

***Iraq and Chemical & Biological Warfare:
A Chronology of Events
Volume I — 1960s to 1990***

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Sample file
1990
(Second Quarter)

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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As with any compilation of this size, there is always a difficulty in deciding at what point to stop collating material and organize and refine the document for publication.

This working draft is, of necessity therefore, a snapshot of the progress towards the final publication. The intention for producing working drafts is to enable reviews of the work in progress. As the final publication format has yet to be decided, sample files are being posted in the form of quarterly sub-sets of the draft chronologies. Those interested in reviewing or contributing to fuller drafts are encouraged to contact Richard Guthrie at <richard@cbw-events.org.uk>.

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Introduction

Sources and methodology

The information gathered for this chronology comes from open-source documentation (such as news reports, academic papers, published governmental and inter-governmental reports, and national archives). As in any exercise such as this, the compilation of material has been a collective effort.

Chronology entries

All chronology entries are written in the present tense. Entries for the same date are put in the sequence of events that happened (if specific times are known) or are placed in the order that dawn rises around the world. This means that entries for Japan, for example, will appear before Iran, which will appear before Iraq, which will appear before Germany. Specific times for events are given in GMT/UTC, where known, and local time if that has been specified.

Holding entries are preceded by the letter ‘H’ to indicate this status. Entries with outstanding queries relating to them are preceded by the letter ‘Q’.

1 April 1990 President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, halfway through a long speech at a military award ceremony broadcast the next day on Baghdad Radio, says: ‘We do not need an atomic bomb. We have the binary chemical [al-kimawi al-muzdawij]. Let them take note of this. We have the binary chemical. According to our information only the United States and the Soviet Union have it. They still have not reached an agreement with respect to its disarmament. It exists in Iraq. So that the Iraqis may know, it existed during the last period of the war — I believe during the last year of the war. It was there. In spite of this, we did not use it against the Iranians. We did not use it against the Iraqis. We said that the weapons we had were more than enough, and hoped that God would enable us to liberate our land without it. Why, then, do we need the atomic bomb?’ There is no further mention of CW weapons in his speech, but towards the end, returning to the allegations of an Iraqi nuclear-weapons programme, he says: ‘They will be deluded if they imagine that they can give Israel a cover in order to come and strike at some industrial metalworks. By God, we will make fire eat up half of Israel if it tried against Iraq.’[1]

A brief summary released by the Iraqi News Agency places these two sets of remarks in close apposition and says the ‘President affirmed: ... Whoever threatens us with the atomic bomb, we will annihilate him with the binary chemical.’[2] It is this version that is the more widely reported by foreign news media.[3] An Israeli commentary says that the speech ‘leaves no doubt that in a future conflagration with Israel, Iraq will try to attack Israel’s civilian population with toxic gases’.[4]

The Iraqi ambassador to Egypt, Nabil Najm, tells the Middle East News Agency that his President’s speech should be understood to mean that Iraq will react violently and forcefully against anyone who considers attacking it. He is reported to have said, further: ‘Manufacturing chemical weapons so far has not been banned. Only their use is prohibited. In self-defense against nuclear weapons or some other very sophisticated weapon that the enemy might use against us, however, Iraq might have no choice but to use chemical weapons.’[5]

This Iraqi stance attracts strong popular and other support in other Arab countries, so it is reported:[6] thus, a senior PLO figure says that Saddam Hussein has ‘proclaimed the revolt of the Arab nation against limits to its power and brought to the Palestinian people in particular the good news that their struggle could now depend on a new balance of power’.[7]

What exactly Saddam Hussein might have meant by ‘binary chemical’ excites speculation in some Western circles, where several different possibilities are identified.[8]

[1] President Saddam Hussein, speech at a ceremony honoring the Iraqi Minister of Defence, the Minister of Industry and Military Industrialization and members of the Armed Forces General Command on 1 April 1990, as in the ‘full recording’ broadcast on Baghdad domestic radio, 1030 GMT 2 April 1990, as reported in FBIS-NES-90-064, 3 April 1990, pp 32-36.

[2] INA from Baghdad, 1034 GMT 2 April 1990, as reported in FBIS-NES-90-064, 3 April 1990, p 36.

[3] For example: Alan Cowell (from Cairo), ‘Iraq chief, boasting of poison gas, warns of disaster if Israelis strike’, *New York Times*, 3 April 1990, pp A1 & A8; Anton La Guardia, ‘Saddam threatens chemical response if Israel attacks’, *Daily Telegraph* (London), 3 April 1990, p 11; Subhy Haddad (from Baghdad) for

Reuter as in ‘Iraqi leader threatens to gas Israel’, *Washington Times*, 3 April 1990, pp A1 & A6; Patrick E Tyler, ‘Iraqi warns of using poison gas’, *Washington Post*, 3 April 1990, pp A1 & A16; [no author listed], ‘Iraqis surprise analysts’, *Jane’s Defence Weekly*, 14 April 1990, 686.

[4] Ron Ben-Yishay, *Yedi’ot Aharonot* (Tel Aviv), 3 April 1990, pp 1 & 12, ‘[One ought to believe him]’, as translated from the Hebrew in FBIS-NES-90-065, 4 April 1990, pp 29-30.

[5] MENA (from Cairo), 1215 GMT 4 April 1990, as reported in FBIS-NES-90-066, 5 April 1990, p 15.

[6] Caryle Murphy (from Cairo), ‘Arabs rally around Iraqi leader, allege West is biased’, *Washington Post*, 12 April 1990, p A40; David Hirst, ‘The politics of Armageddon’, *Guardian* (London), 19 April 1990, p 19.

[7] Bassam Abu Sharif, as quoted by Harvey Morris, ‘Driven by despair to admire a monster’, *Independent* (London), 12 April 1990, p 29.

[8] ‘Iraq’s chemical threat: beyond the rhetoric’, *Defense & Foreign Affairs Weekly*, 16-22 April 1990, p 3.

3 April 1990 Iraq tells the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva that the Chemical Weapons Convention ‘will be widely supported if it contains a binding commitment on the part of the nuclear-weapon states to take nuclear disarmament measures as a corollary to chemical disarmament measures’.[1]

[1] Statement of Ambassador Rahim Al-Kital (Iraq) at the CD in plenary session, 3 April 1990: CD/PV.548, p 21.

4-5 April 1990 In Amman there is a ministerial meeting of the Arab Cooperation Council (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and North Yemen). Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz reportedly states that Iraq is ready to destroy its chemical weapons provided Israel does the same and joins the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.[1] The final communiqué declares that ‘all kinds of destructive weapons, including nuclear, chemical and biological, should be prohibited in order to guarantee regional and international security’.[2]

[1] Jamal Halaby (from Amman) for Associated Press, as on Radio Monte Carlo, 0600 hrs GMT 5 April 1990, as translated from the Arabic in FBIS-NES-90-066, 5 April 1990, p 15, and as in ‘Iraq vows to junk chemical arms if Israel does’, *Washington Times*, 5 April 1990.

[2] Nick B Williams, Jr, and Daniel Williams (from Nicosia), ‘Iraq, 4 allies urge mideast nuclear, chemical arms ban’, *Los Angeles Times*, 6 April 1990, p A6.

8 April 1990 President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt declares his country’s support ‘for ensuring that the Middle East become a zone free from all types of weapons of mass destruction’ [see also 3 April and 4-5 April]. [1] He had visited Baghdad the day previously.[2]

[1] *Letter dated 19 April 1990 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt addressed to the President of the Conference on Disarmament*, CD document CD/989, 20 April 1990.

[2] [no author listed], ‘Arab leaders rally to Saddam’, *Middle East Economic Digest*, 20 April 1990, p 12.

11 April 1990 At Teesport on the north-east coast of England, officers from Customs & Excise seize an Iraq-bound shipment of tubular steel castings which, provisionally, it believes are for the barrel of a 1000-mm cannon capable of firing huge projectiles over hundreds of miles.[1] Iraqi interest in such weapons had been the subject of press commentary two months previously.[2] The manufacturers, Sheffield Forgemasters, say the castings are pipes for a petrochemical plant,[3] an explanation which is later also given in a statement issued

by the official Iraqi news agency[4] and by the Iraqi embassy in London.[5] There is speculation in the press that the putative gun is intended as a delivery system for nuclear or, less implausibly, chemical or biological warheads.[6] There is further speculation that it was designed by the Canadian ballistics expert who had been murdered in Brussels on 22 March, Gerald Bull, president of the Belgian-based Space Research Corporation which, it later transpires, had been the intermediary between Iraq and, alongside several other manufacturers, Sheffield Forgemasters.[7]

Next day the British Defence Ministry, whose experts had by then examined the shipment, say that the castings could indeed be used to construct a gun barrel.[8] This affirmation is received sceptically by some commentators.[9] There are suggestions that the castings are meant for a cannon-type launcher designed to project rockets, perhaps for placing satellites in orbit.[10] The British Government eventually tells Parliament it is 'entirely satisfied that the tubes form part of a gun' and that it does 'not believe that they were intended for any other purpose'.[11] It does not, however, say whether it thinks the gun is a weapon, a satellite launcher or, as a later account has it, a ballistics test-bed.[12]

Over subsequent weeks, customs authorities in other countries, including Greece, Turkey, Italy, Switzerland and West Germany, also seize Iraq-bound consignments of suspected 'supergun' parts.[13] Other countries are implicated, among them Spain.[14]

[1] Ian MacKinnon and Christopher Bellamy, 'Customs detain "biggest gun in the world"', *Independent* (London), 12 April 1990, p 1; Reuter (from London) as in 'Britain seizes huge gun barrel near Iraqi ship', *Los Angeles Times*, 12 April 1990, p A5.

[2] Alan George, 'A space gun for Iraq?', *Defence*, vol 21 no 2 (February 1990), pp 99-100.

[3] Victor Mallet, 'UK customs impound Iraq-bound shipment', *Financial Times*, 12 April 1990, p 20.

[4] INA dispatch of 12 April 1990 as reported in 'UK confirms seized material could be used in Iraq cannon', *International Herald Tribune*, 13 April 1990, pp 1 & 6.

[5] Dr Azmi Shafiq al-Salih, Iraqi Ambassador in London, as quoted in 'MoD experts back "super gun" theory' *Times* (London), 13 April 1990, pp 1 & 22.

[6] Michael Evans and Christopher Walker, 'Customs stop "140-ton gun" bound for Iraq', *Times* (London), 12 April 1990, p 1; Anton La Guardia and Boris Johnson (from Brussels), 'Links with "triggers" and killing', *Daily Telegraph* (London), 12 April 1990, p 1; Adel Darwish, 'Murdered scientist linked to Iraqi "supergun" project', *Independent* (London), 12 April 1990, p 2; Christopher Bellamy, 'Chemical shell "the likely projectile"', *Independent* (London), 12 April 1990, p 2; Glenn Frankel (from London), 'Britain blocks suspected arms shipment to Iraq', *Washington Post*, 13 April 1990, pp A17 & A26.

[7] Steve Connor, Phil Davison, Helen Hague, John Lichfield, Charles Oulton, Mark Urban & Rosie Waterhouse, 'Supergun that was made in Sheffield', *Independent on Sunday* (London), 15 April 1990, p 3; Alan George, 'Iraqi "space gun" was a missile launcher', *Defence*, vol 21 no 4 (May 1990), p 254; and Rosie Waterhouse, Wolfgang Ahtner & Fiammetta Rocco, 'UK technician was at centre of supergun plot', *Independent on Sunday* (London), 20 May 1990, p 3; David Pallister, 'MoD "knew of supergun plan"', *Guardian* (London), 31 May 1990, p 2.

[8] Barry James, 'UK confirms seized material could be used in Iraq cannon', *International Herald Tribune*, 13 April 1990, pp 1 & 6; Ben Fenton and Anton La Guardia, 'Pipes could be used as cannon, experts decide', *Daily Telegraph* (London), 13 April 1990, p 1; Phil Reeves, Christopher Bellamy, Adel Darwish and Harvey Morris, 'MoD backs "supergun" claim', *Independent* (London), 13 April 1990, p 1.

[9] 'Viability of 140-ton gun questioned', *Daily Telegraph* (London), 13 April 1990, p 1; John Keegan, 'Experts baffled by supposed gun's size', *Daily Telegraph* (London), 13 April 1990, p

3; Colin Wright, 'Steel firm insists tubes are simply part of oil pipeline', *Daily Telegraph* (London), 13 April 1990, p 3; 'Skeptical experts asking: why build such a big gun?', *International Herald Tribune*, 14-15 April 1990, p 5; David White, 'Biggest trench mortar since Crécy', *Financial Times*, 14 April 1990; Michael White, 'British ban eased in race to rearm Iraq', *Guardian* (London), 14 April 1990, p 2.

[10] David Wastell, Simon O'Dwyer-Russell and Greg Neale, 'Iraqi gun "for launching satellites"', *Sunday Telegraph* (London), 15 April 1990, p 1; Simon O'Dwyer-Russell, 'What was Iraq's pipe dream?', *Sunday Telegraph* (London), 15 April 1990, p 3; John Merritt and Alan George, 'Iraq "gun" is rocket launcher', *Observer* (London), 15 April 1990, pp 1-2; Christopher Bellamy, 'Iraq may have aimed to use pipes for satellite launches', *Independent* (London), 16 April 1990, p 2; George Jones and Anton La Guardia, 'The gun', *Daily Telegraph* (London), 20 April 1990, p 19; Alan George, 'Iraqi "space gun" was a missile launcher', *Defence*, vol 21 no 4 (May 1990), p 254.

[11] Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, statement to the House of Commons, 18 April 1990, *Hansard* (Commons), vol 170, c1427-34.

[12] Jonathan Foster and Phil Reeves, 'The truth behind Iraq's "supergun" is revealed', *Independent* (London), 20 April 1990, p 1; Jonathan Foster, 'Iraqi "supergun" poses only limited threat', *Independent* (London), 20 April 1990, p 3; 'A big gun, but what did Iraq want it for?', *Independent on Sunday* (London), 22 April 1990, p 2; Adel Darwish, 'Details emerge of Iraqi "supergun" tests', *Independent* (London), 28 April 1990, p 1. See, further: Tim Kelsey, 'Britain knew of Iraqi supergun two years ago', *Independent on Sunday* (London), 18 November 1990, p 3; Ian Kemp (from London), 'Supergun affair', *Jane's Defence Weekly*, vol 14 no 21 (24 November 1990), pp 1009-10.

[13] Anthony Bevins, Phil Reeves and Jonathan Foster, '"Supergun" trucks seized in Greece and Turkey', *Independent* (London), 21 April 1990, p 1; Jonathan Foster, 'Turks impound "supergun cargo"', *Independent* (London), 30 April 1990, p 4; Chris Matthews (from Rome) and Christy Campbell, 'Italian police seize "supergun" parts', *Sunday Correspondent* (London), 13 May 1990, p 10; Reuter (from Rome), as in 'Italian parts tied to Iraqi "supergun"', *International Herald Tribune*, 14 May 1990, p 2; Phil Reeves and Wolfgang Ahtner, 'Machine parts in Germany "probably for supergun"', *Independent* (London), 16 May 1990, p 2; Ronald Rayne, 'Supergun at centre of secret network', *The European* (London), 18-20 May 1990, p 5.

[14] Richard Donkin, Simon Henderson & Peter Bruce, 'Spanish link to Iraqi gun', *Financial Times*, 26 May 1990, pp 1 & 22.

11 April 1990 In the United States, NBC Nightly News broadcasts a report, attributing unidentified US intelligence sources, about Iraq producing and stockpiling material for germ warfare at a complex near the village of Salman Pak [see 17 January 1989], said to be fitted with equipment supplied from Western Europe. The telecast also includes a denial from the Iraqi Embassy in Washington that Iraq 'is engaged in a germ warfare program'.[1]

[1] NBC Nightly News, 11 April 1990; Christopher Walker (from Cairo), 'US sparks fear of Iraq embarking on germ warfare', *Times* (London), 13 April 1990, p 2.

12 April 1990 In Iraq, a bipartisan group of five US senators led by Robert Dole, having earlier visited President Mubarak of Egypt and King Hussain of Jordan, meets with President Saddam Hussein; the visit has the approval and support of President Bush.[1] Baghdad radio later broadcasts a transcript of what was said,[2] including the following statements by Saddam Hussein:

'I also have said: if Israel uses atomic bombs, we will strike at it with the binary chemical weapon [see 1 April]. I reiterate now that if Israel does this, we will do that. We have given instructions to the commanders of the air bases and the missile formations that once they hear Israel has hit any place in Iraq with the atomic bomb, they

will load the chemical weapon with as much as will reach Israel and direct it at its territory.... I know chemical weapons were prohibited by the Geneva Convention. I know and I do not forget our commitments, nor the fact we signed it. But are chemical weapons more dangerous for humanity than nuclear bombs?'

Later: 'We ... thought about chemical weapons when Iran attacked us in al-Muhammarah [Khurramshahr] with chemical weapons. These facts were documented by the military during the war, but we did not announce them. It is I who prevented their announcement at the time because the weapons were new and I feared it might create panic within the armed forces. This took place in al-Muhammarah in 1980'.

When asked by Senator Dole about the reports of Iraqi production of biological weapons [see 11 April]: 'We are aware of what the biological weapons mean. We are aware if such a method were used, the situation would become uncontrollable. Therefore, rest assured on this point. We speak about what we have. We also speak about what we will use if an aggression is mounted against us. Therefore, regardless of what is said in the papers, if we had biological weapons, we would have admitted it. If there is anyone in the world, if he is our enemy and fears biological weapons, let him come and together we will scrap biological weapons. Thus, we have no biological weapons, but we do have chemical weapons.... As to whether scientists have done research on this or that sort of germ, I do not give a guarantee in this matter, and I do not deny it.... I mean conventional scientific research, not germ warfare. I mean using germs for scientific purposes. I am aware that conducting research on germs for military purposes amounts to using them as a weapon.'

The senators are also told that Iraq is prepared to join in establishing the entire Middle East region, including Iran, as a zone 'free of all types of weapons of wholesale destruction' [see 8 April]. The president says: 'we ought to promote the notion. I think the idea would prove favorable to the world and the region. It may be that the time is right to float such a proposal in Israel'.

[1] Jackson Diehl (from Jerusalem), 'US maligns him, Iraqi tells senators', *Washington Post*, 13 April 1990, p A26; Patrick E Tyler, 'US working to lessen tension with Iraq', *Washington Post*, 23 April 1990, pp A1 & A16.

[2] 'Full text' of remarks during a meeting in Mosul on 12 April 1990 between President Saddam Hussein, Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, the US ambassador to Iraq, and US Senators Robert Dole, Howard Metzenbaum, Frank Murkowski, James McClure and Alan Simpson, broadcast as read by an announcer on Baghdad domestic service 1400 hrs GMT 16 April 1990, as translated from the Arabic in FBIS-NES-90-074, 17 April 1990, pp 5-13.

13 April 1990 In Washington, a paper proposing new US trade controls on Iraq and 'other CBW proliferators' is considered by two interdepartmental bodies. The paper, which is then passed on for development by the State Department CBW Export Licensing Working Group, becomes public 30 months later.[1] It summarizes its proposal in the following terms: 'In essence, the idea is to create a Country Group X for countries that have used or threatened to use chemical or biological weapons since (date to be determined). Iraq would be the first nation on the list'.

[1] *Congressional Record* (daily edition), 30 September 1992, pp S15744-7 (Senator Leahy).

17 April 1990 President Saddam Hussein, speaking at a military-award ceremony, is quoted by the Iraqi News Agency as follows: 'If any party, anywhere in the globe, of whatever size, tries to attack any Arab that accepts our assistance. We will respond to the aggressor to the best of our ability. If we can throw stones at him, we will throw stones; if we can fire a missile, we will; if we can strike him with all our missiles, bombs, and all our resources, then we will strike him with all our missiles, bombs, and resources, wherever he may be. We will chase him. We not only will strike him in his place, but we will chase him wherever he may be. We will make him unable to distinguish between day and night. We will narrow the globe on him wherever he may be.' [1]

The next day he reportedly says on television that Iraq would retaliate with its full might against any country that attacked an Arab state: 'He who launches an aggression against Iraq or the Arab nation will now find someone to repel him, because Iraq is part of the Arab nation, and we will repel him from Iraq'. [2]

[1] INA (from Baghdad), 2150 GMT 17 April 1990, as reported in FBIS-NES-90-075, 18 April 1990.

[2] [no author listed] (from Baghdad), Reuter, 18 April 1990, as in 'Hussein vows retaliation', *New York Times* (West Coast edition), 19 April 1990, p 4; and Carol Berger (from Cairo), 'Egypt presses for high-tech weapons ban', *Independent* (London), 19 April 1990, p 14.

20 April 1990 In the US Senate, a bill is introduced by Senator Alfonse D'Amato that would cancel all economic aid to Iraq unless it opens to international inspection facilities suspected of producing nuclear, chemical or biological weapons; a similar bill is introduced into the House of Representatives by Congressmen Howard Berman and Vin Weber.[1] Testifying before the Senate a few days later, Secretary of States James Baker says that, in response to recent actions by Iraq, his department is 'taking a look' at a cutoff in loans and agricultural credits.[2] But subsequent State Department testimony opposes such trade sanctions, saying that US relations with Iraq are in a trial period.[3]

[1] Jonathan Crusoe, 'Iraq: bringing Baghdad to book', *Middle East Economic Digest*, vol 34 no 18 (11 May 1990), p 10.

[2] Warren Strobel, 'US considers sanctions as response to Iraq', *Washington Times*, 26 April 1990, p A7.

[3] Lionel Barber (from Washington), 'US opposed to trade sanctions against Iraq', *Financial Times*, 27 April 1990, p 10.

24 April 1990 The *New York Times* reports the belief of an unidentified 'senior Defense Department official' that Iraq is trying to develop a test site outside of its territory for firing new long-range missiles; it speculates on Mauritania being the venue.[1] A month later there is a Washington press report of satellite imagery showing fixed launchers for medium-range ballistic missiles said to be under construction by Iraq in the Mauritanian Sahara.[2]

[1] Michael R Gordon (from Washington), 'US fears Iraq is seeking long-range missile site', *New York Times*, 24 April 1990, p A5.

[2] *Washington Times* as reported by Stephen Robinson (from Washington), p 13, 'Satellite "uncovers Iraqi missile sites"', *Daily Telegraph* (London), 31 May 1990.

26 April 1990 The US Administration testifies as follows at a Congressional hearing: 'If ... Iraq plays an

increasingly responsible role and cooperates with international efforts to control proliferation of nonconventional weapons and improve its abysmal human rights record, the US–Iraq relationship will improve, with benefits for both countries’.[1]

[1] Prepared statement of John H Kelly [Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs] before the Subcommittee on Europe and the Near East, Committee on Foreign Affairs, US House of Representatives, 26 April 1990. Text distributed by US State Department, Bureau of Public Affairs, as *Current Policy* no 1273, ‘US relations with Iraq’.

3 May 1990 *The Washington Post*, attributing an internal US Defense Department study of the Iran–Iraq War, says that the civilian poison-gas casualties at Halabja two years earlier [see 16 March 1988] had resulted from CW bombardments by Iranian forces as well as Iraqi. Evidence for this had apparently been drawn from the fact that Iran had said many of the Halabja victims had died from cyanide whereas, according to a Pentagon official, ‘we know Iraq does not use cyanide gas’. The Pentagon study, described as an ‘operational history’ of the decisive final stages of the war, is said to include a detailed reconstruction of the Halabja fighting based on undisclosed ‘highly classified sources’.[1]

The Iranian Government issues strong and detailed denials.[2]

[Note: see note at 23 March 1988.]

[1] Patrick E Tyler, ‘Both Iraq and Iran gassed Kurds in war, US analysis finds’, *Washington Post*, 3 May 1990, p A37.

[2] Statement issued by the Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations, as reported on Tehran domestic service, 1030hrs GMT 4 May 1990, as translated from the Persian in FBIS-NES-90-087, 4 May 1990, p 45; *Letter Dated 6 June 1990 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General*, UN document S/21346, 7 June 1990.

28–30 May 1990 In Baghdad, there is an emergency summit meeting of the League of Arab States. President Saddam Hussein of Iraq says in his opening address: ‘it behooves us to declare clearly that if Israel attacks and strikes, we will strike powerfully. If it uses weapons of mass destruction against [the Arab] nation, we will use against it the weapons of mass destruction in our possession’ [see also 17 April].[1]

President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt reaffirms his ‘proposal to make the Middle East an area free of weapons of mass destruction: the nuclear, chemical and biological weapons’ [see 8 April].[2] The proposal is not adopted by the summit meeting.[3]

The final communiqué emphasizes support for ‘Iraq’s legitimate right to self defence and its right to defend itself against any aggression with whatever means it sees fit’.[4]

[1] Broadcast live on Baghdad domestic service, 1039 GMT 28 May 1990, as reported in FBIS-NES-90-103, 29 May 1990, pp 2-7; Tony Walker and Lamis Andoni (from Baghdad), ‘Arabs urged to take tough line with US on support for Israel’, *Financial Times*, 29 May 1990, p 26; Harvey Morris (from Baghdad), ‘Summit asserts Saddam’s right to might’, *Independent* (London), 29 May 1990, p 11; Reuter and AP (from Baghdad), as in ‘Iraq renews its threat against Israel’, *International Herald Tribune*, 29 May 1990, p 4; Alan Cowell (from Baghdad), ‘Iraqi takes harsh line at meeting’, *New York Times*, 29 May 1990, p A3.

[2] A recording of President Mubarak’s speech is broadcast on Cairo domestic service, 1318 GMT 28 May 1990, as reported in FBIS-NES-90-103, 29 May 1990, pp 7-11; David Hirst (from

Baghdad), ‘Jordan voices fears of Jewish migration’, *Guardian* (London), 29 May 1990, p 10.

[3] Nick B Williams (from Baghdad), ‘Arab leaders rebuke Israel over emigration’, *Los Angeles Times*, 31 May 1990, p A10.

[4] [no author listed] (from Baghdad), Associated Press, as in ‘Arab summit blasts US for aiding Israel’, *San Francisco Chronicle*, 31 May 1990, p A22.

15 June 1990 In the US Senate, the Committee on Foreign Relations holds hearings on sanctions against Iraq. Administration officials oppose trade sanctions despite the ‘abysmal’ human rights record of Iraq and its use of CW weapons, arguing that US farmers would be hurt more than the Baghdad government.[1]

[1] UPI (from Washington), as in ‘US position on Iraqi trade upsets senators’, *San Francisco Chronicle*, 16 June 1990, p A10.

28 June 1990 President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, in an interview published today by *The Wall Street Journal*, says: ‘Iraq is in possession of binary chemical weapons. Our scientists and military men calculate this is sufficient enough to deter an Israeli nuclear attack’ [see 1 and 17 April] He had been asked how a long war with Israel might be possible.[1]

Unidentified ‘Israeli military intelligence experts’ are subsequently reported as saying that, although Iraq has now deployed surface-to-surface missiles capable of reaching Tel Aviv, they believe that Iraq has not yet succeeded in developing a chemical (or biological) warhead to mount on the missiles; aircraft would have to be used instead.[2]

[1] Karen Elliott House (from Baghdad), ‘Iraqi President Hussein sees new Mideast war unless America acts’, *Wall Street Journal*, 28 June 1990, pp A1 & A10.

[2] Jackson Diehl (from Jerusalem) and Caryle Murphy (from Cairo), ‘New Middle East war seen unlikely’, *Washington Post*, 2 July 1990, pp A1 & A15.