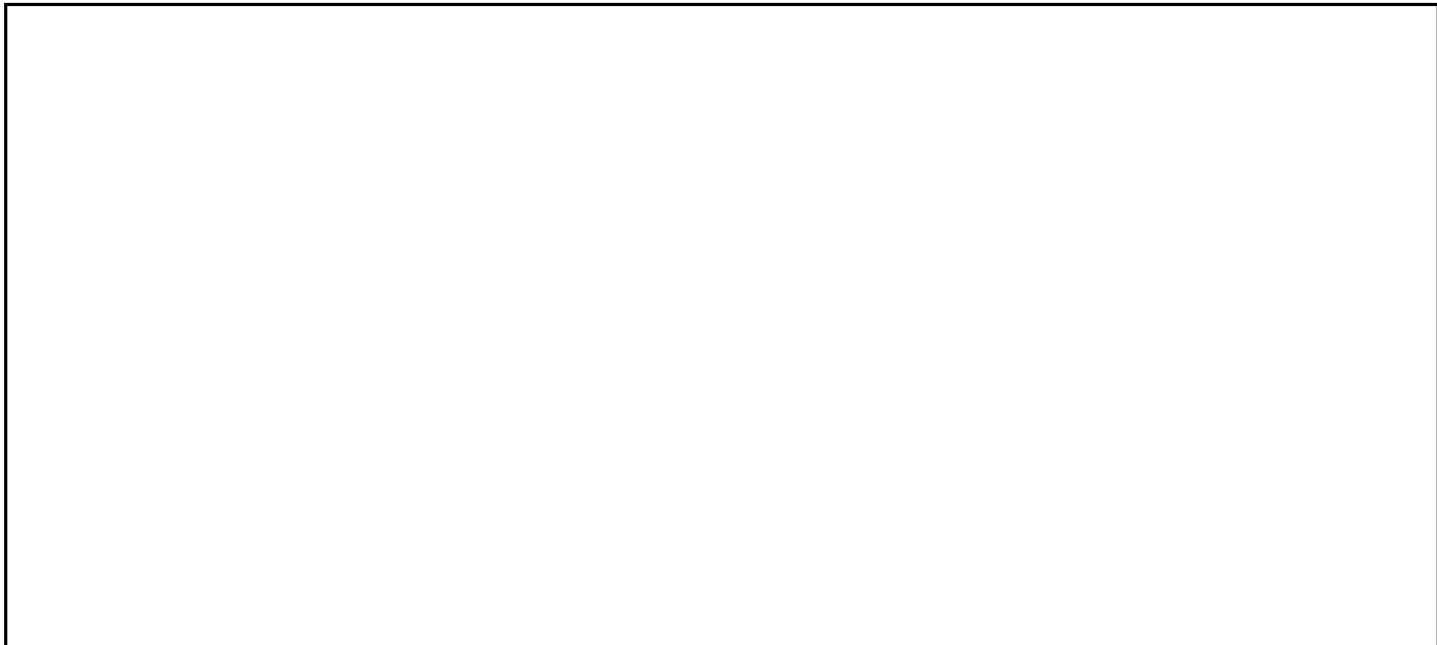


28 July 1982

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NIO/W Contribution to the Watch Committee



Iran-Iraq

The fourth and possibly decisive Iranian attempt to break through Iraqi defenses northeast of Basrah is imminent. If this attack fails, the Tehran regime may attempt to create a diversion by sharply intensifying political and perhaps military pressures on Kuwait and other Gulf states to end their assistance to Iraq.

South Africa-Angola

--The continuing South African military buildup in northern Namibia and southern Angola foreshadows another major incursion into Angola similar to the offensive in August-September 1981. Foreign Minister Botha has warned that South Africa would be compelled to launch a large-scale attack into Angola if its deadline of mid-August for completing negotiations on independence for Namibia and a withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola is not met. Prime Minister Botha appears determined to proceed with an "internal solution" in Namibia in the absence of an agreement in the next month.

--South African intentions have contributed to Angolan President dos Santos's shift toward the hardline, pro-Soviet faction in the ruling party. The central committee has purged a leading member of the party's black nationalist faction who had opposed the Soviet and Cuban presence in Angola and favored a rapprochement with Savimbi and closer ties with the West.

Nicaragua-Honduras

The chances of major Nicaraguan cross-border operations against anti-Sandinista rebel camps in Honduras have increased. Such operations might result in direct clashes with Honduran forces and fuel a sharp military escalation between the two countries.

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Ethiopia-Somalia

--President Siad's declining domestic base of support will encourage the Ethiopians to maintain military pressure on border posts and villages inside Somalia. Addis Ababa appears confident that Siad is increasingly vulnerable to military mutinies and coup attempts.

--Attempts by Siad to retaliate by expanding Somali incursions into the Ogaden might impel Ethiopia to escalate its military involvement in Somalia and to establish a dissident Somali government within Somali territory.

--Moscow sees an opportunity to settle old accounts with Siad. Soviet media have supported claims of support for Somali dissidents and a Soviet official has said Moscow will not attempt to restrain the Ethiopians.

SECRET