

DATE: 04-16-2008
CLASSIFIED BY 60324 UC BAW/RS/LSC
(Rev. 01-31-2005)
REASON: 1.4 (C)
DECLASSIFY ON: 04-16-2033

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: PRIORITY

Date: 03/21/2004

To: Counterterrorism

Attn: SC M Chris Briese ITOS2
SC Frankie Battle, CTORS
UC [redacted] ITOS2
UC [redacted] CTORS
SAC Steve Tidwell
ASAC Janice Fedarcyk
UC [redacted]

CIRG

From: Counterterrorism
HVD # 1 Team/Baghdad Operations Center

Contact: [redacted]

Approved By: [redacted]

Drafted By: [redacted] tmn

(U) Case ID #: (S) 315E-HQ-1448534 (Pending) 116

(S) Title: (S) [redacted]
IT-IRAQ

Synopsis: (S) To provide the Counterterrorism and CIRG
Divisions with a progress report on Saddam Hussein by the (HVD
#1) Team.

(U) ~~Classified By: 11109, ITOS1/CTD
Reason : 1.5(c)
Declassify On: X1~~

(S) [redacted]

Details: (S/OR) Following the apprehension of Former Iraqi
President, Saddam Hussein, in December 2003, [redacted]

(S) [redacted]

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[Redacted]
[Redacted] An FBI interview team was
subsequently assembled [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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~~(S/OR)~~ To date, the FBI team has conducted sixteen interviews of Hussein and approximately a dozen interviews of former Ministers, Presidential Advisors, Directors of Security and military leaders who are also in U.S. military custody. These latter interviews have been instrumental in obtaining a better understanding of the inner workings of Hussein's regime and determining how decisions were made and who implemented them.

~~(S/OR)~~ Although the primary purpose of interviewing Hussein is to obtain intelligence, the FBI team believes it is unlikely that he will offer anything of value without receiving some tangible benefit in return. With the prospect of tribunals looming over him, Hussein will likely weigh the benefits of cooperation versus the risks of remaining silent. This is especially true if he believes that he will be facing an international tribunal as opposed to one held locally. If, for example, he believes that former regime leaders are cooperating and blaming him for the commission of human rights violations, mass executions or the use of weapons of mass destruction, Hussein may be willing to disclose evidence against them. Consistent with his personality, he will probably attempt to minimize his involvement in such activities if for no other reason than to preserve his all-important self-image and to ensure a favorable place in history.

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[Redacted] X [Redacted]

After Hussein declared that he was willing to engage in a "dialogue" but not an "interrogation," the FBI team spent several sessions

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discussing non-threatening topics. These allowed Hussein the opportunity to talk freely and to boast of past accomplishments.

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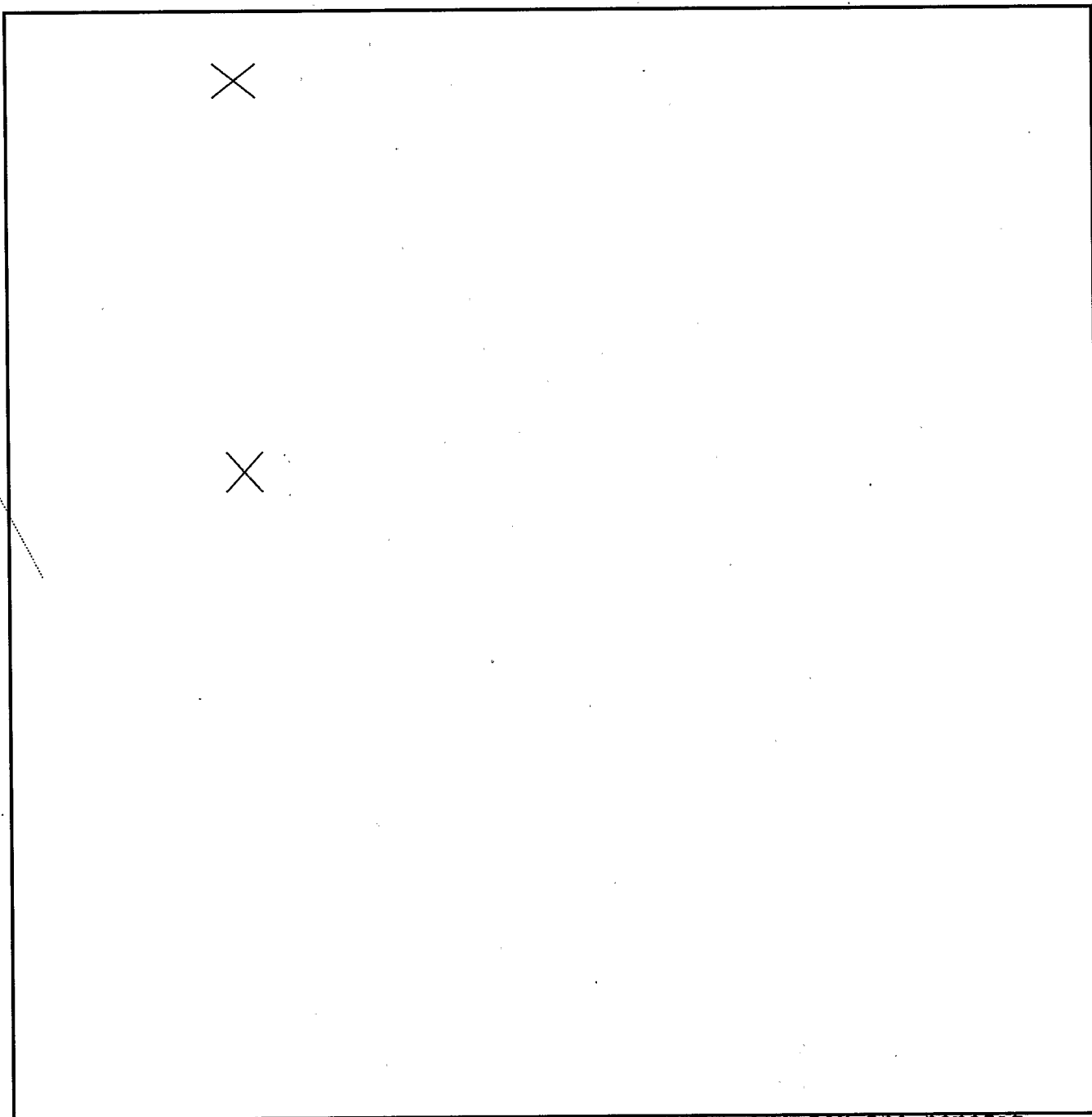
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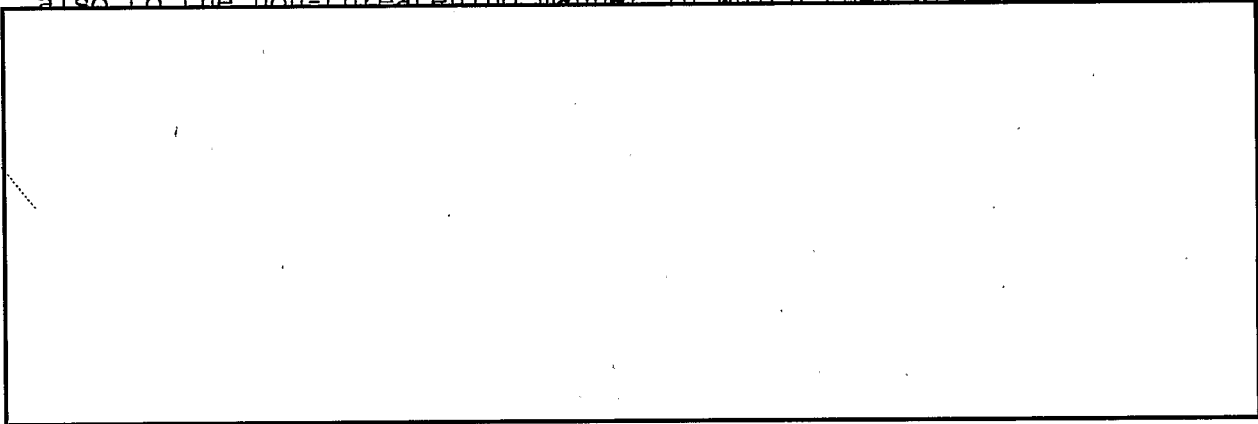
Hussein announced he was ending his hunger strike for the benefit of SSA

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~~(S)~~(OR) As the rapport and dependency between Hussein and SSA Piro continues to grow, more complex topics are being introduced into the interviews. For example, Hussein has been asked detailed questions regarding the use of chemical weapons against the Kurds in Halabja in 1988 as well as details concerning the Shi'a uprising in 1991. In the past, Hussein would have refused to discuss these topics. However, he has increasingly allowed himself to be drawn into discussions. This may be due not only to the type of questions being asked, but also to the non-threatening manner in which they are being posed



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(U) ~~(S)~~(OR) On 03/19/2004, the team showed Hussein a documentary produced by a British journalist entitled, "Saddam Hussein's Latest War." The documentary described Hussein's brutal regime and, in the voices of witnesses and survivors, offered compelling evidence of atrocities and mass executions committed against the Shia's. Before the documentary was even shown to Hussein, he started questioning the objectivity of the reporter and launched into a diatribe about the importance of fairness. When he finally began viewing the documentary, Hussein became visibly agitated and immediately challenged its accuracy. As the documentary continued, Hussein abruptly terminated the interview saying he needed to eat dinner and attend to his prayers. He stated he would be willing to discuss the matter at a later time. Even as he was preparing to depart the interview room, Hussein continued his diatribe, repeating his skepticism about the accuracy of the documentary and making accusations that President Bush had encouraged the Shi'a uprising. By the following day, when he saw SSA [redacted] Hussein had regained his composure and was ready to resume discussions.

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~~(S)~~(OR) The team will continue efforts to overwhelm Hussein with the volume of evidence against him and others

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regarding human rights violations, mass murders and the use of chemical weapons. When he senses that his strategy of denial is no longer working, Hussein may decide to blame others, including former regime leaders, for these past abuses.

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LEAD(s) :

Set Lead 1: (Info)

COUNTERTERRORISM

AT WASHINGTON, DC

(U) For information and appropriate action.

Set Lead 2: (Info)

CIRG

AT QUANTICO, VIRGINIA

(U) For information and appropriate action.

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