

(U) IRAQI COMMANDER MEMOIRS ON MISSILES (1)

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(U) COUNTRY: IRAQ SUBJ: TAKE 1 OF 5--IRAQI COMMANDER MEMOIRS ON MISSILES (1)

(U) SOURCE: AMMAN AL-'ARAB AL-YAWM IN ARABIC 25 OCT 98 P 11 TEXT:

(U) (PART ONE OF BOOK OF MEMOIRS ENTITLED "FORTY-THREE MISSILES ON THE ZIONIST ENTITY," BY STAFF LIEUTENANT GENERAL HAZIM 'ABD-AL-RAZZAQ AL-AYYUBI, COMMANDER OF THE IRAQI SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILES CORPS DURING THE GULF WAR)

(U) (FBIS TRANSLATED TEXT) DURING THE FIRST GULF WAR, THE DAILY IRAQI MILITARY COMMUNIQUE CONTAINED REPETITIOUS TERMS, ESPECIALLY THE ONE THAT SAYS "OUR PLANES RETURNED SAFELY TO BASE." THIS TERM WAS THE SUBJECT OF RIDICULE BY SOME WESTERN OBSERVERS WHO SAID "YOU CANNOT WIN A WAR THIS WAY," MEANING HITTING TARGETS FROM A HIGH ALTITUDE. SO WHEN A WESTERN JOURNALIST MADE THIS OBSERVATION BEFORE PRESIDENT SADDAM HUSAYN, HE WAS TOLD: "GIVE ME ANY PROOF THAT THE WAR WILL END TOMORROW AND I WILL THRUST ALL MY PLANES INTO THE BATTLE." IRAQ KNEW THAT THE WAR WOULD TAKE A LONG TIME. SO, IT EXPLOITED ALL AVAILABLE RESOURCES, INCLUDING OLD TURKISH GUNS, WHEN ITS STOCKPILE OF WEAPONS BEGAN TO DWINDLE. BUT, THE WAR REVEALED THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THOSE WEAPONS WHICH COULD HIT DEEP INTO ENEMY TERRITORY. THUS, IRAQ USED ITS COMBAT AIR FORCE EFFICIENTLY IN HITTING IRANIAN ECONOMIC AND MILITARY TARGETS. BUT THE AIR FORCE ALONE WAS NOT

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SUFFICIENT TO DETERMINE THE BATTLE, SINCE IRAQ HAD NOT INTENDED TO OCCUPY IRANIAN TERRITORY. FOR THIS REASON, IRAQ DEVELOPED LONG-RANGE MISSILES. ALTHOUGH THEY CARRIED ONLY CONVENTIONAL WARHEADS, THEIR DESTRUCTIVE AND MORAL POWER PLAYED A DECISIVE ROLE IN SPEEDING UP THE END OF THE WAR, AS WAS THE CASE WITH THE US ATOMIC BOMBS ON HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI, DESPITE THE BIG DIFFERENCE IN AIMS AND ETHICS. BUT, IRAQ'S ENDEAVOR TO ACQUIRE EXPERTISE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THIS FIELD HAS BROUGHT UPON IT THE VENGEANCE OF ISRAEL AND THE WESTERN CAMP, BECAUSE LONG-RANGE MISSILES MEAN CANCELLATION OF BORDERS. THEY ALSO MEAN AN ARAB COUNTRY HAS BEGUN TO MOVE IN THE DIRECTION OF TECHNOLOGICAL KNOW-HOW, WHICH WESTERN STATES REFUSE TO TRANSFER, AS PROVEN BY THE LONG, FUTILE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE STATES OF THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH. TO STRIKE AT IRAQ'S ENDEAVOR, JUST AS 'ABD-AL-NASIR'S ENDEAVOR WAS STRUCK IN THE DAYS OF GERMAN SCIENTISTS, THE CRISIS WITH KUWAIT WAS FABRICATED. HENCE IRAQ'S ENTRY INTO KUWAIT, THE INTERNATIONAL AND ARAB MILITARY BUILDUP AGAINST IT, AND FINALLY THE EMBARGO, WHICH HAS BEEN IMPOSED ON ITS PEOPLE FOR EIGHT YEARS, THE EXTORTION OF THE ARABIAN GULF STATES, THE PEACE AGREEMENTS, AND THE PRESENT ARAB FRAGMENTATION. AS TO HOW IRAQ USED ITS MISSILE CAPABILITIES AGAINST NATO WEAPONS, WHICH WERE RESERVED FOR THE FORMER SOVIET UNION, THESE MEMOIRS BY THE COMMANDER OF THE IRAQI MISSILE CORPS RELATE THE WHOLE STORY. THEY ARE DAILY MEMOIRS, WHICH STAFF LIEUTENANT GENERAL AL-AYYUBI HAS RELEASED EXCLUSIVELY TO AL-'ARAB AL-YAWM. THEY ARE MEMOIRS THAT EVOKE SORROW AND SOMETIMES HOPE. CHAPTER 1: AFTER THE GLORIOUS SADDAM'S AL-QADISIYAH BATTLE 3 SEPTEMBER 1998 FIGURES AND DATES ARE MY HOBBY. I STILL RECALL THE DAY WE LAUNCHED AL-HUSAYN MISSILE AFTER A SERIES OF INITIAL TESTS. IT WAS ON 3 AUGUST 1987. WHAT A GLORIOUS DAY IT WAS! AND WHAT FESTIVITIES THAT EVENING! IT WAS A REAL FEAST FOR THE FAITHFUL, WHO DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO THE SERVICE OF THEIR HOMETLAND AND TOOK THE NATION'S ASPIRATIONS AND FUTURE SERIOUSLY. GOD BLESS! WE MOVED AWAY FROM THE SITE. AND THEN THE MISSILE ROSE WITH A BLAZING TAIL. IT WAS LIKE THE ERUPTION OF A VOLCANO. GOD IS GREAT. GOD IS GREAT. THE MISSILE SHOT INTO THE HEART OF THE SKY. AND THE MEN IN THAT DESERT SPOT BEGAN HUGGING ONE ANOTHER. THE MISSILE HAD COVERED ITS NEW RANGE AND HIT ITS TARGET 650 KILOMETERS AWAY. GOD IS GREAT, GOD IS GREAT, THE MEN SHOUTED. AND I THOUGHT: THIS IS A VICTORY FOR SCIENCE IN THIS ANCIENT LAND, AND A FULFILLMENT OF A LONG-AWAITED DREAM TO DETER OUR ENEMIES. GOD HAS ORDERED US TO PREPARE FOR THEM ALL THE POWER WE CAN. SO, HERE WE ARE DOING EXACTLY THAT AND PLACING OUR TRUST IN GOD. 17 OCTOBER 1988 THIS IS UNFORGETTABLE DAY. I WROTE IN MY DIARY: ON THIS DAY, WHICH CORRESPONDS TO 7 RABI' AL-AWWAL 1409 HEGIRA, I COMPLETED MY 24TH YEAR OF SERVICE AS OFFICER IN THE IRAQI ARMY. SOON THE MEMORIES OVERWHELMED ME, LIKE A FLOCK OF BIRDS SWOOPING ON A WATER POOL THEY ARE MEMORIES OF A PROFESSION WHICH I LIKE VERY MUCH. OR DID I FOLLOW IN THE STEPS OF MY FATHER, WHO WAS A BRAVE OFFICER; OR MY PATERNAL GRANDFATHER, MAY GOD REST HIS SOUL IN PEACE, WHO FOUGHT IN WORLD WAR 1 AND DIED IN ACTION; OR MY OWN BROTHERS, WHO FOLLOWED THE SAME PATH AND TRAINED AS OFFICERS WHILE REPEATING THE SONG OF PALESTINE. WHERE WAS THAT SONG, WHICH WE REPORTED SO OFTEN AS YOUNG KIDS? (MORE) 25 OCT [REDACTED] THE (b)(3)

TELEPHONE RANG, WAKING ME UP FROM A DEEP REVERIE. THE SPEAKER ON THE END REMINDED ME OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE IN CHARGE OF STUDYING THE ZIONIST CAMPAIGN AGAINST IRAQ. MY INFORMATION ABOUT THIS COMMITTEE WAS THAT IT WAS ORDERED BY THE PRESIDENT TO STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF DETERRING THE ZIONIST ENTITY IF IT CARRIED OUT A MILITARY AGGRESSION AGAINST IRAQ, AS WAS THE CASE ON 7 JUNE 1981 WHEN IT ATTACKED THE PEACEFUL TAMMUZ

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