



~~SECRET~~ U

JOINT INTELLIGENCE CENTER CENTRAL (JICCENT)  
7601 HANGAR LOOP DRIVE  
MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA 33621-5101

JICCENT/OIA

Date: 14 Nov 1998

SUBJECT: Suggested new name for CONPLAN DESERT RESOLVE

U (S/NF) Recommend using the name DESERT CROSSING, vice DESERT RESOLVE, for the new conplan relating to transition of Iraq following destabilization of the regime.  
English: DESERT CROSSING  
Arabic: Aboor al-Saharat

U (S/NF) "Aboor" (literally: *crossing*) is a favorite propaganda theme of Saddam Husayn's Regime. The concept has been used frequently in speeches and interviews since early 1994 by key leaders, including Saddam himself. Aboor is a metaphor for many things--

- generally speaking, it is invoked to suggest that Iraq is in the process of crossing from a troubled period in its history to better times
- it is also part of the mythology of Saddam, that following his 1959 assassination attempt on General Qassim, Saddam had to flee (according to legend) on foot, and swim across the Tigris-- a symbolic act of rebirth, or purification, or some such. Saddam often compares his own fate to that of the Iraqi nation.
- it was also a sly metaphor used in during the October 1994 buildup of forces along the border with Kuwait to suggest a "crossing" back into Kuwait.

U (S/NF) By co-opting the term, we would deliver a frightening and ominous message to regime supporters and a heartening sign to regime opponents. [ ]

U (S/NF) The English meaning, though not quite as rich as the Arabic, is also evocative of the general idea of the plan. The Iraqi's fear our "left hook" across the desert following DESERT STORM. The name of this operation, the first involving large scale US ground forces movement into Iraq since DESERT STORM, might suggest to them another left hook through the desert areas west of Kuwait and the Tigris-Euphrates river valleys. In fact, the plan's movement is predominantly up the fertile valley plain around Highway 8.

(U) Some examples of Iraqi VIP use of the term are as follows:

"IRAQ HAS CHOSEN THE MEANS OF STARTING THE CROSSING AND THE MEANS THAT WILL LEAD US TO THE OTHER BANK..."

Saddam Husayn during an address to officers celebrating the offensive against Irbil

①  
~~SECRET~~ U

b1  
1.4a-c18

~~SECRET~~ u

"WE HOPE TO HOLD A CELEBRATION AMID OUR PEOPLE'S JUBILATIONS ON THIS GREAT VICTORY AND THE BEGINNING OF *THE CROSSING*. GOD WILLING, A COMPLETE *CROSSING* WILL BE REALIZED SOON."

Amir Rashid, Oil Minister commenting on the beginning of Iraqi oil sales under UNSCR 986 (061422Z DEC 96, FM FBIS AMMAN JO)

IBRAHIM EXPLAINED WHAT THE GIFT REPRESENTS. HE SAID IT IS A MODEL OF THE AL-AQSA MOSQUE AND THE HOUSE IN WHICH THE LEADER PRESIDENT, MAY GOD WATCH OVER HIM, WAS BORN. THE TWO PLACES ARE LINKED BY A BRIDGE SYMBOLIZING *THE CROSSING* TO VICTORY, GOD WILLING, AND AN IRAQI FLAG RAISED OVER A MAST ERECTED AT A CORNER OF THE HOUSE, SYMBOLIZING THE LEADER PRESIDENT'S MARCH OF HEROIC JIHAD FOR THE SAKE OF NOBLE VALUES THROUGHOUT HIS LONG LIFE.

RCC member 'Izzat Ibrahim presenting gift to Saddam on his birthday (111858Z MAY 97, FBIS AMMAN JO)

"INDIVIDUAL EFFORTS...CANNOT MAKE THE IRAQIS *CROSS* TO THE SAFE SHORE AND VICTORY, BUT WHAT CAN MAKE THEM *CROSS* IS THE RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP..."

Saddam Husayn (262232Z OCT 98; FBIS RESTON VA)

u (S/NF) To recapitulate, the name translates well [ ] I can provide further clarification or details as required.

[ ]  
CCJ2  
[ ]

→ same as previous page

→ b6

~~SECRET~~ u

Deny in total  
TS/SCI  
b1, Sect. on 1.4  
a, c, d, g

DESERT CROSSING

Desert Crossing 82000 An 80.00

PAGE 1001