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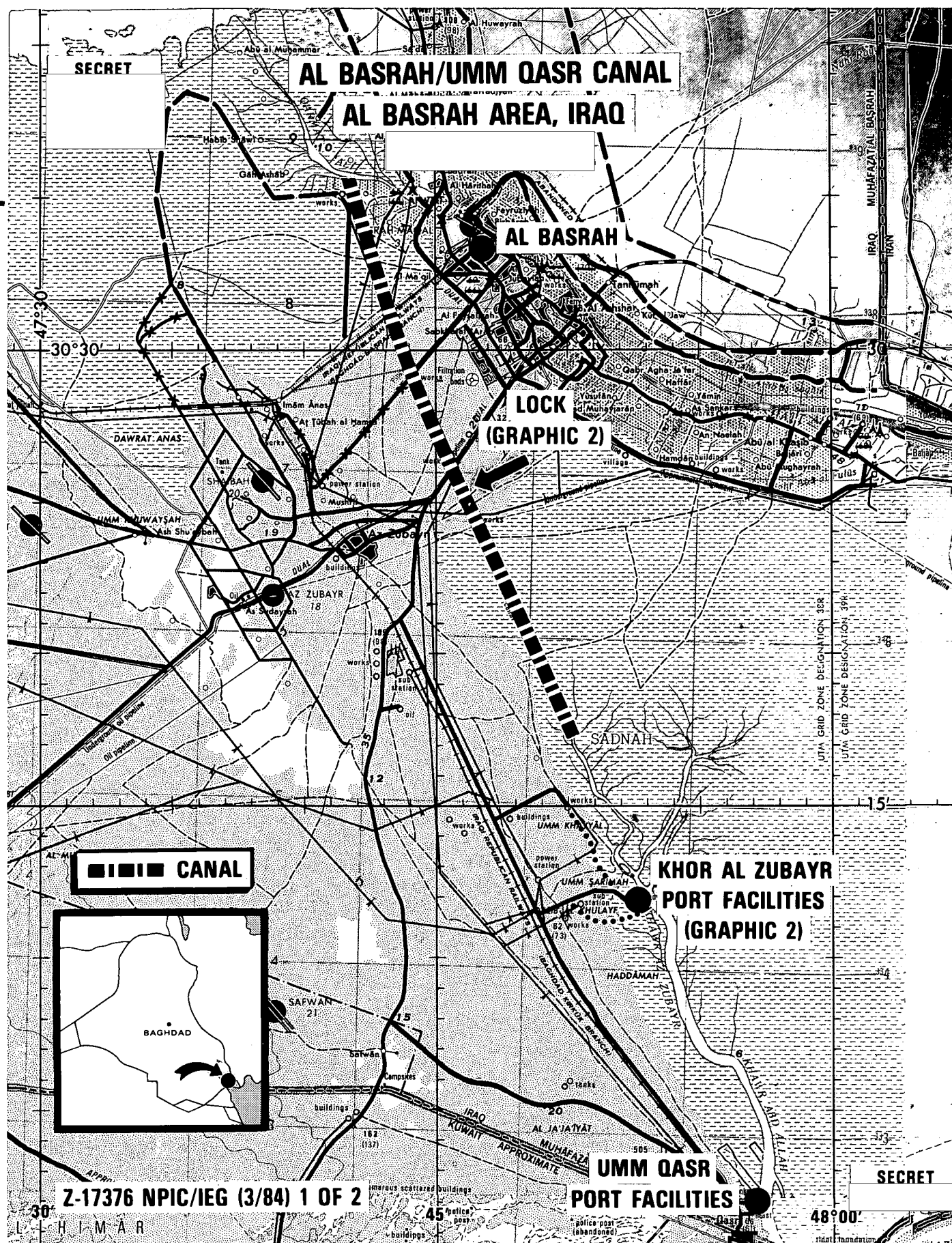
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DISSEMINATION CONTROL ABBREVIATIONS

NOFORN-	Not Releasable to Foreign Nationals
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Attachment to Z-17376/84

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NPIC/IEG (3/84)

27 MARCH 1984

AL BASRAH/UMM QASR CANAL
AL BASRAH AREA, IRAQ (SWN)

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1. SIGNIFICANCE: THE AL BASRAH/UMM QASR CANAL IS COMPLETE AND OPERATIONAL. THE COMPLETION OF THIS CANAL PROVIDES IRAQI NAVAL COMBATANTS AND SMALL MERCHANT SHIPS A PASSAGE BETWEEN AL BASRAH AND THE PERSIAN GULF. (SWN)
2. REMARKS: THE CANAL EXTENDS APPROXIMATELY 20 NM FROM AL BASRAH TO THE KHAWR (CHANNEL) AL ZUBAYR (GRAPHIC 1) AND HAS ONE LOCK APPROXIMATELY 6 NM SOUTH OF AL BASRAH (GRAPHIC 1 AND 2). CONSTRUCTION OF THIS CANAL HAS BEEN ONGOING SINCE MID-1972. (SWN)

THREE POLNOCNY C MEDIUM AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT LANDING SHIPS (LSM) FORMERLY OBSERVED AT AL BASRAH NAVAL BASE (BE

_____, WERE AT KHOR AL ZUBAYR PORT FACILITY (BE
_____) (ONE ON GRAPHIC
2). THE PRESENCE OF THE LSM'S AT THE SOUTHERN END OF THE CANAL IS A FURTHER INDICATION THAT IT IS OPERATIONAL. IRAQI NAVAL COMBATANTS AND MERSHIPS HAVE BEEN STRANDED AT AL BASRAH SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR, WHEN THE SHATT AL ARAB WATERWAY WAS BLOCKED BY SUNKEN MERSHIPS. (SWN)

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KHOR AL ZUBAYR PORT FACILITY IS AT THE NORTH END OF KHAWR AL ZUBAYR APPROXIMATELY 26 NM SOUTHEAST OF AL BASRAH. UMM QASR IS APPROXIMATELY 11 NM SOUTHEAST OF KHOR AL ZUBAYR. (SWN)
(PERSIAN GULF SECTION _____)

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3. BE NONE, COORDINATES NONE (U)

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