

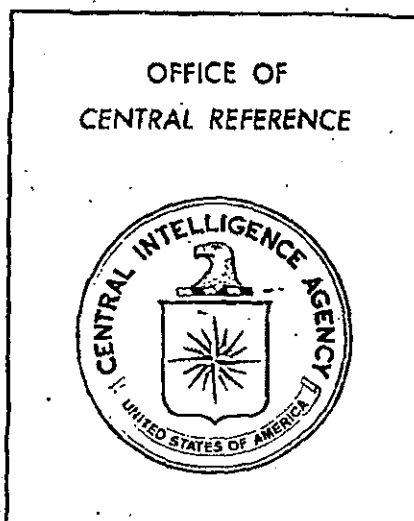
Tariq 'Aziz
(Phonetic: ahZEEZ)

IRAQ

Minister of Information
(since November 1974)

Addressed as:
Mr. Minister

A member of the Ba'th Party of Iraq (BPI) since the early 1950's, and the most prominent Christian Ba'thi, Tariq 'Aziz is head of Iraq's propaganda establishment. He has served on the media side of the BPI since at least 1963 and has gradually broadened his influence to become the chief spokesman for the Ba'thist regime. He is considered to be a close associate of Saddam Husayn, Vice Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC), and he was instrumental in promoting Husayn's recent productivity campaign. In January 1977 he was elected a member of the BPI Regional Command (BPIRC), while retaining his Information portfolio. 'Aziz has been editor of *al-Thawra*, the BPI's official newspaper, since 1970.



During his early years, 'Aziz was a member of the Ba'th Party's Education, Studies, and Preparation Bureau and edited two newspapers--*al-Ishtiraki* (the Socialist) and *Waa'i al-'Umal* (Workers' Consciousness). He served as editor of *al-Jamahir* after the 1963 Ba'th coup. Elected a candidate member of the Ba'th National Command in 1965, 'Aziz participated in the coup that returned the party to power in 1968. Afterwards he was appointed deputy director of the Information and Publications Bureau and of the Education, Studies, and Preparation Bureau. In April 1972 'Aziz was appointed a member of the Public Affairs Office at the RCC, and in January 1974 he was elected a candidate member of his party's Regional Command.

'Aziz, about 41, is a Chaldean Christian. Many Christians regard him as their representative within the BPI, but he is not considered particularly sympathetic toward Iraq's minority Christian communities. 'Aziz earned a degree in English from the College of Arts at the University of Baghdad in 1958. He is married to a Christian from Mosul.

CR M 77-12253
6 May 1977

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