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## REBUILDING IRAQ / QUEST FOR CONTRACTS; KEY IRAQI OFFICIALS CAPTURED DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, TOP SCIENTIST TAKEN INTO US CUSTODY

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BAGHDAD - Saddam Hussein's deputy prime minister has been taken into custody by American forces, and one of the former Iraqi leader's top scientists has surrendered, US officials said yesterday.

The capture of Hikmat Ibrahim al-Azzawi, who also served as **Iraq's** finance minister, could lay bare the secrets of where Hussein may have stashed \$2 billion to \$4 billion in US dollars outside **Iraq**.

Baghdad police arrested him Friday, the first such capture by the police officers since the toppling of the Iraqi regime and one which American military officials hailed as an encouraging sign that civil society in **Iraq** is being reborn.

"The Iraqi police are already working for the people of **Iraq**," Captain Stewart Upton, a spokesman at US Central Command in Doha, Qatar, said in a telephone interview.

Drivers in the capital clogged Baghdad streets as thousands of Shi'ite believers began an annual pilgrimage that had been forbidden by the Hussein regime to quell political unrest.

Surrendering to American forces Friday was **Emad** Husayn Abdullah al-**Ani. Ani**, whom US officials accused in 1998 of being involved with a Sudanese chemical plant linked to **Osama** bin Laden, may be able to provide information about **Iraq's** development of the deadly nerve agent VX, officials say.

US military officials also announced that Khala Khadr al-Salhat, believed to be Abu Nidal's personal secretary, surrendered to US Marines in Baghdad.

Salhat could provide information about "any type of terrorists living in or operating out of **Iraq**," Upton said.

The Abu Nidal terrorist group gained notoriety in 1972 when they took hostage 11 Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics and killed them. The group remained active through the 1990s.

For up-to-the minute coverage of the war, including Globe photos and dispatches, visit [www.boston.com](http://www.boston.com).

Yesterday, reports continued that Hussein himself had survived US-led bombing raids. The Arabic television stations Al-Jazeera and Abu Dhabi TV showed a handwritten document purportedly authored by Hussein ordering **Iraq's** secret police to stop fighting US-led forces.

The word cease-fire was written in Arabic at the top of the document, but it also said **Iraq** had been victorious against the invaders. On Friday, Abu Dhabi TV broadcast video footage of what it said was Hussein saluting a throng of supporters in Baghdad on April 9, the day the capital fell.

But the arrests, surrenders, and indications that Hussein might still be alive had little impact in Baghdad. Most Iraqis seemed far more preoccupied with the traffic that snarled the capital yesterday and with debating when electricity and power would be restored.

That the 45th person on Washington's 55-member most wanted list had been arrested was of little concern. "Azzawi?" snorted Khalil Ibrahim, a 60 year-old driver, with disgust. "He is not a criminal; he's just a bureaucrat."

More pressing for most of Baghdad was the realization that the US Marines began pulling out yesterday,

handing off control to the US Army, in an indication that the American military mission is shifting from war to restoration.

But the predawn departure of some 1,600 Marines left many in Baghdad shocked or angered. The cordon of troops that had encircled some parts of the city, such as the Palestine Hotel, had seemingly vanished overnight.

"We've come for days now to get an answer from them; they are occupying our offices," said Walid Khalifa, an employee of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, standing in the Palestine Hotel where a US military civilian affairs desk once was. "And now they've gone?"

"Who's in charge here now?" asked one bewildered tribal leader, desperately hunting in the hotel lobby for Marines.

The Marines, who are moving south, are being replaced by troops from the Army's Third Infantry Division. The Army's Fourth Infantry Division will cover the northern part of the country in what is considered a postwar phase that will conclude with the handover of power to an interim Iraqi authority, with an independent government to follow.

Yesterday, Army civil affairs officers attached to the Third Infantry Division plunged into the task of rebuilding **Iraq**, making rounds at police stations only to discover that they were largely unmanned.

The troops were hoping to meet with police officers and talk about taking part in a new police force, but ended up flipping through ledgers to try to identify able policemen instead.

Captain Major Bowen of the Third Infantry Division said 14 percent of Baghdad's traffic police were back on the job.

But few seemed in evidence yesterday, with downtown in gridlock.

"There are no traffic lights. There are no policemen. How come the Americans don't organize things so we don't have traffic like this?" said Khalid al-Jabari, who was stalled in an hourlong traffic jam at an intersection.

Traffic budged only when Iraqis jumped out of their cars and directed traffic.

The traffic was due in part to the first tentative signs of commercial life: an open gas station here and there, several black market-currency salesmen manning their stands, and sidewalk vendors hawking their wares - largely goods that had been looted.

Plumes of smoke continued to rise above the city yesterday, as Iraqis torched banks and other buildings after looting them. Women lugged heavy bags of rice and flour taken from warehouse stocks for the UN's oil-for-food program, raising questions as to where this nation's food will come from in coming months.

Before the war, about 60 percent of the population relied on food distributed by the government but ordered and paid for by the UN program intended to offset the suffering caused by 12 years of sanctions.

Meanwhile, in a sign that confidence in freedom of expression was growing, Christians openly advertised Easter services, and thousands of Shi'ites made their pilgrimage to the holy city of Karbala, journeys not allowed under Hussein.

PHOTO, 1. Iraqis greeted US troops from the Third Battalion, 187 Regiment, 101st Airborne Division as they passed in Baghdad yesterday. / AP PHOTO / JEAN-MARC BOUJU 2. HIKMAT IBRAHIM AL-AZZAWI

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