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**Tariq Mikhail 'AZIZ**  
(Phonetic: uhZEEZ)

IRAQ

*Deputy Prime Minister; Member,  
Revolutionary Command Council;  
Minister of Foreign Affairs*

*Addressed as:  
Mr. Deputy Prime Minister*



Tariq 'Aziz is one of President Saddam Husayn's most trusted advisers and is among the four most powerful men in Iraq.

he is second only to Saddam in formulating foreign policy and that he is the government's chief external affairs spokesman and Iraq's primary contact with high-ranking US and French officials. He has been a member of the Revolutionary

Command Council (RCC), Iraq's highest governing body, since September 1977; Deputy Prime Minister since July 1979; and Foreign Minister since January 1983. 'Aziz also serves as the RCC's foreign affairs director. We believe that he enjoys more freedom in his relationship with Saddam than do other advisers, who may harbor presidential ambitions. (A Christian, 'Aziz is unlikely ever to accede to the presidency of Muslim-dominated Iraq.)

[Redacted]

After receiving a B.A. degree in English from the University of Baghdad in 1958, 'Aziz began serving as a propagandist for the Ba'th Party. In the late 1950s and early 1960s he edited three different party papers, and during 1968-70 he was editor in chief of *al-Thawra*, the official party organ. Elected a candidate member of the party's ruling body, the Regional Command, in 1974, he became a full member three years later. He served as Minister of Information during 1974-77. 'Aziz has made official visits to the Soviet Union, China, West Germany, France, Egypt, and the United States during the past year. He has also been involved in recent diplomatic efforts to bring Egypt back into the Arab political mainstream.

'Aziz, who is about 48, is candid and cordial.

He enjoys Cuban cigars. He speaks excellent, almost elegant English. Married, he has children.

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20 November 1984

[Redacted]