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Next 1 Page(s) In Document Denied

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

**IRAN-IRAQ MILITARY SITUATION REPORT #20
(As of 1200 EST, 29 March 1984)**

Persian Gulf

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Iraq claims this morning to have attacked an Iranian convoy heading to Bandar-e Khomeini. According to Baghdad, four ships were hit. [redacted]

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The cause of the explosion on an ARAMCO contract vessel yesterday afternoon is still unknown, according to US diplomats in Saudi Arabia. Although several witnesses claim to have seen aircraft or a missile, the South Korean Embassy in Jidda said the explosion could have been caused by an engine room fire. Contrary to yesterday's report that 20 Korean crew members were killed in the explosion, only one was killed and three are missing. [redacted]

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Iran's Foreign Minister complained to foreign diplomats in Tehran yesterday about Iraqi attacks on foreign shipping in international waters. He indicated these attacks should convince the world that Iran has no choice but to continue the war. [redacted]

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Comment: The latest Iraqi attack on shipping is the third since Saturday but probably did not include strikes against oil tankers and is not expected to affect oil market prices. Iraq may become more confident in its Air Force's abilities as hits on ships are confirmed and no Iraqi aircraft have been lost. The ARAMCO contract ship probably was damaged by an air attack. The explosion occurred only about five minutes after the Greek tanker was hit by an Iraqi missile in the same general area of the Gulf. The Koreans may be speculating on other causes for the explosion to limit damage to their relations with Iraq. There are also unconfirmed reports that the Korean ship may have been in the Iraqi exclusion zone when hit. Exxon is again allowing its ships to enter the Gulf. [redacted]

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This report was prepared by the Office of Near Eastern and South Asian Analysis of the Directorate of Intelligence. Questions may be directed to the Chief, Iran-Iraq Branch, Persian Gulf Division [redacted]

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Egyptians in Iraq

[Redacted] According to US press reports yesterday, there are 20 thousand Egyptian troops in Iraq. [Redacted]

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[Redacted] Comment: These reports are erroneous. There are some Egyptian military advisers in Iraq and perhaps as many as 20 thousand Egyptian workers in Iraq who have either volunteered or been drafted into the Iraqi military. [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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- 49 - C/ILS
- 50 - C/ISS
- 51 - C/PDB
- 52 - C/NID
- 53 - CRES

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54 - SOVA/CSD
55 - OGI/SRD E
56 - D/OGI
57 - C/OPSCTR
58 - DC/OPSCTR
59 - D/CPAS
60 - DD/CPAS
61-64 - CPAS/CMD/CB Rm. 7G07 Hqs
65 - OGI/IIC/TAB
66 - C/PES
67 - D/NESA
68 - NESA/PPS - 6G02 Hqs
69-72 - DDI/NESA/PG
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