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New Book about Saddam Hussein's Regime Based on Captured Records from Conflict Records Research Center (CRRC)

(Washington, DC) *The Saddam Tapes: The Inner Workings of a Tyrant's Regime, 1978-2001*, co-edited by David D. Palkki, the CRRC's Deputy Director, uses audio and video recordings from the CRRC to provide insights into the inner workings of Saddam's regime and the nature of authoritarian regimes more generally. The Saddam Tapes makes public English-language, annotated transcripts of Saddam's private conversations with his advisers, his generals, foreign leaders, tribal sheikhs, and others on matters of state. The study arranges the transcripts by subject, according to Saddam's views on the United States, Israel, the Arab world, the Iran-Iraq War, the 1991 Gulf War, weapons of mass destruction, the UN Special Commission, and the defection of Saddam's son-in-law, Hussein Kamil.

"The thousands of hours of recorded conversations have the potential to strip from Saddam Hussein's legacy his 'monopoly of knowledge,' and ultimately offer a greater understanding of the underpinnings of authoritarian rule," Palkki said. "Ironically," the editors conclude, "one of the most opaque regimes of the late twentieth century may, because of these tapes, become one of the most transparent."

Published by Cambridge University Press, *The Saddam Tapes* is slated for release on 15 Nov. Mr. Palkki co-edited the study with Kevin M. Woods of the Institute for Defense Analyses and Mark E. Stout of Johns Hopkins University. The study was prepared at the Institute for Defense Analyses for the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Policy.

The CRRC, a major resource for the study, maintains a researcher database with approximately 1,200 unclassified records from Saddam Hussein's regime and from al-Qaeda and Associated Movements. The records and translations combined constitute over 34,000 pages.

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