

**PART II (1 hour, 18 minutes)**

[Saddam Husayn] Have a drink. You either drink this, or there will be no talking. [laughter]

[Unidentified speaker] Sir, we saw men with great willpower in the Mother of Battles. They cannot deprive us of our willpower no matter what. Despite their pressures with regards to monitoring, and because we did not utilize or use our expertise in the field of missiles, we feel that time will not serve them. No matter how long it takes, the factories will remain in our brains. No matter how much material and equipment they take from us, the factory will remain in our brains. He who can manufacture a Hijarah missile within four days, increase its range, and launch it successfully, can do anything and everything after one, two, or five years. Time will make them lose, and our willpower will become stronger day after day.

[Saddam] God willing.

[Speaker] Sir, the missile teams, whose equipment was destroyed, helped in the reconstruction process in the various Military Industrialization Organization [MIO] enterprises and in the state's institutions as a whole. We also repaired some pieces of equipment that were destroyed, some of which are highly sophisticated. Our groups also contributed effectively to Asad Babil [the Lion of Babylon tank project]. We are also active in the production of short-range missiles, including the 122 mm, 81 mm, 107 mm, and Ababil missiles. Acting upon your directives, which were conveyed to us by the senior undersecretary, we have a plan to develop a surface-to-air missile system that is more efficient and effective than what we already have. They have chosen the Volga missile system for us and we started working on it; we are at the preliminary stages. We also have a plan to develop missiles that do not exceed the range set by the United Nations. These are our plans

at the current stage. Sir, we are ready and are awaiting your instructions. If you ask us to resume work in any field, we are ready any time. They feel that time will not serve them, and we are ready for this challenge. Thank you, sir.

[Saddam] God willing, they will lose. This is the most important thing. They lost the battle on the human and moral levels. God willing, you will win everything. You will win it on this level, and also on the material level also. Now your turn, Abd-al-Amir.

[Abd-al-Amir, not further identified] Sir, the enemy's bombs began to fall on Hittin Facility as of the second day of the aggression and until the last hours. Around 850 bombs and missiles have fallen on it. The raids continued for 24 hours on certain days. When the cease-fire came into effect and when the aggression stopped, we started to implement your Excellency's orders to give priority to the 82 mm mortars. Indeed, we started the manufacturing campaign along with the reconstruction campaign. The first batch of the 82mm mortar shells was delivered on 7 April. The first batch numbered 1,000 shells and then the production increased.

Sir, a major part of our previous production program is now back on track. We are currently manufacturing 82 mm and 60 mm mortar shells. As for the artillery, we are manufacturing the 122 mm, 130 mm, and 155 mm shells. In addition, we are now manufacturing new products that we were not manufactured by the Facility before the aggression. The zero batch of 115 mm tank shells was delivered successfully a few days ago. God willing, we will begin the production soon. Sir, we are also working on the 125 mm tank shells in cooperation with Al-Qa'qa Facility. We are currently working on the first experimental batch that will be covered in paper wrappers. Paper wrappers were never used before. This is a project that we are currently working on with Al-Qa'qa Facility and the Paper Enterprise. God willing, we hope to succeed in it within a short period of time. God willing, our facility will become better than ever before by the beginning of next year.

[Saddam] What does the commander of the State Facilities Protection Force say?

[Unidentified speaker] Everything is, God willing, in good shape, sir. We, I and the State Facilities Protection personnel, promise you to safeguard everything in these facilities and to close all doors before the enemies. Sir, I have one comment on the activities of UN committees. Currently, four committees are visiting us; namely, the biological, chemical, missiles, and nuclear committees. We are in the process of setting up an operations center, thanks to

all brothers who are cooperating with us. We serve as a protection and security force for the MIO. Additionally, there is a security center in charge of protecting each facility. Those centers comprise military elements. Since the establishment of this force, it was an organ of the Military Intelligence Directorate. When the MIO was set up, it split from the Military Intelligence Directorate. Gradually, each facility had its own security center. The protection of state facilities is the duty of the army and is called the State Facilities Protection Command. We are only affiliated with the operations. In other words, we are administratively connected with the Military Operations Directorate. Sir, as far as the four UN biological, chemical, missiles, and nuclear committees are concerned, we have no problem with their activities, except for the Third Petrochemical [not further identified]. Your excellency has probably heard of the problem related to the Workers Union. The security activities and performance is excellent with the rest, praised be God. I would like to assure your excellency that my personnel are good elements and quite disciplined and performing well according to the available resources. Now, Mr Qusay [Saddam Husayn] is helping me out with the latest situation. Colonel Abd [Humud, Saddam's secretary] is also helping me out. All problems have now been resolved, Sir.

[Saddam] Well-done. Muzahim, would you tell us something about Al-Muthanna?

[Muzahim, not further identified] Yes, sir. May God watch over you, sir. Probably unlike the other facilities, Al-Muthanna Facility was violently targeted by the aggression. The Facility includes several other facilities in different locations. The main location is relatively huge. It is different from the locations of the other affiliate facilities in terms of its geographical size. We have four other support locations. One of these was very specialized in [word indistinct]. There are new other facilities that were built after 1985. The strange thing about the attack on Al-Muthanna Facility is that the bombing was focused on the workshops. Even the administration building and the library of the main location of Al-Muthanna were targeted. I did not notice that the headquarters of the other facilities were bombed. Sir, although the [UN] committees have shackled the activities of the Facility due to the inspection and filming they conducted in the Facility, yet the cadres -- thanks to the directives of the senior undersecretary and the head of the Technical Affairs Department -- did not sit idly by. On the contrary, the facility with its cadres contributed to the reconstruction campaigns in Bayji and Al-Qa'qa. Afterwards, the Facility engaged into a conflict with the committees over the

reconstruction of the Chlorine Plant. Step by step, we managed to achieve breakthrough in the reconstruction campaigns. Now, Sir, we have a major reconstruction campaign to re-build the main locations, which are the three support locations. The main location in particular was the target of another reconstruction campaign despite the harassment we receive from the inspection committees. We, as a MIO, will, God willing, bring you the good news. The pleasant challenge, as we call it at Al-Muthanna Facility, is that the other facilities want to be reconstructed so that they can resume their production, but we will reconstruct our own facilities so that we can serve industrialization, medicinal production, and the production of insecticides. This is our vision for the time being.

We still have one more conflict to resolve, which is how to re-take our own equipment from them. We have a plan that we are going to implement upon the directives of the senior undersecretary. God willing, Al-Muthanna will remain at your good expectations.

[Saddam, interrupting] Do not show leniency when it comes to your own equipment. Your equipment is used for civil purposes, and the committees' role is to make sure of that. After they have ascertained that we have no intention to produce in this field, they have no right to show intransigence toward surrendering the equipment that can help in the production of civil or military products that have nothing to do with the previous production. Thank you Muzahim.

Your turn, doctor; we host you at such military meetings. You keep telling us that you are not a military person, but we insist that you are [laughing].

[Unidentified speaker] I you allow me, sir, to present a briefing on the activities of the inspection teams that were conducted in the four fields mentioned by Lieutenant Colonel Nabil. The briefing is much related to the situation we are currently experiencing. As your excellency knows, UN Resolution 687 is reviewed every two months to see how much our country is committed to the resolution.

[Saddam, interrupting] The resolution has nothing to do with commitment.

[Previous speaker, continuing] You are right, sir. But it is an opportunity..

[Saddam, interrupting] Those just want to gain time. I believe what they are doing is a true embodiment of the rural saying: They are

trying to get what they want. In other words, they will eventually get tired. We have become more conscious and more capable of charting our own path, and we firmly believe that the siege will gradually corrode. There is no connection between what they term as commitment to the resolutions with their own real intentions behind these resolutions.

[Previous speaker] I just wanted to put this briefing in your hands. We, as technical teams, work under the direct supervision of the command. Your excellency knows that we work according to the directives of a committee chaired by the deputy prime minister, who acts upon your excellency's directives. We work according to the directives of this committee. I will be talking about my field of specialty, but my observations might be true as far as the other four fields are concerned. We worked on eliminating what was termed as the technical or legal mines we had in front of us so that we can render false all the pretexts according to which they might recommend that Iraq is committed or not committed to Resolution 687. Following the recent visit by the committee in charge of inspecting the missile-range test facility, we believe that we came to a point where there are no longer technical or legal mines that would empower the inspection teams to make a recommendation to the Security Council to the effect that Iraq did not abide by the resolution. Although we are not sure for how long the constant monitoring plan will remain viable, yet we are certain that it will continue until they say that the dossier of Resolution 687 has been closed. So, we expected that Ekeus, the Swedish monitor who is supposed to be very neutral, ..

[Saddam, interrupting] Supposed to be

[Previous speaker, continuing] Yes, so we expected him to present a fair report. I do not mean to take our side, but to be neutral and fair in his report to the Security Council before the latest meeting on 3 December, which has not yielded anything so far. It seems they were expecting this latest committee to plant a new mine, so that they can make a decision [to prolong the sanctions] as they used do while walking in the hallways. This time, they still have not made this decision.

At any rate, he submitted his report. Now, I consider this report as one that constitutes the prism through which they are viewing our issue. We can analyze this report, and see, based on it, the remaining pretexts that they can use against us, so that we may work based on this. At least, we can draw up our plan to face up to this situation. Sir, as a matter of fact, there are three or four basic arguments, one of which is technical, even though it is

extremely flimsy, while the remaining others are all political. It is very clear that they are meant to achieve a political goal. That is, it was a technical report that was drafted on the basis of political guidance. The aim is that when presented with this technical report, prepared by the Special Commission, the politician could say that Iraq has not thus far complied with Resolution 687, which requires that the resolution remains in force, and that the committees continue with their work, etc. The first argument on which Ekeus's report was based is that Iraq's stand has remained unchanged; Iraq is still uncooperative and unclear, and Iraq has a track record of untrustworthiness, etc. Of course, this not only conflicts with the pronouncements that they have made in their reports as inspection teams, particularly those that have recently been on inspection missions, which highlighted the cooperation of the Iraqi authorities and teams, etc, to render their missions a success, but also flagrantly rendered the preamble and main argument of his report as hurtful as it came. Also, one of the arguments that he advanced is that Iraq has wide-ranging programs; he spoke of an extensive program, huge financing, and highly sophisticated facilities that are capable of manufacturing nuclear weapons. Using these general terms, he sounds as a person who finds it too much for a country like us to have sophisticated facilities. This is definitely so. Yes, our facilities are sophisticated. When he left Baghdad, David Kay held a news conference in Bahrain at which he said that one cannot but look at the laboratories and facilities that he saw in Iraq in wonder. They are better than the laboratories and facilities that I saw in many advanced world states, Kay added. Sir, this is an example. He is submitting his report to the Security Council so that the latter may decide whether or not it should continue with the embargo regardless of whether or not Iraq was found to be in compliance. He addresses such kind of generalities, and then moves on to address trivial technical issues--issues that are really ridiculous even though they address technical and specialty areas. They sound just as if somebody asks you to bring a man to life from the dead. For example, I do not want to delve into technical matters in your presence, with regard to some parts which are made up of fragile material, we had told them that they were destroyed, and that once destroyed, no traces of them is left. They said that we had to fetch these materials, or else this point will be used against us. That is because ...

[Saddam, interrupting] you had the intention.

[Same speaker, continuing] you had the intention [words indistinct] of late, they invented something. They said that while they were walking, they took swipes from our laboratories. They sent these

swipes to an analysis laboratory. The swipes showed the presence of highly enriched uranium; that is, 93% enriched uranium, which is different from what they saw in our possession in the past, which means that we have something else [words indistinct]. That is, as a matter of fact, this report included this kind of technical points, which are ridiculous, and the details of which we would like to discuss with them. There are fair-minded people among them. There are people among them who are scientifically-minded. When you have the chance to sit together with these people and discuss matters with them reasonably and quietly, they become convinced. Nonetheless, they eventually say something to the effect that things are meant to be that way. The remaining technical points, which are raised and considered some of our failings, belong to this category. There are points. But, they all belong to this category. Finally, one cannot but conclude that this report is a technical report. I mean to say that the Special Commission created by the Security Council to follow up on the implementation of Resolution 687 was meant to write this report in this manner in order to serve the political objective. As a matter of fact, we as technicians think that we have reached the stage at which all the mines pertaining to technical issues [have been defused]. I think that this applies to all four fields--I am talking about the four points, the technical and legal points pertaining to nuclear issues, missiles, chemical weapons, and biological weapons. The requirements enshrined in Resolution 687 have been fully met. This is what I wanted to present to Your Excellency. With regard to the issue of bans, first of all, I did not know about bans. He addresses these issues, which really apply to us all. He says that it is useful that Your Excellency, even though I trust that you have an appropriate assessment of this resolution on which you talked about [sentence as heard] but with regard to us,...

[Saddam, interrupting] [words indistinct] not so that it may ascertain the facts as they are, but rather so that it may create for them a cover, (?any measure of cover), even if it were to be couched in general terms. These general terms would be written by a technician rather than a politician so that they may (?isolate) us [words indistinct]. That is, their rancor against us now is greater than it was prior to the aggression. Prior to the aggression, they had (?information) and conclusions that we would work according to the parameters that you have described; that is, the (?serious) parameters. Now, they have ascertained these serious parameters, based on their judgment. That is, here is this link [words indistinct] This is over. The thing that they cannot be sure about concerns our brains. What are they to do with them

[words indistinct]? Is there a people who can abandon their memory? This is the [changes thought] But these are desperate attempts.

[Same speaker] Sir, the last point is the object of great attention by them. This is not a conclusion. They told us about it. They told us that the effort that we had made is significant. I think that I once mentioned this in your presence. They said that they are considering how they can accommodate these minds so that they may be used in a program that would not worry them in the future. They do not want these minds to work in a program that could cause them to worry again in the future.

[Saddam] Let them hire us.

[Same speaker, laughing] Let them hire us. As a matter of fact, this issue certainly [words indistinct].

[Saddam, interrupting] Let them hire us, but, they will not be able to pay us wages. They want us to [words indistinct].

[Same speaker] [words indistinct]

[Saddam] [words indistinct] do you have any remarks?

[Another unidentified speaker] Sir, I have a remark which I would like to make on electricity in the Al-Hadba Power Station. I will speak for a while on this. I have two other remarks which, Sir, I seek your permission to address.

[Saddam] [words indistinct] Do you think that we won or lost when we implemented the projects that were destroyed, even though they were destroyed? I think that we won. That is because had the aggression occurred without us having such an experience, electricity would not have made such strides. Yes, Dr, please speak.

[Same speaker] Sir, the Al-Hadba Station, near Basra, is the station that was most damaged during the aggression. We think that they used vacuum and special purpose bombs in the attack on this station. That is because the destruction of this station was massive, many times the destruction visited on any other station. Work is under way at the station right now. We have some 1,870 persons working at the station, persons affiliated with the Electricity Commission as well as other people who are affiliated with southern facilities, the MIO, enterprises, petrochemical units, and other facilities. It is our hope that we will be able to restore one of the four units before the start of the coming



season, before the start of next summer, so that we may be able to cover the electrical loads in the critical period; namely, the months of summer. One of the things that we have recently seen is that one of the chimneys; that is chimney No. 1, is similar to the Al-Dawrah chimney--it has the same height; almost 100 meter high and the same dimensions, and the steam-operated units at the two stations are almost similar in capacity. This chimney was hit in the center by a missile that struck it at a 50-meter high level. The missile emerged from the other side of the chimney.

[Saddam] Without exploding? [Same unidentified speaker] The missile did not explode inside the chimney, because the fuse of the missile had a delay function. [Saddam, interrupting] Many of their fuses [words indistinct].

[Same speaker] Sir, it caused penetration, the penetration of houses.

[Saddam, continuing] It happened to us.

[Same speaker, interrupting] Sir, the missile exploded, but...

[Saddam, continuing] In the presidential areas, several of their missiles did not explode. They penetrated, but did not explode.

[Same speaker] Also, Sir, the foundations of the chimney were hit by another missile. In their assessment, the brothers have recently made measurements and found a clear and obvious slope, a slope of almost 15 centimeters. The permissible slope is in the vicinity of 22 centimeter. What we have seen...

[Saddam, interrupting] This would make the chimney the Hadba of Basra [the tilting monument in Basra].

[Same speaker, laughing] This is what we saw, Sir. Our civilian experts who examined the foundations said that we need to build another chimney. We have the expertise to build a chimney, as attested to in the building of a chimney in the Al-Dawrah [Power Station], they argued. We have already built one. It has become an established fact that the Al-Faw Facility built a chimney for the Al-Dawrah Power Station. It appears to have been a simple decision to build a new chimney. But, the problem then would be how to demolish this chimney; that is, we are talking about a 100-meter high chimney. It is difficult for one to demolish such a chimney when there are nearby facilities. That is, we do not have the expertise to demolish a 100-meter high chimney in a manner that would cause it to fall without affecting nearby facilities or

buildings. I do not think that any party across the world has such an expertise. There are nearby facilities that are only 10 meters away. This is a technical problem, Sir. That is because the lifetime of such chimneys is perhaps 100 years or longer. The lifetime of steam-operated stations is less than 100 years. Nobody has demolished such a chimney before unless it was caused to fall in war conditions.

[Saddam] Do the pipes of the chimney have the same dimensions? Are its top dimensions identical to its bottom dimensions?

[Same speaker] Sir, its top dimensions are less than its bottom dimensions. The diameter of the piping in the bottom section is 8 meters, 8.5 meters, or 9 meters, whereas the diameter of the piping in the top section is 5.5 meters; that is, there is a slight reduction in the diameter of the top section of the piping of the chimney. That is, perhaps, it would be easier to decide to repair the chimney rather to demolish it.

[Saddam] It is better to repair it. [Same speaker] Sir, this is a remark on which we have not thus far made a decision. Sometimes, it is difficult to decide to demolish such a thing. The things that I want to talk about, Sir, are two other points: In the areas of reconstruction, and also in facilities, electricity is a key element. Now, electricity is outside the confines of our reconstruction plan. This requires special technological equipment. The reconstruction of these equipment has not thus far been planned in detail. We will need [changes thought] this may require imports that are needed for the reconstruction drive. In the area of electricity, Sir, we have diagnosed our needs. We need imports to restore the electric power stations. But, this does not constitute more than 10% of our overall generation capabilities.

***[A break in recording for about 10 minutes]***

[Unidentified speaker, in progress] ... in Al-Harthah and a little in Al-Musayyib. The other aspect, sir, the one pertaining to the exploitation of cadres and resources in what we now call forbidden activities, the activities concerning special projects, and also the 0.3 and maybe the atomic energy projects. These activities, sir, perhaps following the finalization of the reconstruction campaign in the few coming months, will not have a clear role in the short run. In other words, what role will they have and what programs will they be involved in? Brigadier General R'ad [not further identified] said that in terms of spiritual aspects, we are willing to undertake any tasks in the future. Sir, those who do not work and have no doctrine...

[Saddam, interrupting] Will lose their peculiarity.

[Previous speaker, continuing] ... will risk losing some of their technical know-how. Those who stop tackling technical, scientific, and engineering problems will no doubt lose their skill over time. We must therefore develop good technical practices that allow us to take full advantage of our huge resources. We must capitalize on these resources as best as we can. These, sir, are the points I wished to discuss.

[Saddam] Thank you. Qahtan.

[Qahtan, not further identified] Sir, you spoke about the new additions to the spirit. I am in charge of the Heavy Engineering Machinery Enterprise, which, thanks to God, was only hit by shrapnel. With this new spirit, the enterprise joined the rest of the facilities to work in a tree structure. Sir, we became involved in the oil and electricity sectors and in Al-Qa'qa, Hittin, and in all other facilities. The new spirit is as follows:

In the oil sector, the gas separation plants, which were considered very complicated, were damaged by military strikes to an extent that it would have taken foreign companies years to renovate them, provided they do not deem them completely destroyed. In this field, our facility conducted complete technological studies and repaired the insulators. As you saw, crude oil production in Basra rose from 50,000 barrels to around 500,000 - 600,000 barrels so far, and we are still going.

We are working deep in the insulators section, not only to repair them, but are employing reverse-engineering techniques and are carefully following work orders. We reported to the senior undersecretary and took photographs that have been documented.

We went to the Basra refinery, where the tower resembled a sieve. It received 272 strikes, one of which produced a hole measuring 2.4 by 2.8 meters. We accepted the challenge and repaired the refinery, which is now operational. You would not find the repair methods we used in any American or European codes when considering that the tower was coated on the inside with a layer of stainless steel and [? aluminum].

The new thing we did here was that we worked in a tree-structure, and not as a facility, with the other IMO facilities. When we hear a certain comment during our talks with the South Oil Company, the refinery, or other concerned parties, we would go back to the other

facilities and visit them. For example, Al-Qa'qa Facility, even though damaged, contributed to the packaging effort. The Al-Nasr Facility provided the equipment, and so did Al-Faw Facility and the Iron and Steel Establishment. The chain began to take shape. If there was a thermal effort that required a certain substance, the relevant facility would get involved, take on the effort, and then withdraw. If it needed certain machines from the Uqbah Facility, these machines were sent to the site for a certain period of time, and so on.

This chain system saved us a lot and allowed the technicians, through their delving into technology, to rise to the level needed to operate these facilities, including the power stations. For example electrical energy storage systems and air exhausts in Al-Dawrah, Al-Musayyib, or the South Baghdad electrical plant were all included in this effort and were repaired. These systems used to be imported in full in the past. Your excellency have said that if it was for money, they would have given them to us. They used to give us these plans and the Iraqi staff would operate them. From the time of the IPC [Iraqi Petroleum Company], they would give the Iraqis such things, but keep them out of the details. Educated people would sometimes be appointed in positions higher than those of scientists in order to distant these scientists from the decision-making process.

Sir, we went to Al-Qa'qa Facility, not knowing what was in Al-Qa'qa. Your Excellency has seen the stainless steel canisters, the reactors, and storage tanks. So was the case in Hittin and the other facilities. Praised be to God, the study was not for the sake of repair, but it was a documented and comprehensive scientific study. All the information is documented and was given to the concerned party after the start of operation so that it can refer to it in case of any error, and so that we can see if the error was caused by that site or any other operational fault.

We considered this a scientific supply for the present and the future. It gave us the necessary support to rely entirely on ourselves and lessened the imports of, and reliance on material and large quantities of steel. This, in fact, was the case with regards to the civilian aspect and Al-Qa'qa and Hittin.

We also worked with Asad Babil groups. As the lieutenant general has explained, when we used to go to any meeting, we would discuss the issue of molds. We would give the metal presses that we have at the facility, as well as the work process, and we interacted with the other facilities to operate these pieces of equipment in order to arrive at the goal drawn by your Excellency to shorten time and

to give an opportunity to the designers and to the facilities that manufacture molds to manufacture these molds in the future. We succeeded with this intertwined way and this tree structure, in which there is no show of selfishness whatsoever. If we have some material in a certain place that can operate another factory, we would consider the possibility of having the other establishment working in parallel, rather than keeping all of that material and not have the other establishment functioning at all. With this spirit, as your Excellency have said, the MIO fed the other establishments, and when we withdrew from these establishments, they started to work smoothly and they started to show reliance, not hesitation. They started to work and to exchange views, information, and the material that is present in these establishments. Thank you Sir.

[Saddam] Thank you Qahtan. Dr Walid!

[Dr Walid, not further identified] Sir, the MIO mujahidin working in the State Enterprise for Iron and Steel have exerted distinguished efforts in the field of reconstruction, not only in the enterprise to repair the damage caused by the hostile bombardment, but also in the various other sectors. As your Excellency has said in the beginning, we tried very hard to transfer the spirit that exists within the MIO to the other departments. Our first instruction from the MIO was to rebuild the Al-Ashar Telecommunications Department in Basra. We had a team comprising staff from our establishments and Telecommunications [Ministry] engineers. We moved the telephone exchange that we had left in Al-Faw in 1989 and installed it there. We also restored the microwave link. So, we had civil engineering works and built towers and we restored them to their normal conditions. During the discussions with our engineers and the Telecommunications [Ministry] engineers, one of the engineers said you have set one week to move the telephone exchange from Al-Faw; or rather, two days to one week to dismantle it, two days to move it, and one week to install it. The French, with whom we had a contract at a value of 250,000 dinars at the current foreign exchange rate, took three months to install it. It was the same engineer. Indeed, Sir, we dismantled it within two days and installed it within a week. It was the same engineer who worked with other engineers from the Telecommunications Ministry worked day and night, including Fridays, and finished it within the set timeframe. You should have seen their spirit and how proud they were in their work and in what they achieved. Indeed, as your Excellency has said, there was a new spirit. We dismantled the old telephone exchanges and the old collapsed buildings. If your Excellency visits Basra station and see the damage that was inflicted on the nearby buildings, it was

the same level of damaged to this same unit. Now, we have modern buildings with all the necessary facilities working normally, as well as [word indistinct]

From the humanitarian perspective, your Excellency's instructions to the MIO were to find a solution to the issue of drinking water in Basra Governorate. The lieutenant general the commander was there at the time and we set a plan to handle this issue...

[Unidentified speaker, interrupting] And we started as of June...

[Dr Walid, continuing] And this was at the instructions of the lieutenant general the MIO director, who instructed that we should distribute potable, drinking water to the citizens for free. We started first by distributing water to citizens through tanker trucks and then we built tankers, which were allocated first to the Armed Forces, in the form of 50 groups [word indistinct] with Basra Governor. Each citizen would walk 200 or 300 meters to collect the water he wants to his home, instead of us moving around with the tanker truck to deliver the water. Out of the 50 groups, we have finished 42 groups. As a Facility we deliver an average of 1.5 million liters of water to the Armed Forces units and the tanks in the population areas.

Sometimes on Fridays I make tours, and one needs to check for himself to see that we are carrying out our duties as required from us by the comrades who are with us. The good thing is that you would see the citizen waiting, knowing that the tanker truck will come. Indeed tanker trucks come and unload and citizens take their portions and leave. Big numbers of tanker trucks are available and a state of stability is prevailing, although there were violations at the beginning of work. We asked them to continue until the situation stabilizes, and in fact the situation now is much better.

We had another issue. There was some kind of misunderstanding and a rumor spread to the effect that the UNICEF [word indistinct]. Sir, we have been giving water to the Red Cross and the UNICEF since June, continuously and for free. We wrote on the tankers the MIO - the State Enterprise for Iron and Steel and Al-Faw Facility so that nobody would miss them. Even the comrades who came from the Party's South Organizations Bureau a week ago...

[Saddam, interrupting] They must have seen your water at the international organizations and thought that your water is taken from them and not the other way around.

[Previous speaker, continuing] Also sir, with regard to the service units in the Governorate of Basra, we conducted comprehensive maintenance on the governorate's water purification plants, which are in bad shape and out of order. They include a plant with a capacity of 25 million gallons and other plants. So far, we still have one or two plants [word indistinct]. We brought these plants to their normal capacity and repaired the previous technological method by which the water is properly filtered and pumped to citizens. This was not the case as citizens used to receive water that is not fully pure and sterilized. We repaired water plants in Al-Shu'aybah and Baradi'iyah. The Al-Husayn neighborhood's purification unit, which had a capacity of 20 million gallons, was out of order and so was the unit in Al-Hartah, which the brothers left ten days ago. We also repaired sewage stations. Some time ago they broke and the whole of Basra was flooded. We conducted comprehensive maintenance for them. This was done through the support of the MIO, which allocated some allowances to us to cover our expenses to have these services up and running. The comrades we have work night and day and use the same equipment and give room to other persons to work with them. Indeed, groups of the mujahidin have tried...

[Saddam, interrupting] You should have them work with you so that they will find maintenance easier later on.

[Previous speaker, continuing] Sir, we will continue to work with them and will follow up on their work. We do not leave a major plant that supplies a whole area with 300,000 citizens. We go back to check on their work after we ask them to do something. We told them that we would help them if they have problems.

Sir, this was on one hand. On the other hand, our facilities worked in the electricity sector and in installing electircity towers.

[Saddam, interrupting] Ahmad, you need a certain kind of people who are specialized in tanks. They should join those who use tanks, and not the persons who work in the electromechanical engineering, but rather from tank crews. It might be sometimes the tank drivers or tank crew. Take ten tanks from each place and ask them about tank crew and let them work with you. This will considerably improve the way they deal with tanks and maintain them. Even their combat performance while using tanks will improve considerably. Be patient with them, and let them even see their colleagues. As long as they want to manufacture tanks, ask them to send you tank crews. Colonel Abd [Humud] will inform the Defense Ministry and the Republican Guard of the matter.

[Unidentified speaker] Sir, regarding the reconstruction projects of power lines in (?Al-Mushahidah), we implemented a large number of projects in this field, in addition to power stations. We have major work going on in the [word indistinct] power station, as well as the fuel tanks network supplying fuel to the stations. We also worked with oil specialists from the Bayji Oil Refinery, down to Basra Oil Refinery, as well as in the South Oil Company. We now have an action team operating at the Al-Bakr oil terminal to restore [words indistinct].

Your excellency asked at the beginning whether there were any new products. Yes, at our establishment we prepare raw materials for the Hittin Facility for Heavy Ammunition. We began production as of the date of the providing of power supply to the two projects. One of the reasons we contributed with the (?Al-kharijiyah) power station to the reconstruction projects and the erection of power towers is for us to receive power supply through Al-Nasiriyah. At first, we began by [word indistinct] production for the Hittin facility. We began by producing 105mm shells. They were produced within the past two months. We also produced 115mm, 122mm, 130mm shells, 140mm, as well as 152mm or 155mm shells, which was an extremely exceptional achievement. We also produced 105mm shells for tanks. I believe we fulfilled the agreement with the brother director generals in the presence of Major General Ahmad. We fulfilled and surpassed the agreement to produce 10,500-11,000 tonnes this year. A Baghdad-Basra train was also put back to service. A few days ago, we transported 40 railroad cars carrying 1,400 tonnes to the Hittin facility, and we will continue to do so, in order to reduce the transportation costs and to transport scrap in the opposite direction.

The second thing we have today, sir, is body cast [words indistinct], a special nickel-chrome mold that is later pressed at the Qasr facility into the thicknesses that can be used for the front triangle and side armor. I believe that the first 60-tonne [word indistinct] will be produced today. It will be followed by other [word indistinct] later.

That was regarding the new products. As for other products, once we began to receive power supply, we began to produce ovens [word indistinct] and supplied other installations, which are part of the reconstruction campaigns. This is not to mention our contribution to the Salah al-Din facility at Al-Qa'qa and the reconstruction of our own facilities. We supplied them with over 20,000 tonnes of tubes, metal parts, and various products, in addition to the products that go to the Hittin facility. We adopted a new approach after the reconstruction of the sites that were damaged as a result



of the enemy bombardment. In this approach, we made use of the students at our vocational training. The students are about 17 years old. We sent them in work teams to Bayji. We told them to cut the destroyed storage tanks, which were about 8,000 tonnes, in three months. They went there and some of them came back and resumed work.

I believe that [word indistinct] thanks to your excellency's guidance, our teams, both old and young, can be considered mujahidin. Thank you, sir.

[Saddam] Yes.

[Unidentified speaker] Sir, I have an observation regarding electricity in the southern area. The destruction of the networks in the southern area was great, especially in the 400kilovolt-line extending from Al-Nasiriyah to Khawr al-Zubayr. This line is necessary to operate the iron and steel factory in Khawr al-Zubayr. About 50 large towers were destroyed along this line. In the past, the electricity cadres had no expertise in erecting and wiring this kind of...

[Saddam, interrupting] Was the destruction caused by air bombardment?

[Unidentified speaker] Yes, sir, air and ground bombardment as well. Some areas under the line were planted with mines. About four persons from the Armed Forces landmine clearing groups were martyred during attempts to remove mines from under these towers. This line is necessary for the iron and steel facility, which is supplied by electricity from the Karabala Governorate. For the factory to operate, at least two units from Al-Nasiryah power plant must be operated. The power stations in Al-Shu'aybah, Al-Najibiyah, and Khawr al-Zubayr are not enough to operate the ovens. Therefore, either the Hartha or Al-Nasiriyah power plants must be available to strengthen the power network to make it possible to operate the iron and steel factory in Khawr al-Zubayr. Therefore, it was necessary to have this line and to operate the Al-Nasiriyah power plant so that the establishment could work.

[Saddam] Let's take a break of five to six minutes and then come back. Safa, have not they put you in prison? [laughter, followed by unintelligible chatting] [End recording]