

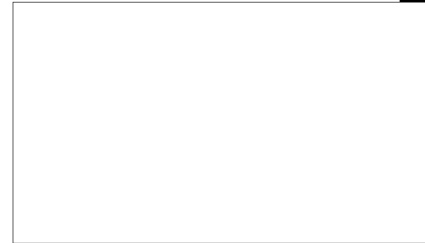


Director of
Central
Intelligence

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National Intelligence Daily

Thursday
3 March 1983

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EL SALVADOR: Uncertainty About Garcia's Status

Defense Minister Garcia, despite strong sentiment in the officer corps that he step down, is sending mixed signals regarding his intentions. 


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Garcia recently indicated to US officials that pressures from within the military might force him to retire. He added, however, that he had additional time before his active service would legally terminate and his career is not yet over. 

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President Magana, meanwhile, has received the final report of the military commission he appointed to investigate the dissatisfaction in the armed forces with Garcia and with the conduct of the war effort. First Brigade leader Colonel Blandon implied the report stops short of calling for the Defense Minister's ouster. Blandon, who served on the commission, is one of Garcia's chief critics. 

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Comment: Although the commission may not have recommended Garcia be replaced as Defense Minister, the President probably will come under strong pressure to oust him. If Magana fails to take action or Garcia refuses to comply, renewed coup plotting is likely and an open split may develop in the officer corps. 

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CHAD-LIBYA: Tensions Increasing

The Libyan-backed buildup of the Chadian dissidents' forward operational bases in the north appears almost complete. [redacted]

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Chadian officials say rebel leader Goukouni's forces have been building up a third forward operational base at Miski-Tchiaga [redacted]

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[redacted] rebel strength in the north has grown to approximately 2,500 men. [redacted]

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The government says captured documents show the rebels plan to organize logistic networks in southern Chad and in the Central African Republic in preparation for raids on the south. [redacted]

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Meanwhile, a visiting Libyan delegation left N'Djamena emptyhanded this week. Press reports state Habre was unsure of the delegation's intentions. [redacted]

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Comment: The dissidents probably are ready to strike, but still appear hesitant to attack Habre's seasoned fighters. [redacted]

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[redacted] The desertion of southern troops, however, suggests Habre can rely only on his factional forces, which would be hard pressed to deal with trouble in both the north and the south. [redacted]

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[redacted]

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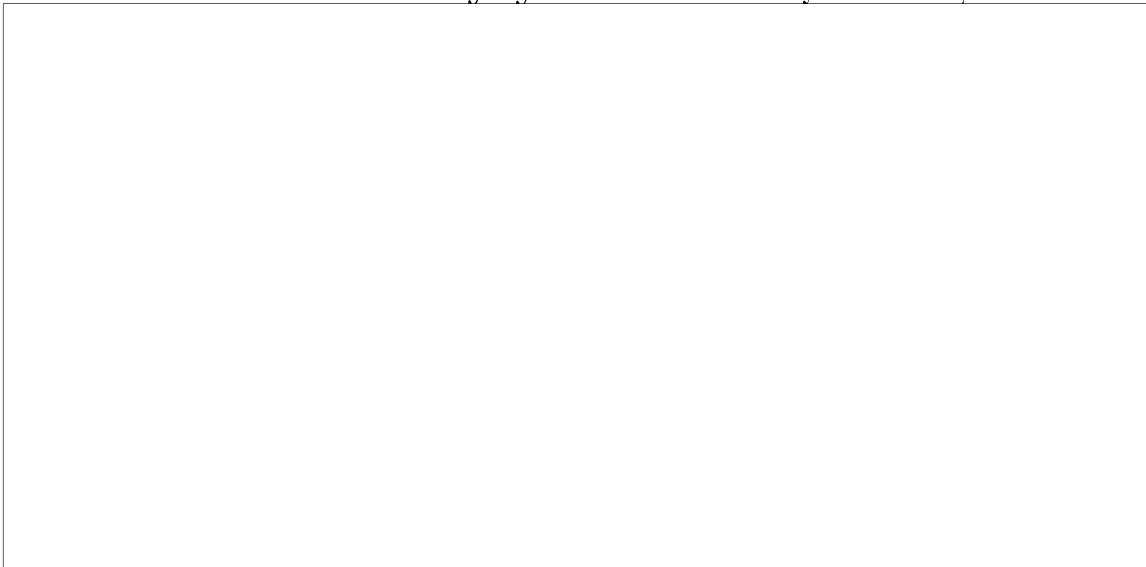
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INTERNATIONAL: Maneuvering on Nuclear Test Ban

The USSR is blocking working-level discussions on verification of a comprehensive nuclear test ban at the Committee on Disarmament at Geneva while trying to blame the US for the impasse.

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Comment: Since last spring, the Soviets have been heavyhanded in their efforts to pit nonaligned states against the West at UN disarmament talks. If the non-aligned countries accept the current mandate for the working group, the Soviets will have difficulty shifting blame to the West for disrupting test ban discussions. The Soviets probably would prefer to shift these discussions from the committee to a forum involving only themselves, the US, and the UK. [redacted]

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Most nonaligned states prefer to negotiate a treaty but are willing to continue under the existing mandate because they see value in discussing verification issues. The USSR and its allies could be isolated in opposing the resumption of working-level discussions if a compromise between the nonaligned and Western states were reached on this and several other procedural issues. If these discussions are resumed, however, the nonaligned states would be likely to demand detailed discussion of verification as a prelude to early treaty negotiations. [redacted]

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[Redacted]

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FRANCE - CENTRAL AMERICA: Roving Ambassador's Tour

A special representative of President Mitterrand encountered a mixed reception during a recent tour of Central America, according to US Embassy reports. [Redacted]

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Ambassador-at-Large Blanca last week completed a two-week trip to exchange views with local leaders from government, business, and the Church. He repeatedly asserted France does not intend to launch any initiatives on its own and would prefer to work with other West European and Latin American governments. [Redacted]

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In Guatemala, Blanca quickly established a good rapport with President Rios Montt and was well received. In Nicaragua, Blanca called for a negotiated settlement in El Salvador while criticizing the US for harassing the Sandinista government. [Redacted]

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Officials in Costa Rica and Honduras noted Blanca's rhetorical support for the Sandinistas and the insurgents in El Salvador, and they were less friendly. The Ambassador accused his Honduran hosts of harboring troops that were attacking Nicaragua, but he also refused an offer of a tour of the border. [Redacted]

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Comment: The visit by Blanca, a leading Socialist expert on Latin America, reflects Mitterrand's continuing interest in the region. France has no strategic interests in the area, however, and its commercial role there is limited. [Redacted]

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Central American leaders--and increasingly the French themselves--are becoming aware that there is little Paris can do to ease tensions in the area. Blanca's experiences are likely to strengthen this view. [Redacted]

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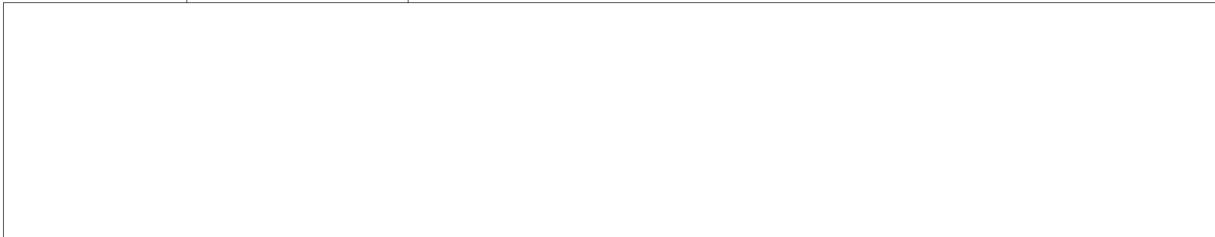
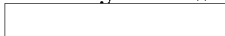
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LEBANON-ISRAEL: Haddad's Role in the South

Israeli-controlled militia forces of Major Haddad have become more assertive in southern Lebanon in recent weeks in an apparent attempt to legitimize Haddad as the principal governmental authority there.



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Haddad, a Christian who left the Lebanese Army in 1976 with about 400 soldiers, governs an enclave on Lebanon's southern border under Israel's protection. His force has grown to about 1,400 men, largely recruited from among the Shia of southern Lebanon.



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The Israelis, who originally sponsored the force as a buffer against Palestinian infiltration into northern Israel, have provided some training and advisers as well as a limited number of tanks, armored personnel carriers, and artillery pieces. Since the Israelis invaded Lebanon last June, they have coordinated Haddad's northward expansion. Tel Aviv wants to ensure that a force responsive to it will control the security zone that it demands in southern Lebanon.



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Comment: Haddad's most recent moves, which clearly were made at Israel's behest, are intended to force Beirut to accept him as the legitimate authority in the south. His forces are poorly trained and spread thin, however, and they would not be able to control the south without Israeli backing.



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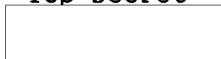
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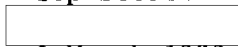
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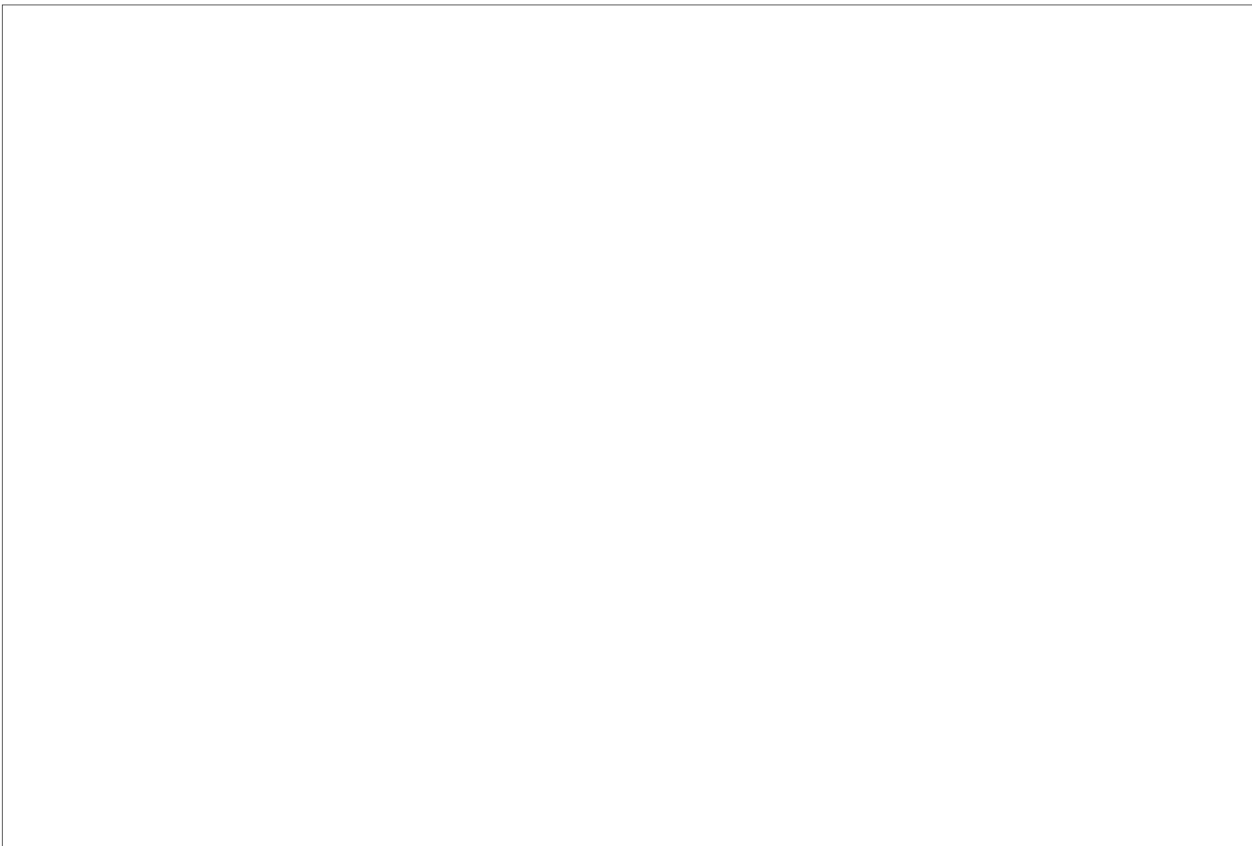
IRAQ-IRAN: Attack on Oilfield

Iraqi aircraft on Tuesday bombed Iran's Nawruz oilfield, which is near the head of the Persian Gulf. Two platforms serving six wells reportedly were destroyed. As of yesterday, all six wells still were burning. 

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Comment: The field at Nawruz and two associated fields probably have been producing less than 20,000 barrels per day. Iran still has more than 3 million barrels per day of production capacity. This attack, however, could lead to an increase in the air war. In the past the Iranians have retaliated for successful attacks on their facilities by attacking economic targets in Iraq. 

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[REDACTED]

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SURINAME: Seeking Arms

Army Commander Bouterse apparently hopes to assure his regime's stability by heavily arming his loyal supporters. [REDACTED]

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Comment: Bouterse probably is seeking weapons to arm the People's Militia and to replenish supplies for the approximately 2,000-man military. Late last year the regime received two shipments of ammunition and explosives [REDACTED] and a delivery of arms and ammunition [REDACTED]. Many of the weapons in the military's current inventory, however, are likely to have been rendered useless because of poor maintenance and lack of spare parts. Bouterse's search for weapons suggests Cuba has not yet been forthcoming with any sizable delivery of arms. [REDACTED]

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LEBANON: Army To Move Into Beirut's Port

The Lebanese Army announced yesterday it will take over the port of Beirut's Fifth Basin on Monday. This section of the port has long been controlled by the Christian Lebanese Forces militia, and customs duties from it have been the militia's primary source of revenue. The government initially agreed to leave the basin under Lebanese Forces control when the Army moved into East Beirut last month. [REDACTED]

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Comment: The extensive negotiations between the government and the Lebanese Forces preceding the Army's move into East Beirut suggest President Gemayel has reached an agreement with the militia leaders on sharing customs revenues. Nevertheless, the government's action demonstrates further progress in the extension of its authority. It probably is part of a strategy aimed at whittling away at the power of the Lebanese Forces. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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USSR-TURKEY: Soviet Official's Visit

First Deputy Foreign Minister Korniyenko arrived in Turkey yesterday for a brief visit. The Soviet Ambassador last Sunday told Turkish Foreign Ministry officials that Korniyenko wanted to discuss unspecified bilateral matters. The Turks say they believe the Soviets may want to reassure Turkey that its interests were not harmed during Premier Tikhonov's recent visit to Greece. They also anticipate the Soviets probably will also promote the Warsaw Pact's nonaggression proposal made in Prague in January and other Soviet initiatives designed to undermine NATO solidarity on INF and other issues.

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Comment: Assuaging possible Turkish concerns about Tikhonov's visit almost certainly is high on Korniyenko's agenda. Moscow wants to maintain a balance in its relations with Ankara and Athens.

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USSR: Reorganizing Agriculture

The leadership has renewed the Brezhnev regime's commitment to creating agro-industrial associations at the district level--the controversial centerpiece of the "food program"--which would shift some of the decisionmaking process away from local and ministerial bureaucrats to agricultural specialists and district farm authorities. Deputy Premier Nuriyev recently boasted that over 99 percent of the districts have now organized these associations. Many specialized production organizations of at least two of the agricultural ministries have been abolished, and their subordinate farms were put under the authority of the associations. [redacted]

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Comment: These changes are intended to streamline the complex agricultural bureaucracy of the Brezhnev era. After a slow start, establishment of these associations has accelerated--even though most of them probably exist in name only. The improvement of managerial efficiency will depend largely on how much independence eventually is given to the associations. It also will depend on the degree of authority the agricultural ministries retain after their reorganization is completed. [redacted]

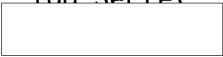
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EAST GERMANY: Military Manpower Problems



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The military currently calls up about 90,000 each year-- primarily from a pool of about 130,000 18-year-olds-- but it expects in the early 1990s only about 96,000 will be entering draft age annually. Increasing competition for workers with the civilian sector adds to the military's manpower problem. As one small remedy, the authorities in 1982 stopped granting automatic student deferrals. 

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Comment: Military leaders also could increase the percentage of reservists on active duty. The government eventually may extend the military service obligation to 24 months from 18. Such measures, however, probably would increase dissatisfaction among young people and gain new adherents for the nonofficial peace movement.



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