**Radio Controlled Firing System-Kuwait Device**

AS-23,17

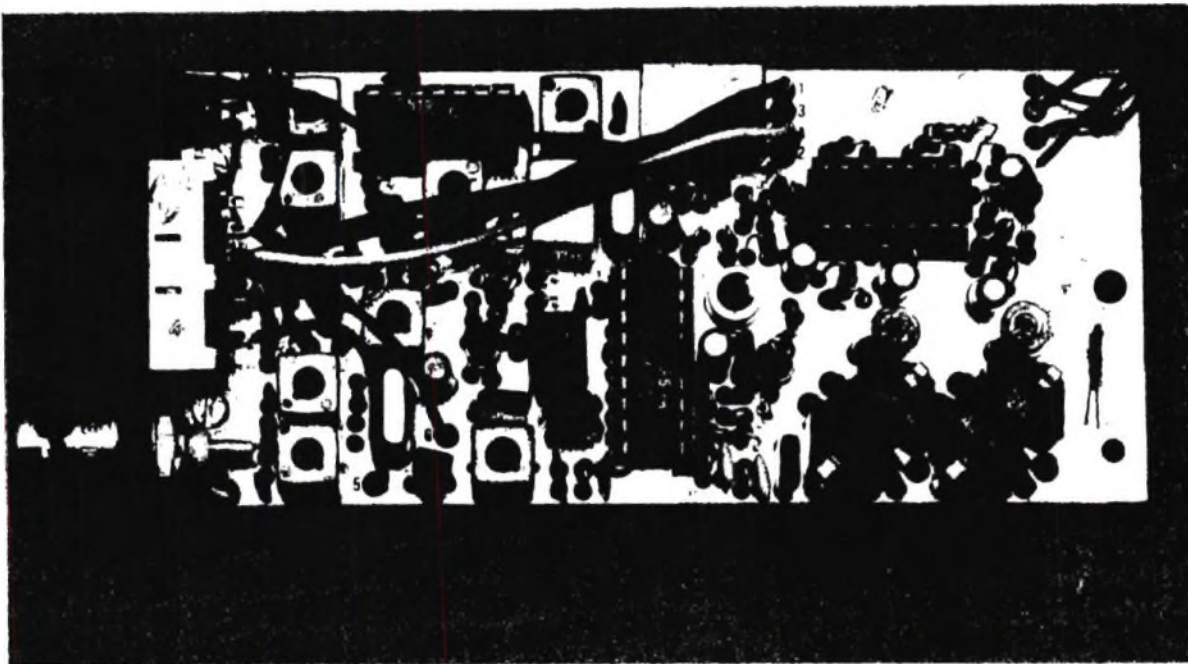




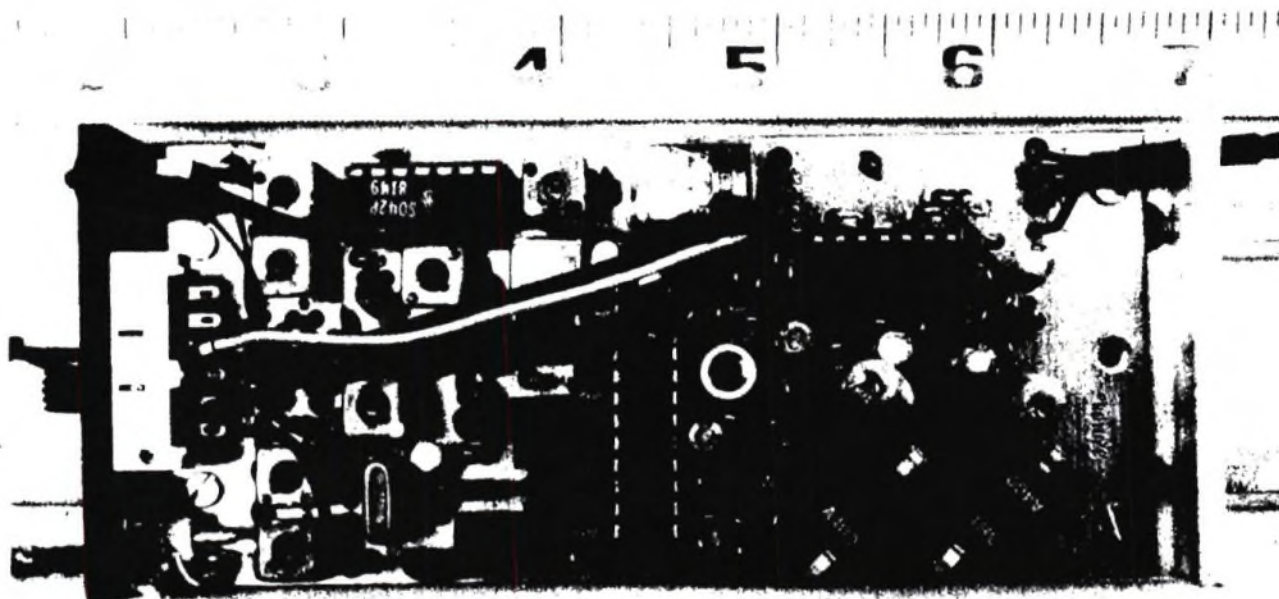
**Radio Controlled Firing System-Known Iraqi Device**



**Radio Controlled Firing System-Kuwait Device**



**Radio Controlled Firing System-Known Iraqi Device**



**Radio Controlled Firing System-Kuwait Device**

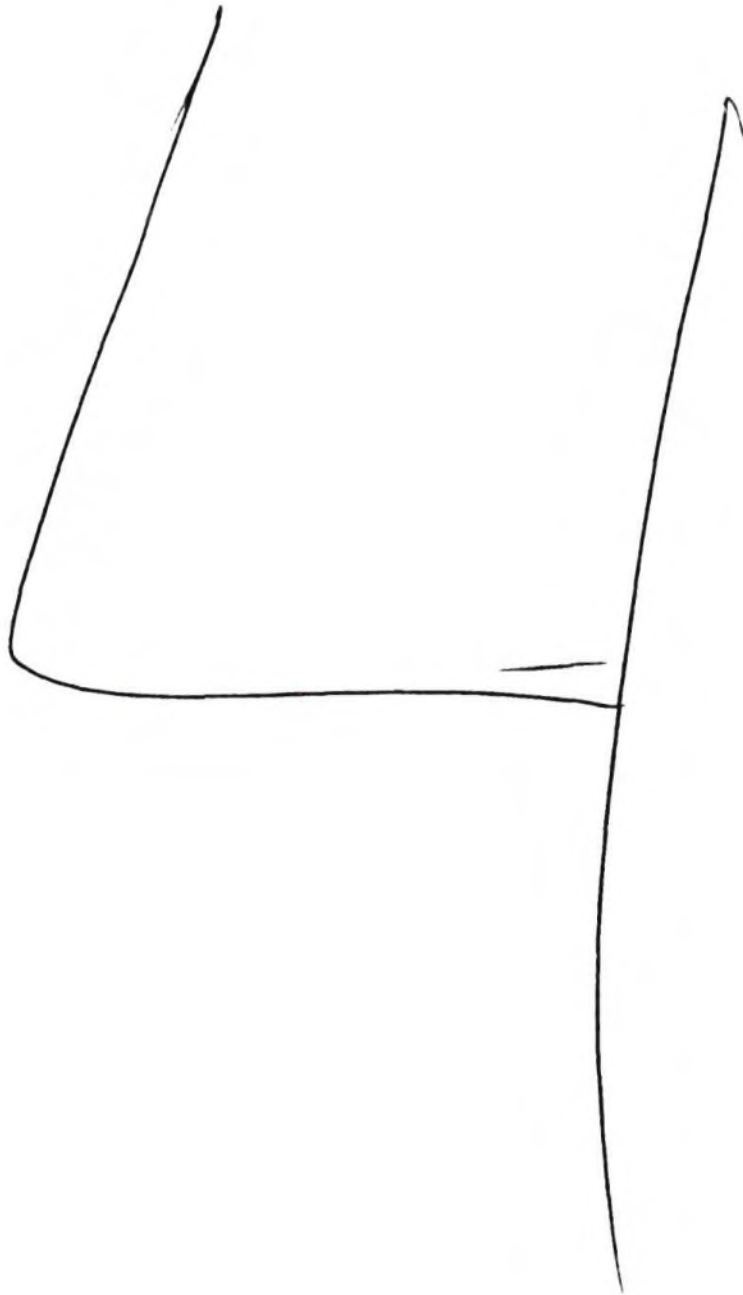
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AE 23/14





**Cube Bombs Seized by Kuwait Authorities**





~~SECRET UNTIL APPROVED FOR RELEASE~~

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS  
TO ACCOMPANY PUBLIC STATEMENT ON  
IRAQI ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE PRESIDENT BUSH

~~SECRET UNTIL APPROVED FOR RELEASE~~

Q: Was the evidence in this case obtained directly by the U.S.,  
or were we dependent on the Kuwaitis for our information?

A: U.S. investigators--in addition to working in cooperation  
with Kuwaiti authorities--have directly collected their own  
evidence. [REDACTED]

OSD FOIA  
5 U.S.C. §  
552(b)(7)(e)

FBI FOIA 5  
U.S.C. §  
552(b)(7)(e)

[REDACTED]

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Q: Have other international terrorist groups built bombs with the same components that have been found in the explosives recovered in Kuwait?

FBI FOIA 5  
U.S.C. §  
552(b)(7)(e)

A: U.S. Government forensic experts have never found in bombs



OSD FOIA  
5 U.S.C. §  
552(b)(7)(e)

Declassified in Full  
Authority: EO 13526  
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40-26

Q: What would Saddam Husayn hope to gain by killing Mr. Bush?

~~Wouldn't he be deterred by the threat of U.S. retaliation?~~

A: Saddam Husayn has a long history of personal vendettas, in which he has used violence to settle scores against old enemies, both foreign and domestic. Given this history, it is quite plausible that he would be motivated by simple revenge. [As for the threat of retaliation, Saddam has repeatedly tested the limits of unacceptable behavior, as with Iraqi harassment of UN officials carrying out duties within Iraq. The bomb plot in Kuwait evidently was designed to conceal direct official Iraqi involvement.]



Revised

Q: Has Iraq engaged in terrorism outside Iraq since the end of the Gulf War?

A: Iraq remains on the State Department's list of state sponsors of terrorism, a fact which clearly indicates that we continue to regard Baghdad as being actively involved in international terrorism. Before the mid-April events in Kuwait, Iraqi intelligence officers murdered an emigre Iraqi scientist in Amman, Jordan, in December 1992.

Q: Has Iraq commented on the plot that was thwarted in Kuwait?

YES - THEY DENY IT

A: Iraq's government-controlled media have commented on the plot on several occasions. The Iraqi commentators have ridiculed the idea that Iraq was involved in the plot and have said that Mr. Bush is not worth the explosives it would have taken to kill him.

Q: What do you know about the status and whereabouts of the Iraqi intelligence officers who are alleged to have organized the plot?

A: As far as we know, they are still in Iraq.

Q: What motivated the two major suspects to accept this mission?

A: Although the two suspects received a small financial inducement from their Iraqi recruiters, the main motivation was fear. The suspects feared for their own lives, and those of their families, if they refused to accept the assignment.



Q: Will the suspects be extradited to stand trial in the U.S.?  
If not, why not?

A: The Kuwaiti government made it clear from the outset of this case that it intended to prosecute the suspects promptly under its own laws. Twelve of the 14 individuals currently on trial in Kuwait face the death penalty if convicted.

Q: When was the U.S. first informed of the assassination plot?

A: Word of the plot first appeared in a press report on 25 April. On 26 April, Kuwait officials briefed U.S. officials about the plot.

Q: Why did the Kuwait Government delay giving Washington the details of the plot?

A: Kuwaiti officials have said that, once the plot had been thwarted and Mr. Bush was out of danger, they wanted to complete their <sup>preliminary investigation</sup> investigation, ~~and make sure their case was ready to take to court.~~

Q: Is there any chance this whole plot was cooked up by the Kuwaitis, as a way to keep opposition against Iraq mobilized?

Absolutely not: All of the evidence

A: <sup>points clearly and uniquely to Iraqi intelligence</sup> ~~The evidence does not support that hypothesis. It would have been very difficult, or impossible, to have obtained and deployed the explosive devices, which clearly were of Iraqi design, unless the operation originated in Iraq. Moreover, any duplicity of the type you suggest would have risked significant damage to Kuwait's relations with the U.S. once the sham was exposed.~~

A2 37



Q. WHY SHOULD WE BELIEVE THE CONFESSIONS OF PEOPLE  
BEING HELD BY THE KUWAITIS? WEREN'T THEY TORTURED?

A. OUR CONCLUSION <sup>INDEPENDENT</sup> IS NOT DEPENDENT UPON THE CONFESSIONS.  
THERE IS AMPLE INTELLIGENCE AND FORENSICS EVIDENCE THAT  
LEADS TO THE SAME CONCLUSION. ~~EVEN IF WE DISCARDED THE~~  
~~CONFESSIONS.~~

~~HOWEVER, THE FBI REPORTED NO SIGNS OF TORTURE AND~~  
~~BELIEVED THAT THE SUSPECTS WERE TELLING THE TRUTH.~~

Q. WHY DIDN'T YOU WAIT FOR THE VERDICT IN KUWAIT?  
WHAT IF THEY'RE FOUND INNOCENT? OR HAS KUWAIT  
ALREADY TOLD YOU THEY WILL BE FOUND GUILTY?

A. THE KUWAITI TRIAL IS TO DETERMINE THE GUILT OR  
INNOCENCE OF 17 INDIVIDUALS AND, IF GUILTY, THEIR  
SENTENCE.

THE US DECISION WAS NOT RELATED TO THE KUWAITI  
COURT'S. IT WAS AN INDEPENDENT DECISION BASED  
UPON INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION AND EVALUATION.  
IT WAS A DECISION ABOUT THE GUILT OF A GOVERNMENT.

Q. WHY AREN'T YOU TRYING TO EXTRADITE THESE GUYS?  
DON'T YOU THINK YOU COULD CONVICT THEM HERE?

A. THE KUWAITIS HAVE FIRST VENUE. THE CRIME WAS  
COMMITTED IN KUWAIT.

WE SEE NO REASON TO ADD THE EXTRA TIME AND EXPENSE  
OF A SECOND TRIAL IN THE US.

*Focus*  
OUR CONCERN IS ~~NOT WITH THE GUILT OF INDIVIDUALS,~~ *ON THE ~~GUILT~~ GOVT RESPONSIBLE FOR* *PERPETUATING*  
~~BUT WHETHER OR NOT A GOVERNMENT WAS GUILTY.~~ *THIS*  
*CRIME*

THE EVIDENCE IS COMPELLING THAT IRAQ WAS GUILTY.

Q. WHY DID THIS TAKE TWO MONTHS TO DECIDE?  
DOESN'T THIS TIMING HAVE MORE TO DO WITH POLITICS?

A. IT TOOK TWO MONTHS BECAUSE WE WERE CAREFUL AND *Schuppers* <sup>①</sup>  
~~COMPLETE~~.

WE INTERVIEWED EVERYONE INVOLVED, SOME SEVERAL  
TIMES.

WE DID DETAILED FORENSIC EXAMINATIONS AND  
COMPARISONS WITH OTHER WEAPONS WE KNOW WERE  
FROM IRAQI INTELLIGENCE. SOME OF THOSE WEAPONS  
ARE IN THIRD COUNTRIES.

WE QUERIED OUR INTELLIGENCE SOURCES, A PROCESS  
WHICH IS ALSO NOT INSTANTANEOUS.



Q. WHY DID YOU RETALIATE BY YOURSELF?  
WOULDN'T THE COALITION JOIN YOU?

A. WE ACTED UNILATERALLY BECAUSE WE ARE PROCEEDING  
UNDER ARTICLE 51 OF THE UN CHARTER, SELF-DEFENSE.  
WE ARE NOT INVOKING THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL  
RESOLUTIONS ON THE GULF.

WE CONSIDER THE ATTEMPTED ATTACK ON PRESIDENT BUSH  
AS AN ATTACK ON THE US, FULLY JUSTIFYING A DIRECT  
RESPONSE.

WE DID NOT ASK THE COALITION ALLIES TO JOIN US IN  
THE ATTACK, BUT WE HAVE RECEIVED THEIR POLITICAL  
SUPPORT.

→ we did <sup>inform</sup> ~~consult~~ w/ our friends  
and allies in the region, but  
we did not ask them to join us. ⊙

Q. DO YOU THINK THIS LITTLE RETALIATION WILL STOP SADDAM? WHY SHOULDN'T HE JUST LAUGH THIS OFF AS HE HAS YOUR EARLIER STRIKES?

A. OUR RESPONSE WAS ~~PROPORTIONAL~~ AND ~~DIRECTLY~~ RELATED TO THE OFFENSE, AS REQUIRED BY INTERNATIONAL LAW.

THE IRAQI REGIME WOULD MAKE A GRAVE MISTAKE TO CONTINUE SUCH ACTIONS. WE HAVE SHOWN IN THE PAST THAT OUR RESPONSES CAN BE VERY COSTLY TO IRAQ.

~~and that~~

~~and~~

Article 51

- This is not <sup>Article 51</sup> retaliation. It is an act of self-defense, under article 51 of the UN Charter. It was designed to deter future aggression & reduce Iraq's ability to conduct such operations in the future.

##

- it's appropriate
- proportionate
- aimed to the utmost of sending a clear msg.

At 10:00

Q. WHO DID THE PRESIDENT CONSULT WITH BEFORE ATTACKING IRAQ... MUBAREK, KING HUSSEIN (WHO IS IN THE US)?

A. THE PRESIDENT TALKED TO A NUMBER OF COALITION LEADERS AND UN SECURITY COUNCIL PARTNERS.

CERTAINLY PRESIDENT CLINTON INFORMED PRESIDENT MUBAREK. KING HUSSEIN WAS INFORMED AFTER THE STRIKE.

*The leadership of the Congress was informed.*

Q. IS THIS STRIKE REALLY BECAUSE YOU KNOW IRAQ WAS BEHIND THE WORLD TRADE CENTER BOMBING, BUT YOU CAN'T PROVE IT IN COURT?

AND WASN'T IRAQ BEHIND THE ARAB TERRORIST PLOT TO BLOW UP THE UN TOO?

A. <sup>action has</sup> THIS ~~RETALIATION~~ WAS <sup>a response to</sup> ~~BECAUSE OF~~ THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF A FORMER AMERICAN PRESIDENT, PERIOD.

WE HAVE MADE NO DETERMINATION REGARDING THE ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT OF ANY FOREIGN GOVERNMENT IN THE RECENT CASES IN THE NEW YORK AREA.



- Q. DO ALL US AGENCIES BELIEVE THAT IRAQ TRIED TO KILL BUSH?
- A. <sup>YES.</sup> <sup>CONDUCTED</sup> THE INVESTIGATION WAS JOINT BY ~~SEVERAL US AGENCIES~~ <sup>THE FBI (H&USS)</sup>.  
THE CONCLUSION WAS MADE ON AN INTERAGENCY BASIS,  
BASED UPON ALL-SOURCE MATERIAL FROM SEVERAL US  
AGENCIES.

Q. IS THERE SOME EVIDENCE THAT YOU ARE NOT REVEALING  
AND, IF SO, WHY NOT?

A. YES THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT WE ARE NOT REVEALING.

WE HAVE VALUABLE ON-GOING SOURCES OF INFORMATION  
THAT WE WOULD POTENTIALLY LOSE IF WE REVEALED  
CERTAIN INFORMATION.

ALL OF THE EVIDENCE WE HAVE, HOWEVER, SUPPORTS THE  
SAME CONCLUSION.

*All the evidence we have supports the conclusion  
to protect valuable ongoing  
sources of information, we  
cannot release every element  
of the same*

- Q: Do you contemplate additional military action against Iraq if it does not comply with UNSCOM's demands to place cameras in two factories and turn over CW-related material for destruction? How long will you give Baghdad to comply?
- A: THE UNSC PRESIDENCY ON JUNE 18 DECLARED IRAQ'S FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH UNCOM'S REQUIREMENTS TO BE A MATERIAL BREACH OF UNSCR 687, WHICH ENDED THE GULF WAR AND ESTABLISHED THE CONDITIONS FOR THE CEASEFIRE.
- THE UNSC PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT WARNED THAT THERE WOULD BE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES SHOULD IRAQ NOT PROMPTLY COMPLY.
- WE ARE CONSULTING WITH OUR COALITION PARTNERS AND SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS ON NEXT STEPS.
- ( BUT I THINK OUR ACTION TODAY HAS MADE IT CLEAR TO BAGHDAD THAT IT CANNOT EXPECT TO AVOID THE CONSEQUENCES OF AGGRESSION.
- BAGHDAD SHOULD TAKE THE UNSC'S JUNE 18 WARNING VERY SERIOUSLY.

Q: How do you expect Iraq to react?

A: I AM NOT PREPARED TO SPECULATE.

*sub*  
-- WE ARE AWARE OF REPORTS OVER THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS OF  
IMMINENT CHALLENGES BY SADDAM.

*SECRET*  
-- OUR ACTION TODAY SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT WE REMAIN AS  
DETERMINED AS EVER TO INSIST UPON FULL COMPLIANCE WITH ALL  
RELEVANT UNSC RESOLUTIONS, AS WELL AS WITH ARRANGEMENTS AND  
PROCEDURES WHICH HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED BY THE COALITION TO  
IMPLEMENT AND MONITOR THOSE RESOLUTIONS.

*However, it would be clear that the US*

Q: Are you ready for a move against the Kurds?

A: IRAQ SHOULD NOT DOUBT OUR DETERMINATION TO ENSURE ITS FULL  
COMPLIANCE WITH ALL RELEVANT UNSCR'S INCLUDING UNSCR 688,  
WHICH CALLS UPON BAGHDAD TO END REPRESSION AGAINST IRAQI  
CITIZENS.

-- ANY MOVE AGAINST THE KURDS WOULD BE A VERY SERIOUS  
DEVELOPMENT.

~~WE BELIEVE BAGHDAD UNDERSTANDS THIS.~~

Q: Have you warned Iraq not to retaliate?

A: <sup>should</sup>  
~~WE BELIEVE~~ IRAQ UNDERSTANDS THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE  
CONSEQUENCES OF ANY SUCH EFFORT.



Q: Was Saddam Hussein a target? If not, why not? Do you still want to "depersonalize" our Iraq policy?

A: Saddam was not specifically targetted.

-- The objective of our Iraq policy is to bring about Baghdad's compliance with all relevant UNSCR's.

-- It is frankly our assessment that Saddam cannot comply with these resolutions and remain in power, and it is our hope that the approach we are following will hasten his departure.

-- I want to make clear that our quarrel is not with the Iraqi people, who have suffered as much as anyone under Saddam's leadership.

-- It certainly would be our expectation that all Iraqis would be far better off were he to go away.

-- But that is not something for us to do.

*See transcript  
one, the 4 instructions*

*45 23*

~~TOP SECRET~~

STATEMENT: Tomahawk cruise missiles from U.S. Navy ships struck the Iraqi Intelligence Service Headquarters in Baghdad at about 6:00 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time, Saturday, June 26. (2:00 a.m., June 27 in Baghdad.)

1. What time did the strike begin?

THE STRIKE OCCURRED AT APPROXIMATELY 6:00 PM, EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME, 26 JUNE OR 2:00 AM, 27 JUNE, BAGHDAD TIME.

2. What units were involved in the strike? U.S.? Coalition?

THIS WAS A US UNILATERAL OPERATION WHICH INVOLVED UNITS OF THE UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND.

3. What type of ordnance was used? Tomahawk? Smart Bombs? Video Guided Missiles? What platforms were used? (subs, ship, air).

THE STRIKE WAS CONDUCTED UTILIZING TOMAHAWK LAND ATTACK MISSILES. TWO NAVAL COMBATANTS WERE THE LAUNCH PLATFORMS.

4. How many ships, and what types of ships and from where were they deployed at the time of the launch?

THE NAVAL SHIPS INVOLVED WERE THE USS CHANCELLORSVILLE (CG 62), AN AEGIS CRUISER AND THE USS PETERSON (DD 969), A DESTROYER.

5. Who is the Joint Task Force commander for the operation?

GEN HOAR IS COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND. THE NAVAL UNITS INVOLVED ARE ASSIGNED TO COMMANDER UNITED STATES NAVY CENTRAL COMMAND (COMUSNAVCENT), VICE ADMIRAL DOUGLAS KATZ.

6. What were the targets?

THE TARGET WAS THE IRAQI INTELLIGENCE SERVICE HEADQUARTERS.

7. What was the significance of the selected targets?

THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON FORMER PRESIDENT BUSH HAS BEEN LINKED TO THE IRAQI INTELLIGENCE SERVICE.

8. What battle damage assessments have been made regarding the targets?

TO BE DETERMINED.

9. Which countries allowed overflights of the tomahawks from the Mediterranean?

AS A MATTER OF POLICY, WE DO NOT DISCUSS STRIKE ROUTES OF THE TOMAHAWK MISSILES.

10. Have we targeted Surface to Air Missile (SAM) batteries? If so, is there any indication of success?

THE PLANNED TARGET WAS THE IRAQI INTELLIGENCE SERVICES HEADQUARTERS AND THAT WAS THE TARGET STRUCK.

11. Have targets north of the 36th parallel and south of the 32nd parallel been attacked?

NO.

12. Did we consider Iraqi command and control centers (Saddam Hussein) as targets?

WE DON'T TALK ABOUT OUR TARGETING PROCEDURES.

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13. Are we/will we attack targets in civilian population centers?

IT IS NOT OUR POLICY TO TARGET ON CIVILIANS.

14. Will this result in a Desert STORM II with a deployment of ground troops?

IT IS NOT OUR POLICY TO DISCUSS FUTURE OPERATIONS.

15. Are you prepared to continue the strikes indefinitely?

THIS STRIKE WAS FOR A SPECIFIC PURPOSE. THE UNITED STATES HOPES THAT IRAQ'S CONDUCT WILL SATISFACTORILY MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF UN RESOLUTION 687 AND FULFILL ITS OBLIGATIONS AS A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

16. Was there any damage to our ships or crews?

TBD.

17. Were there any reports of Iraqi casualties?

WE HAVE NO WAY OF CONFIRMING THE PRESS REPORTS FROM IRAQ.

18. What specific actions or events led to the decision to attack at this time?

IRAQ'S ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF FORMER PRESIDENT BUSH DURING HIS VISIT TO KUWAIT DURING 14-16 APRIL.

19. Why did the U.S. wait until this time, following several blatant violations of U.N. violations over the past months? Were the coalition forces not prepared?

REFER TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.



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20. What is the military objective of this operation?

TO DISRUPT THE IRAQI INTELLIGENCE SERVICE'S CAPABILITY TO SUPPORT TERRORIST OPERATIONS.

21. What role did President Clinton play in the decision? Did his people fully understand the ramifications of the use of military power in this case?

(REFER TO WHITE HOUSE).

*He was extensively briefed,  
he reviewed the evidence,  
and he concluded that -  
the operation was necessary.*

22. What impact, if any, will this have on the ground or air forces assigned elsewhere? Will any units be deployed to the region as a follow-up to this strike?

WE DO NOT DISCUSS THE DETAILS OF MOVEMENTS OF US FORCES.  
WE DO MAINTAIN SIGNIFICANT FORCES IN THE REGION.

23. Is this President Clinton's attempt to earn his spurs while facing growing discontent with the American public?

(REFER TO THE WHITE HOUSE).

24. Was the United Nations Security Council consulted prior to the strike? Who else was consulted?

APPROPRIATE NOTIFICATIONS WERE MADE PRIOR TO THE STRIKE.  
REFER TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR DETAILS.

25. Was warning given to Saddam Hussein prior to this attack? If so, was there a reaction?

NO.

26. Has there been a reaction by Iraqi military?

TBD.



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27. Is Iraq capable of an air and ground attack into Kuwait or Saudi Arabia? What would be the probable response to such an attack?

WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE AN IRAQI MILITARY REACTION. HOWEVER, OUR FORCES IN THE AREA POSSESS SIGNIFICANT CAPABILITY TO COUNTER ANY IRAQI REACTION.

28. Is there a possibility that Saddam Hussein will respond with an attack on Israel?

NO ONE CAN PREDICT SADDAM HUSSEIN MIGHT DO. WE DO NOT CONSIDER AN ATTACK ON ISRAEL LIKELY.

29. If Israel is attacked will our policy be to discourage retaliation, as was done during Desert Storm? Will U.S. deploy patriot units to Israel?

WE DO NOT DISCUSS ANY FUTURE MOVEMENT OF US FORCES. ISRAEL POSSESSES THE PATRIOT SYSTEM.

30. In addition to the cruise missiles, did aircraft deliver ordnance? Were electronic warfare aircraft used? What type and how?

THE STRIKE WAS CONDUCTED BY TLAM MISSILES ONLY.

31. How many TLAMs were launched?

TBD.

32. Can you explain the justification as seen under international law for a unilateral strike of this kind.?

REFER TO STATE.

33. Can you tell us more about the Tomahawk missile?

IT IS AN ALL-WEATHER CRUISE MISSILE WITH A NAUTICAL RANGE OF OVER 600 MILES.

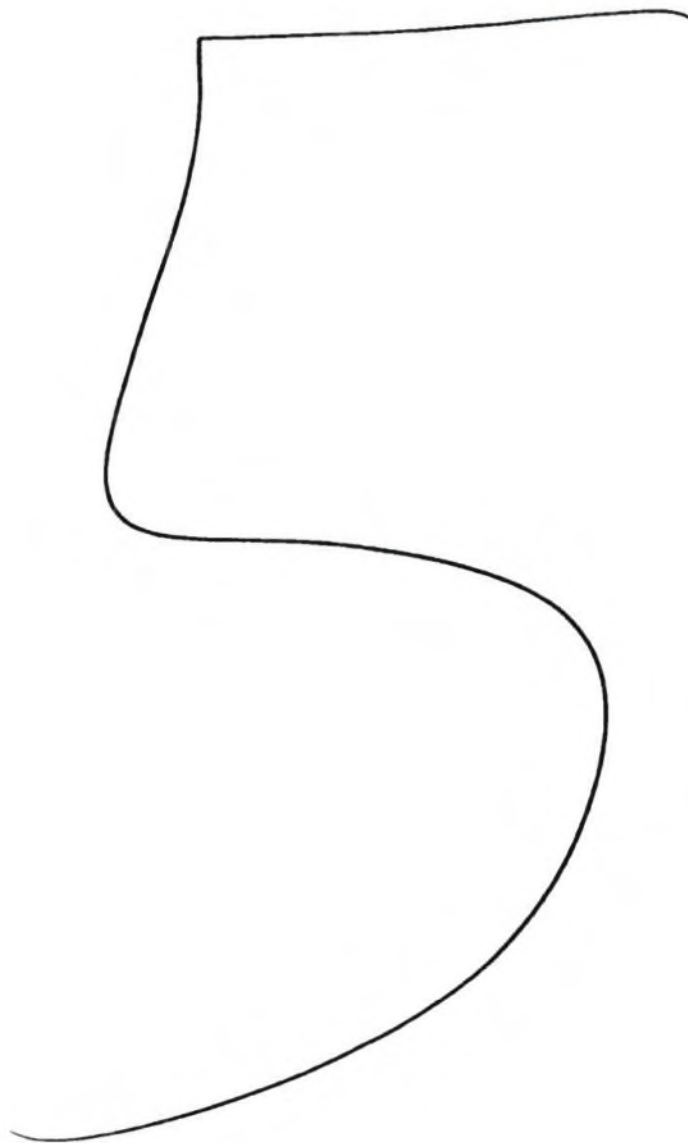
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34. How much does a Tomahawk missile cost?

APPROXIMATELY \$1.1 MILLION PER MISSILE.

35. When was the last U.S. cruise missile attack on Iraq?

THE ZAAFARANIYH NUCLEAR FABRICATION FACILITY, LOCATED 13 KM SOUTHEAST OF BAGHDAD, WAS STRUCK BY TOMAHAWK CRUISE MISSILES ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 1993.



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REMARKS OF PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON

Regarding Military Action Against Iraq

The White House  
June 24, 1993

*DRAFT*

My fellow Americans: this evening I want to speak with you about an attack by the government of Iraq against the United States and the actions we have just taken to respond.

This past April, the Kuwaiti government uncovered what they suspected was a car-bombing plot to assassinate former President George Bush while he was visiting Kuwait City. The Kuwaiti authorities arrested sixteen suspects including two Iraqi nationals.

Following those arrests, I ordered our own intelligence and law enforcement agencies to conduct a thorough and independent investigation. Over the past several weeks, officials from those agencies reviewed a range of intelligence information, travelled to Kuwait and elsewhere, extensively interviewed the suspects and thoroughly examined the forensic evidence. Attorney General Reno and Director of Central Intelligence Woolsey have now reported to me on their findings.

Based on their investigation, I am now convinced that there was, in fact, a plot to assassinate former President Bush, and that this plot, which included the use of a powerful bomb made in Iraq, was directed and pursued by Iraq's intelligence organization.

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[Based on their investigation, we now have clear and compelling evidence that Iraq planned, equipped and ran the terrorist operation that threatened the life of President Bush. It is the firm judgment of our intelligence community that this assassination plot was directed and pursued by the Iraqi Intelligence Service.]

Perhaps we should not be surprised by such deeds, coming as they do from a regime like Saddam Hussein's, which has ruled by atrocity, slaughtered its own people, invaded two neighbors, attacked others, and engaged in chemical and environmental warfare. He has repeatedly violated the will and conscience of the international community. But this attempt at revenge by a tyrant against the leader of the world coalition that defeated him in war is particularly loathsome and cowardly. We thank God it was unsuccessful. The authorities who foiled it have the appreciation of all Americans.

It is obvious to the world that this was no impulsive or random act. It was an elaborate plan, devised by a foreign government, and directed against a former President of the United States because of actions he took as President. As such, it constitutes an attack against our country and the American people as a whole.

We cannot, will not, and have not let such action against our nation go unanswered. A firm and commensurate response was essential to protect our sovereignty, to send a message to those who engage in state-sponsored terrorism, to deter further

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violence against our people anywhere in the world, and to affirm the expectation of civilized behavior among nations.

When America is attacked, America responds.

Therefore, about two hours ago, following discussions with the congressional leadership and our allies and friends in the region, American forces launched a cruise missile attack on the Iraqi Intelligence Service's principal command and control facility in Bagdad. I have called for an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council to expose Iraq's crime.

These actions were directed not against the Iraqi people, with whom we have no quarrel and who are for the most part victims of Saddam Hussein's regime. Rather, our actions were directed against the Iraqi government, which was responsible for the assassination plot. Saddam Hussein has demonstrated repeatedly that he will resort to terrorism or aggression if left unchecked. Our intent was to target Iraq's capacity to support violence against other nations and to deter Saddam Hussein from supporting such outlaw behavior in the future. Therefore, we made every effort to minimize loss of innocent life and to direct our action against a facility associated with Iraq's support of terrorism.

There should be no mistake about the message we intend these actions to convey to Saddam Hussein, to the rest of the Iraqi leadership, and to any nation, group or person who would harm our

leaders or our citizens. We will combat terrorism. We will punish aggression. We will protect our people.

The world has repeatedly made clear what Iraq must do to return to the community of nations. Saddam Hussein has repeatedly violated the will of the international community. Each time, we have done what was necessary. Let Saddam Hussein and his regime be on notice that if they contemplate harming any other Americans, or take any other provocative actions, they can be certain of our response.

Let me say to the men and women in our armed forces and our intelligence and law enforcement agencies who carried out our investigation and our military response: you have my gratitude and the gratitude of all Americans. Your work is dangerous and difficult, and you performed it with courage and professionalism.

Finally, I want to say this to the American people. While the Cold War has ended and certain threats have subsided, this remains a dangerous time. I am determined to take the steps necessary to keep us secure in this new era. We will engage actively in this new world to head off emerging threats. We will update our defenses and keep our forces ready to fight. And we will take action when action is required. That is precisely what we have done today.

Thank you, and God bless America.

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LAKE'S PHONE TALKING POINTS ON IRAQ  
[Majority Leader Gephardt]  
[Minority Leader Michel]

- I'm calling to tell you that the President has decided to take action against Iraq in response to what we have determined was their attempt to assassinate former President Bush while he was in Kuwait in April.
- Right after that scheme was uncovered, the President ordered an extensive independent investigation using both law enforcement and intelligence officials. Based on that investigation, we now believe that this was an Iraqi plot, directed at former President Bush, and done with the knowledge of the Iraqi leadership.
- You understand, I am sure, that Saddam cannot be allowed to get away with this. His crime cannot go unanswered, or he will strike again. We need to preempt and deter future such acts.
- As a result, the President is ordering our military to launch a cruise missile attack on Iraqi intelligence and command and control facilities. Those missiles will be fired in the next hour.
- The President will announce this action publicly at 6:15 pm in a televised address (15 minutes after the attack).
- Needless to say, we are asking all of you to maintain the secrecy of this action.
- The President and I are calling the other members of the bi-partisan congressional leadership. Senior Administration officials will be talking to the relevant chairs and ranking members in about an hour.
- I hope you agree with this effort; it will be helpful if you can express your support when the press seeks your reaction.
- Tomorrow morning, the Pentagon will provide telephone briefings to you and other key members of Congress. <sup>you should call</sup> ~~They~~ will also ~~conduct~~ briefings on the Hill early next week. <sup>1000</sup>
- We also plan to file a formal report consistent with the War Powers Resolution on Monday.

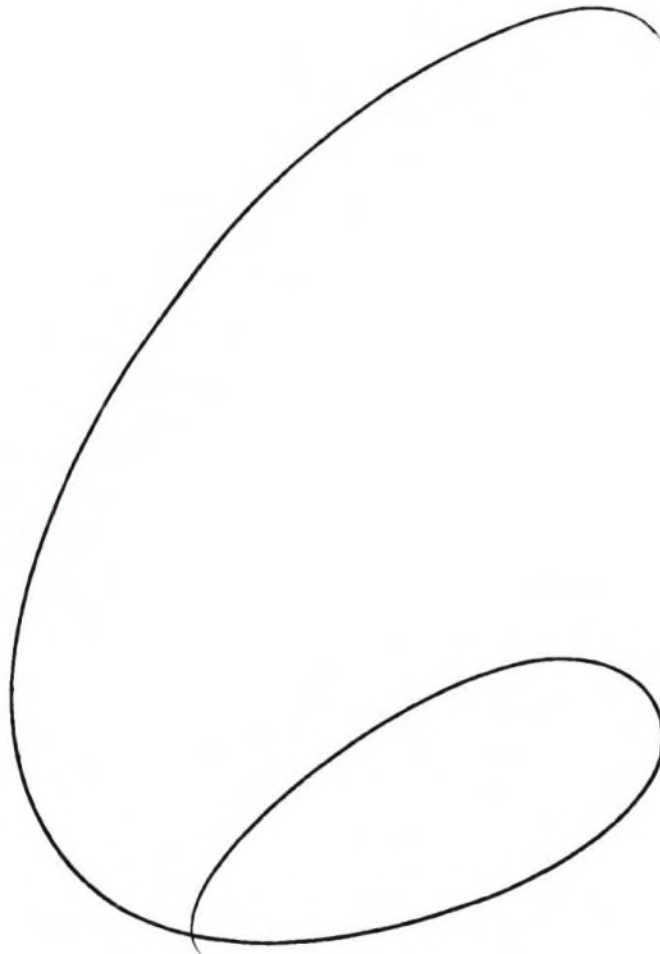
[If asked for specific details of the evidence against Iraq:]

- We will be issuing a summary of the evidence, and I will make sure you get a copy. Suffice it to say, I believe it will make a compelling case.

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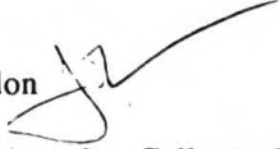
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Saturday, June 26, 1993

Memorandum for: Rudy  
From: John Gordon   
Subject: Talking Points for Calls to Defense Committees

Attached are talking points for your use with the chair and ranking of the defense committees (eight calls).

The plan is that you would make these beginning after 5:00 pm and have them complete before 6:00 pm.

I have extracted these talkers from those that will be used by the President and Tony Lake to the leadership (also attached for your background).

State will call foreign affairs chairs and ranking -- CIA the intel guys.

Let me know what else you need.

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## DOD TALKING POINTS ON IRAQ

- I'm calling to tell you that the President has decided to take action against Iraq in response to what we have determined, unambiguously, was their attempt to assassinate former President Bush while he was in Kuwait in April.
- Right after that plot was uncovered, the President ordered an extensive independent investigation by the CIA, FBI, and Secret Service. Based on that investigation, we now believe that this was an Iraqi plot, directed at former President Bush, and done with the knowledge of the Iraqi leadership.
- You understand, I am sure, that Saddam cannot be allowed to get away with this. His crime cannot go unanswered, or he will strike again. We need to preempt and deter future such acts.
- As a result, the President has ordered a cruise missile attack on an Iraqi intelligence and command and control facility. Those missiles have been fired and are in the air now [if call is after 4:30 and before 6:00 pm].
- The President will announce this action publicly very soon in a televised address. Les and Colin Powell will also brief later this evening, although we will not have any damage reports at that time. (Members can call NMCC after 10:00 am tomorrow if they want updates before an operational briefing that will take place later in the day.)
- Needless to say, we ask you to maintain the secrecy of this action.

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- The President and Tony Lake are calling the bipartisan congressional leadership. State is calling their relevant committees leadership, and I am in touch with the chairs and ranking members of the Defense Committees.
- Les hopes (the President hopes?) you agree with this effort and that you can express your support when the press seeks your reaction.

**If asked:** The White House plans to file a formal report consistent with the War Powers Resolution on Monday.

**[If asked for specific details of the evidence against Iraq:]**

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Chief, Records and Declass Div,  
WHS  
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PRESIDENT'S PHONE TALKING POINTS ON IRAQ  
[Majority Leader Mitchell]  
[Minority Leader Dole]  
[Speaker Foley]

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