

The Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

20 AUG 1984

NIO/NEGA

looks good -
send it

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be the initials 'JL' or similar, written in dark ink.

THE DIRECTOR OF
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

Send it 16 August 1984

National Intelligence Council

NOTE FOR: DCI

SUBJECT: Succession to Khomeini

Attached is the paper on the succession to Khomeini. It was prepared by DDI and has been coordinated through my office and the DDO.

As I mentioned to you earlier, this paper covers in very brief terms what we plan to cover in much greater depth and detail in a forthcoming estimate on the prospects for Iran. Drafting of that paper will not begin until 1 September. This paper should cover the basic issues in the interim. The longer range issues to be covered in the estimate are of particular importance. I would like to explore the opposition in greater detail at that time as well as assess Soviet assets--both inside and outside Iran--which can be used either to pressure or influence Iran. The Soviet presence in Afghanistan obviously plays a significant role here.

In my view, the single most important aspect of the Gulf war is that it represents a struggle that is long term and geopolitical in nature between Persian Iran and Arab Iraq. This rivalry for domination of the Persian Gulf will continue in some form regardless of whether the war winds down into a de facto ceasefire.

If you approve the paper, we will send it to community members.

Graham E. Fuller
Graham E. Fuller

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