

TD-314/37180-04

TOT: 081430Z

*Handwritten:* Bath Party

SUBJ: REESTABLISHMENT OF THE IRAQ BA'TH PARTY IN AUSTRIA IN SUPPORT OF NEW BA'TH PARTY IN IRAQ

DOI: EARLY MAY - LATE JUNE 2004

[Redacted] E.O. 13526, section 1.4(c) [Redacted]

SUMMARY: NONE.

TEXT: [Redacted] E.O. 13526, section 1.4(c) [Redacted]

Withheld under statutory authority of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C., section 3507)

2. AS OF LATE JUNE 2004, FORMER IRAQI BA'TH PARTY LOYALISTS IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA, WERE REESTABLISHING THEIR PARTY IN SUPPORT OF THE NEW BA'TH PARTY COMING TO POWER IN IRAQ. LEADING THE GATHERING OF THE PARTY LOYALISTS WAS IRAQI INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA) SAFEGUARDS INSPECTOR AND FORMER SUSPECT IRAQI INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (IIS, MUKHABARAT) OFFICER 'ABD AL-WAHHAB AL-((HANI)). HANI AND FORMER IRAQI AIRLINES REPRESENTATIVE IN AUSTRIA 'ABD AL-HADI ((FARHAN)) WERE LEADING THE EFFORT, IN ADDITION TO APPROXIMATELY FIFTEEN OTHER ACTIVE MEMBERS (NFI); THEIR MISSION WAS TO PROVIDE A FOCAL POINT FOR FINANCING TO BE TRANSFERRED FROM VIENNA TO IRAQ TO SUPPORT THE BA'THISTS' RISE TO POLITICAL POWER.

3. ACCORDING TO HANI, THE DAYS OF THE CURRENT U.S.-BACKED GOVERNMENT IN IRAQ WERE NUMBERED AND ITS DOWNFALL WOULD HAPPEN SOON, WITH BA'THISTS TAKING THEIR RIGHTFUL PLACE AGAIN IN POWER. SINCE EARLY JUNE, HANI AND FARHAN HAD BEEN MEETING WITH OTHER LOCAL BA'TH PARTY LOYALISTS AT THE BELLA CASA PIZZA RESTAURANT LOCATED IN VIENNA'S EIGHTEENTH DISTRICT, WHICH IS OWNED AND OPERATED BY SYRIAN NATIONAL HATIM ((ZU'BI)). THEY PLANNED TO USE THE RESTAURANT SITE AS THE UNOFFICIAL GATHERING PLACE. (HEADQUARTERS COMMENT: SEE [Redacted] 9 FEBRUARY 2004, [Redacted] FOR FURTHER DETAILS ON PERSONNEL AND ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE IRAQI ASSISTANCE EFFORT IN AUSTRIA.)

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(c)

DECLASSIFIED UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE INTERAGENCY SECURITY CLASSIFICATION APPEALS PANEL, E.O. 13526, SECTION 5.3(b)(3)  
ISCAP APPEAL NO. 2013-061, document no. 4  
DECLASSIFICATION DATE: November 21, 2017

4. [Redacted] E.O. 13526, section 1.4(c) [Redacted]

5. AS OF LATE JUNE 2004, 'ABD AL-WAHHAB AL-HANI WAS ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN ASSISTING THE NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION (NGO) ((IRAQI ASSISTANCE EFFORT IN AUSTRIA)) (IRAKHILFSWERK IN OESTERREICH). HANI WAS OFTEN SEEN AT VARIOUS IRAKHILFSWERK EVENTS ACCOMPANYING LEADING IRAKHILFSWERK MEMBER, AUSTRIAN CITIZEN AND ETHNIC SUNNI IRAQI AHMAD HAMID AL-((MASHHADANI)). DURING THE 1 MAY 2004 FUNDRAISER ORGANIZED BY THE AUSTRIAN-SYRIAN DOCTOR'S ASSOCIATION ON BEHALF OF THE NGO, HANI PUBLICLY DISCUSSED HIS FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS PURCHASING AN AMBULANCE TO BE DONATED TO AN UNSPECIFIED GROUP IN IRAQ. [Redacted] HANI'S SIZEABLE FINANCIAL GIFT SEEMED EXCESSIVE GIVEN HIS WORK STATUS AS A UNITED NATIONS EMPLOYEE. IT ALSO SEEMS ODD THAT HANI WOULD HAVE THE FINANCIAL MEANS TO PROVIDE SUCH A GIFT. (HEADQUARTERS COMMENT: SEE [Redacted] 20 MAY 2004, [Redacted] FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON THE 1 MAY FUNDRAISER.)

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(c)

POC: [Redacted]  
COMMENTS, [Redacted]

ACQ: (LATE JUNE 2004).

[Redacted]

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(c)

11-M-1744

Withheld under statutory authority of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C., section 3507)