

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID# 225769

00072448

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 02, 1991

APR -2 1991

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: DR. SARGON DADSHO

SUBJECT: REQUESTS THAT THE PRESIDENT MEET WITH IRAQI OPPOSITION REPRESENTATIVES IN THE U.S., APR (18-19) 91, TO PRESENT THEIR POSITION, AS THE ARAB AMERICANS DID EARLIER WITH THE

RECEIVED

APR 17 REC'D

SCHEDULING OFFICE

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	DISPOSITION C D	COMPLETED YY/MM/DD
KATHY SUPER		ORG	91/04/02			29/105/02 TC
NSSI	REFERRAL NOTE:	C	9/10/02			09/10/05
Holiday, Ede	REFERRAL NOTE:	A	9/10/05	LJ		09/10/30 LJ
	REFERRAL NOTE:		/ /			/ /
	REFERRAL NOTE:		/ /			/ /
	REFERRAL NOTE:		/ /			/ /

COMMENTS: ARTICLE FROM THE WALL STREET JOURNAL IS ATTACHED

WSC 9102448 - Cab. affairs sent to state ^{now is ready} to close - HW 4-30-91

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 4900 4400

MI MAIL USER CODES: (A) (B) (C)

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|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---|
| *ACTION CODES: | *DISPOSITION | *OUTGOING | * |
| * | * | *CORRESPONDENCE: | * |
| *A-APPROPRIATE ACTION | *A-ANSWERED | *TYPE RESP=INITIALS | * |
| *C-COMMENT/RECOM | *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL | OF SIGNER | * |
| *D-DRAFT RESPONSE | *C-COMPLETED | CODE = A | * |
| *F-FURNISH FACT SHEET | *S-SUSPENDED | *COMPLETED = DATE OF | * |
| *I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC* | | OUTGOING | * |
| *R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY * | | | * |
| *S-FOR-SIGNATURE * | | | * |
| *X-INTERIM REPLY * | | | * |
- *****

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE (ROOM 75, OEOB) EXT-2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

4/25

TO: Michael

FROM: ANTONIO BENEDI
Deputy Director for Scheduling
Office of Presidential Appointments
and Scheduling
Room 182, OEOB, x7560

I think we should
pass this to
State and let them
contact the group -
let me know what
you think - Thanks

UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/S PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9102448
RECEIVED: 03 APR 91 15

TO: BENEDI, A

FROM: SITTMANN

DOC DATE: 05 APR 91
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: IRAQ

AP

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: APPT REQUEST FOR IRAQI OPPOSITION

ACTION: SITTMANN SGD MEMO

DUE DATE: 06 APR 91

STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: CHARLES

LOGREF:

FILES: WH

NSCP:

CODES:

D O C U M E N T D I S T R I B U T I O N

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

CHARLES
EXECSEC

COMMENTS: _____

DISPATCHED BY

MLT

DATE

4/5/91

BY HAND

W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSJWD

CLOSED BY: NSMJT

DOC

4 OF

4

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/S PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9102448
RECEIVED: 03 APR 91 15

TO: SITTMANN



FROM: BENEDI, T

DOC DATE: 02 APR 91
SOURCE REF: 225769

KEYWORDS: IRAQ

AP

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: ASSYRIAN NATL CONGRESS / ANC REQUEST PRES MEET W/ IRAQI OPPOSITION
REPS IN US 18 - 19 APR

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO WFS TO BENEDI DUE DATE: 06 APR 91 STATUS: S

STAFF OFFICER: HAASS

LOGREF:

FILES: WH

NSCP:

CODES:

D O C U M E N T D I S T R I B U T I O N

FOR ACTION
HAASS

FOR CONCURRENCE
CHARLES

FOR INFO
EMERY
HAYDEN
HILLIARD
NEIL
ROSTOW
WELCH

COMMENTS: _____

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSJWD CLOSED BY: DOC 1 OF 2

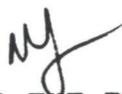
UNCLASSIFIED

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 29, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR STAPLETON ROY

FROM: MICHAEL P. JACKSON 
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY FOR CABINET LIAISON

SUBJECT: The Attached Request for an Appointment

Our scheduling office intends to decline the attached invitation but has not written to Sargon Dadesho directly. NSC, as you will see from the attached, recommends that State contact Dadesho and that an appropriate State Department official meet instead of the President.

Would you mind having someone at State call Dadesho, say that the President will unfortunately not be able to meet his group and offer an appropriate meeting? Thanks.

Attachment

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

April 5, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR ANTONIO BENEDI

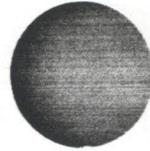
FROM: WILLIAM F. SITTMANN *KDA for*

SUBJECT: Appointment Request for Iraqi Opposition

The President has asked the Secretary of State to handle requests for meetings with Iraqi opposition groups. The Assyrians should be advised to contact the Department of State.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

2448



April 4, 1991

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM F. SITTMANN

THROUGH: RICHARD N. HAASS 

FROM: ~~S~~ANDRA CHARLES

SUBJECT: Response to Benedi on Schedule Request

SIGNED

Attached at Tab I is a response to Tony Benedi's memo asking for NSC views on an appointment request with the President for some Iraqi opposition elements.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memo at Tab I.

Attachments

Tab I Memo to Benedi
Tab II Memo from Benedi

Scheduling 4/18-4/19/91

225769



ܠܒܝܘܬܐ ܠܒܝܘܬܐ ܠܒܝܘܬܐ
THE ASSYRIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

"LET US UNITE AND GATHER THE FRAGMENTS THAT NOTHING BE LOST"
(P.O. BOX 3539 MODESTO, CALIFORNIA 95352 USA)

President George Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.,
Washington, D.C. 20500

March 26, 1991

Dear Mr. President:

The Assyrian National Congress, the Assyrian People's Parliament, salutes you for the stand taken by you and your administration against the criminal regime of Saddam Hussein. We were all delighted about the outcome of the Gulf War and the way you handled the situation with wisdom and resolve.

The Assyrian National Congress is an international organization with many affiliated Assyrian political parties, federations, associations, clubs and individuals. There is more than one million Assyrian Christians in Iraq, and 250,000 Assyrians live in this blessed country of the United States. There is another million Assyrians scattered throughout the world.

The ANC has been and still is in communications with all the Iraqi opposition parties. We attended several meetings and our young men are fighting along side with their brothers Kurds and Arabs inside of Iraq against the regime of Saddam Hussein.

The reason for writing this letter is this: Several months ago you met in the White House with a delegation of Arab Americans. Most of those who met with you are Saddam sympathizers and agents. Read their newspapers and magazines here in America and you will find out where they stand.

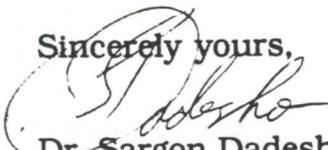
I am asking you to give the other side, the Iraqi opposition representatives in the U.S., an opportunity to meet with you in the White House. A ten or fifteen minutes meeting will be very encouraging and a shot in the arm for these forces who are still fighting and dying in the battles against the forces of evil in Iraq. Such a meeting will send a message to Saddam Hussein and will help the moral of the opposition groups in Iraq.

The ANC is willing to work with your staff to form such a delegation to meet with you. All those who will meet with you, leaders of Iraqi Assyrians, Arabs and Kurds, are American citizens. I hope you will give us this opportunity to meet with you at the White House and thank you in person for what you have done. We hope one day soon these same opposition forces will take power in Iraq.

An ANC delegation, led by myself, will visit Washington on April 18-19, 1991. I hope you will give us an opportunity to meet with you then. I am awaiting to hear good news from your excellency.

Enclosed you will find a recent article in the Wall Street Journal regarding the Iraqi assassination plot against me which was discovered by the FBI last year.

Sincerely yours,



Dr. Sargon Dadesho
Chairman of ANC.

cc. To The Leadership Of The Iraqi Opposition Parties.

SD/ah.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1991



Sargon Dadesho

How Iraq Attempted To Kill a Dissident In the United States

* * *

A Diplomat Arranges the Hit;
FBI Runs Into Problems,
But Breaks Up the Plot

By WILLIAM M. CARLEY

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Early last year, an Iraqi diplomat in New York telephoned a man living in Modesto, Calif. He was trying to recruit an assassin.

The assassin, the diplomat explained, was to kill an Iraqi dissident—opposed to Saddam Hussein—who was living in California. The pay: \$50,000. Would the Modesto man be interested? He was.

As it happened, FBI agents in New York had tapped the diplomat's telephone for another investigation. They overheard this conversation. In cooperation with police in Modesto and the nearby town of Ceres, they launched an investigation.

At times, it did not go smoothly. The FBI worried for a while that the whole thing was a hoax. Agents recorded conversations in Assyrian that they couldn't understand. And though the would-be killer was arrested and later indicted for the murder plot in federal court in Sacramento, he got away. The Iraqi official in New York couldn't be prosecuted because of his diplomatic status, though he was declared *persona non grata* by the State Department and expelled from the U.S.

Political Murders

The assassination, however, was foiled, an accomplishment against a regime that routinely has used murder to get rid of dissidents living abroad.

The story of the Modesto murder plot was pieced together in interviews with the FBI, local police and Sargon Dadesho, the intended victim. Mr. Dadesho is an Assyrian, who like the Kurds are an ancient people but a minority in Arab-dominated Iraq. Through radio and TV programs he

produces for an Assyrian association based in Ceres, and in videotapes mailed around the world, Mr. Dadesho champions the Assyrian cause. He has advocated that an autonomous state for Assyrians be carved out of Iraq. And he has harshly criticized Saddam Hussein's regime for atrocities against Assyrians.

In the current crisis, "Saddam should be killed," Mr. Dadesho says in an interview. "It's a golden opportunity to take him out."

In New York, when the FBI agents overheard plans for an assassination of a dissident on the tapped telephone, they quickly traced the call. It was from the Iraqi diplomat, Hamid Ahmed al-Amery, the first secretary of the Iraqi Mission to the United Nations, to the Modesto man. The Modesto man turned out to be a house painter named Andri Khoshaba, a tall, mustachioed 46-year-old. An Assyrian himself, Mr. Khoshaba worked for the Iraqi Mission in New York for years as a driver and handyman before moving to Modesto.

FBI agents now knew the identity of the would-be assassin. But they didn't know who was to be the victim.

Later on, after being assigned to kill Mr. Dadesho, Mr. Khoshaba decided he would need some help, particularly a getaway driver. He recruited another Assyrian in Modesto whose identity is still a secret but who is referred to as "Peter." But secretly, Peter went straight to Mr. Dadesho to tell him his life was in danger. The would-be assassin, it turned out, was the aspiring singer who had visited the studio.

"At first I didn't believe it," Mr. Dadesho recalls. So Mr. Dadesho lent Peter a tape recorder. A few days later Peter returned with a recording of Mr. Khoshaba discussing killing Mr. Dadesho.

With tape in hand and Peter in tow, Mr. Dadesho went to the Ceres police. That small department then turned the case over to Modesto police, who after questioning the pair called the FBI. For the first time, the FBI learned the identity of the intended victim.

A Hoax?

But at this point, investigators also became confused. The FBI's assassin suspect

was Andri Khoshaba. But in Modesto, he had been going by the name "Andri Shamdanani," and that was the name that Peter and Mr. Dadesho gave to the FBI. Seemingly, there now were two Modesto assassins.

FBI agents suspected a hoax. "How often do you have political murders in the little town of Modesto?" asks one FBI agent. The FBI agents gave lie-detector tests to Peter and Mr. Dadesho. Both passed.

Then Mr. Dadesho showed the FBI the photo of "Andri Shamdanani" on the record album jacket. The FBI already had obtained a copy of Andri Khoshaba's California driver's license, which included his photo. The two photos matched.

About this time the FBI learned, apparently from the telephone tap in New York, that Mr. Khoshaba also had been assigned to kill a second man, a Kurdish leader who was then living in England but who was to visit California.

Neither the FBI nor local police, however, knew when the assassinations were to take place. To prevent the crimes, finding out the timing would be crucial.

Translation Problems

To answer this question, the FBI enlisted Peter, who still was pretending that he would help Mr. Khoshaba in the assassination plot. FBI agents concealed a tiny radio transmitter under his clothing. While he talked with Mr. Khoshaba, agents nearby could pick up the conversation and record it.

The tapes haven't been made public, but according to two sources familiar with them, Mr. Khoshaba proved to be loquacious. He had been instructed to shoot Mr. Dadesho "between the eyes" if he could manage it, he told Peter. In any case, Mr. Khoshaba added, "I'll kill him with just one shot—he's not an elephant."

FBI agents, who by this time had set up a command center in the Modesto police station, couldn't understand a word of the tape-recorded Assyrian conversation. They telephoned higher FBI officials, asking for an agent who could understand Assyrian. But that was misunderstood as "Syrian." Syrians speak Arabic, a different language.

An FBI agent in Los Angeles who spoke Arabic flew to Modesto, but she couldn't understand the conversations. FBI agents

in Modesto, frantic because they feared someone might be murdered while they searched for the right translator, finally reached an Assyrian speaker at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, Calif. To get a quick translation, they played some recordings to him over the phone; later he flew to Modesto. Meantime, as a last resort, FBI agents also bent some of their own procedures and allowed Mr. Dadesho himself to listen to some of the tapes so he could help until the translator arrived.

Collecting the Money

As the plot gathered momentum, Mr. Khoshaba told Peter he would be traveling to New York. Knowing that, FBI agents arranged to tail him on Feb. 9 last year from Modesto to San Francisco, where Mr. Khoshaba caught a plane to New York. Then they tailed him to the Iraqi Mission on New York's Upper East Side. There he was to discuss the murder plot with Mr. al-Amery, the Iraqi diplomat, the subsequent indictment states.

The next day, still tailed by the FBI, Mr. Khoshaba returned to Modesto. On Feb. 15, Mr. Khoshaba traveled to New York again, this time to discuss details of the plot and pick up \$25,000 of his payment. The next day, Mr. Khoshaba again returned to Modesto, as before tailed by the FBI.

Mr. Khoshaba told Peter he planned to shoot Mr. Dadesho at night as he walked out of the TV studio building and into the parking lot, in a secluded neighborhood of Ceres. If Mr. Dadesho didn't emerge from the studio building quickly enough, Mr. Khoshaba added, he would enter the studio, feign interest in getting a copy of his videotaped songs and then shoot Mr. Dadesho on the spot.

As time for the murder approached, a getaway plan was developed. After the killing, Mr. Khoshaba told Peter, he would travel to San Diego, where he would cross into Mexico and then travel to the Iraqi Embassy in Mexico City. Once safely there, he would be paid the second \$25,000. The Iraqi regime, Mr. Khoshaba bragged to Peter, "was like the Mafia, only much more efficient."

Bad Actor

At last, FBI agents got a hint of the assassination timing. "After the 15th," Mr. Khoshaba told Peter. When Mr. Khoshaba returned from New York on Feb. 16, Modesto police shadowed his every move around the city, says Modesto Det. Richard Fernandez. The FBI guarded Mr. Dadesho.

On Saturday night, Feb. 17, Peter was once again talking with Mr. Khoshaba, this time on a sidewalk outside Mr. Khoshaba's apartment. To gain information, FBI agents had been feeding questions to Peter, which he had been posing to Mr. Khoshaba. But he wasn't a good actor, asking questions awkwardly and sometimes repeating them two or three times to get an answer. Finally, on that Saturday night, Mr. Khoshaba was overwhelmed with suspicion.

"You're recording me, you son-of-a-bitch," Mr. Khoshaba said. He punched Peter in the chest. Then he grabbed Peter, trying to feel any recorder hidden under his clothes. Peter began screaming. Modesto police and FBI agents, hidden in a police surveillance van a few yards away, poured out of the vehicle. Two other FBI agents, a man and woman pretending to be necking in a car, also jumped out. Shouting "FBI," the agents wrestled Mr. Khoshaba down and then arrested him.

A search of Mr. Khoshaba's apartment turned up a .32-caliber pistol. Earlier, Mr. Khoshaba also had been shopping for a rifle, according to FBI Special Agent Thomas Griffin in Sacramento.

Arrested and Released

After his arrest Mr. Khoshaba was jailed. Some FBI agents believed there was enough California evidence to hold him. But in Washington, Justice Department lawyers felt evidence also was needed from the tap of the diplomat's telephone in New York, according to two persons familiar with the issue.

The FBI didn't want to disclose the New York tap. The same telephone tap was yielding information for another investigation, this one into an Iraqi plot to buy U.S. equipment used to trigger nuclear bombs. (Later, this investigation proved to be a stunning success: On March 29, the Justice Department unsealed an indictment in San Diego charging several Iraqis and the export manager of London company with smuggling the nuclear triggers. In Britain, police arrested several people and confiscated the equipment.)

But in February, with the FBI then unwilling to disclose the New York tap, the Justice Department ordered Mr. Khoshaba released. Again FBI agents tailed him to the Iraqi U.N. Mission in New York. FBI agents never saw him again.

Later, according to an FBI official, the agency learned that Mr. Khoshaba was provided with false identification papers by the Iraqis. Using them, he bought a ticket from New York to Belgrade and on to Jordan on JAT, the Yugoslav airline. Mr. Khoshaba did fly to Belgrade, but then switched his route and flew to Baghdad.

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 CHARLES
003 SITTMANN
004

Z 91040315 PREPARE MEMO WFS TO BENEDI
Z 91040516 FOR SIGNATURE
X 91040519 SITTMANN SGD MEMO

**National Security Council
The White House**

PROOFED BY: JEB LOG # 2448
URGENT NOT PROOFED: SYSTEM PRS NSC INT
BYPASSED WW DESK: DOCS M A/O

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
<i>WED-</i> Ken Hill	<u> 1 </u>	<u> K </u>	<u> A </u>
Bill Sittmann	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Bob Gates	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Brent Scowcroft	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Bill Sittmann	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Situation Room	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
West Wing Desk	<u> 2 </u>	<u> M415 </u>	<u> D </u>
NSC Secretariat	<u> 3 </u>	<u> M415 </u>	<u> D </u>
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A = Action I = Information D = Dispatch R = Retain N = No further Action

cc: VP Sununu Other

Should be seen by:
(Date/Time)

COMMENTS

DISPATCH INSTRUCTIONS: