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Record Group/Collection: George H.W. Bush Presidential Records
Collection/Office of Origin: Scowcroft, Brent, Collection
Series: Desert Shield/Desert Storm Files
Subseries: Chronological Files

OA/ID Number: 91143
Folder ID Number: 91143-001

Folder Title:
Desert Shield/Desert Storm (March 1990)

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	34	3	6	1

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet (George Bush Library)

Doc. No. / Type	Subject/Title	Date	Restriction	Classification
01a. Memo	Brent Scowcroft to POTUS, Re: Current Status of the Iraqi Nuclear Program [FOIA RESTRICTIONS REDACTED] (2 pp.)	3/30/90	(b)(1), (b)(3)	S
01b. Memo	Sandra Charles to Brent Scowcroft Re: Current Status of the Iraqi Nuclear Program (1 pp.)	3/29/90	(b)(1)	S

Page 1 of 1

Collection:

Record Group: Bush Presidential Records
Office: Scowcroft, Brent, Files
Series: Desert Shield/Desert Storm Files
Subseries: Chronological Files
WHORM Cat.:
File Location: Desert Shield/Desert Storm (March 1990)

Pinksheet Number: cap1189
OA/ID Number: 91143-001
Date Closed: 5/21/2009
FOIA/Sys Case #: 2009-0275-S
Re-review Case #:
P-2/P-5 Review Case #:

~~SECRET~~
NSC/S PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9002439
RECEIVED: 29 MAR 90 17

TO: PRESIDENT

CHRON FILE

FROM: SCOWCROFT

DOC DATE: 30 MAR 90
SOURCE REF:



KEYWORDS: IRAN

NUCLEAR MATTERS

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: CURRENT STATUS OF IRAQI NUCLEAR PROGRAM

ACTION: OBE / STATUS ORIGINAL UNKNOWN DUE DATE: 02 APR 90 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: CHARLES

LOGREF:

FILES: PA

NSCP:

CODES:

DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

CHARLES
HAASS

DECLASSIFIED

White House Guidelines

E.O. 12958, SEC 3.4 (B) September 11, 2006

By Cop NARA, Date 5/21/2009

COMMENTS: _____

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSJRP

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DOC 2 OF 2

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

(George Bush Library)

Document No. and Type	Subject/Title of Document	Date	Restriction	Class.
01a. Memo	Brent Scowcroft to POTUS, Re: Current Status of the Iraqi Nuclear Program [FOIA RESTRICTIONS REDACTED] (2 pp.)	3/30/90	(b)(1), (b)(3)	S

Collection:

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WHORM Cat.:
File Location: Desert Shield/Desert Storm (March 1990)

Document Partially Declassified
(Copy of Document Follows)
 By MM on 3/4/2016

Date Closed:	5/21/2009	OA/ID Number:	91143-001
FOIA/SYS Case #:	2009-0275-S	Appeal Case #:	
Re-review Case #:		Appeal Disposition:	
P-2/P-5 Review Case #:		Disposition Date:	
AR Case #:		MR Case #:	2010-0383-MR(500)
AR Disposition:		MR Disposition:	Released in Part
AR Disposition Date:		MR Disposition Date:	9/29/2014

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P-1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
 P-2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
 P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
 P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
 P-5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
 P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Removed as a personal record misfile.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

(b)(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
 (b)(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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 (b)(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
 (b)(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
 (b)(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
 (b)(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information

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~~SECRET~~/RD

2439

CHRON FILE

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

1990 MAR 30 PM 1:03

March 30, 1990



INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT *RG for*
SUBJECT: Current Status of the Iraqi Nuclear Program (U)

In response to your questions about the status of the Iraqi nuclear program, ^{(b)(3)} the following information:

Iraq is nowhere near capable of possessing a nuclear weapon. They do not have most of the infrastructure in country required to make a weapon, that is the ability to make enough fissile material for a nuclear explosive device. That said, Iraq is actively shopping for materials to build a centrifuge to enrich nuclear materials and to acquire other materials and technology with nuclear weapons application.

First, the Osirak reactor, which was sold to them by the French along with a small amount of enriched uranium, is capable of making plutonium -- but slowly. Second, Iraq has no internal source for enriched uranium. Based on IAEA inspections, the fuel from the Osirak reactor is being handled under safeguards, and therefore cannot be diverted for enrichment and subsequent weapons development since all the fuel going into and out of the reactor is logged. Iraq also has a small Soviet research reactor under safeguards as well.

1.4(c); 6.2(a)

Iraq does not have this type of production reprocessing capability.

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

~~SECRET~~

Declassify on: OADR

~~SECRET~~/RD

DECLASSIFIED IN PART
PER E.O. 13526

2010-0380-MR
9/29/2014 MM

~~SECRET~~/RD

2

SECRET

In summary, to have a viable nuclear weapons program, Iraq would need a source of fissile material for either uranium and/or plutonium. It does not have any such source. Iraq also does not have a uranium enrichment facility or a production reactor to make plutonium in large quantities. While Osirak could make some, it would be years before enough plutonium would be available, and Iraq would have to violate safeguards to do it. If Iraq runs Osirak to produce plutonium, then they would need to develop a production reprocessing capability to extract the plutonium from the reactor fuel. This would not be an easy process. Finally, Iraq would have to do testing.

The intelligence community has concluded that Iraq is a long way from acquiring a nuclear explosive device.

6.2(a)

However, if a country with a nuclear capability gives them the necessary material, Iraq could acquire this capability more rapidly.

1.4(c)

SECRET

~~SECRET~~/RD

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

March 29, 1990

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR BRENT SCOWCROFT

THROUGH: RICHARD N. HAASS *RC*
FROM: SANDRA CHARLES *SC*
SUBJECT: Current Status of Iraq's Nuclear Program

Attached at Tab I is a memorandum to the President responding to his questions on the current status of Iraq's nuclear program. The information was obtained from the CIA.

AM
Arnie Kanter and Bill *SC* Working concur.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum to the President at Tab I.

Attachment
Tab I Memo to the President