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11 April 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Chairman, National Intelligence Council
Vice Chairman, National Intelligence Council

FROM:
National Intelligence Officer for Warning

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SUBJECT: Monthly Warning Meetings for March 1984

1. Summary of key warning issues:

US/Soviet Relations

Through the US elections we believe that the Soviet posture will be carefully balanced between trying not to appear totally intransigent, particularly on arms control negotiations, while not making any move which would suggest that US policy is working or help the President's reelection. This will be a subtle public relations game for which they are gearing up by providing additional funds to Arbatov's publicists to travel to the US and engage in discussions with Americans.

India

We have been reporting for many months on the increasing violence in Punjab state. The Hindu-Sikh conflict has resulted in over one-hundred deaths in the last five weeks and now threatens to spill over to adjoining states. The use of the Army to control the violence in Punjab and surrounding states could, particularly in this election year, be viewed as a sign of political vulnerability. Additionally, the fact that the Army is 12% Sikh could result in serious problems within the Army.

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Southern Africa

The drought in the region will have significant impact on government and anti-government activities in every country of the region. It will also stimulate increasing requests for international aid to alleviate the starvation and economic difficulties.

Cyprus

Turkish Cypriot forces for many years have been on the strong side of the power balance. However, there is now general agreement the Greek Cypriot forces have either reached, or may be nearing, military parity. As Turkish and Turkish Cypriot forces become more aware of this shift in balance, the possibility of military confrontation on Cyprus will increase.

Iran-Iraq

We continue to anticipate a large-scale Iranian offensive, probably centered in the al-Basrah region. The delays over the last month have probably been the result of logistics problems including the redeployment of troops and munitions, as well as the deliberate flooding in the marshes which severely impedes movement. There are some tenuous indications of morale problems among Iranian troops, but more information is required. NIO/NESA notes the need to focus on the possible consequences of an Iraqi collapse under continued Iranian pressure. While deemed unlikely at present, the implications for other Persian Gulf countries would be dramatic.

PLO Activity in Israel

Israeli concern is growing that both pro-and anti-Arafat PLO factions may be responsible for the recent large-scale terrorist attacks in Israel. Arafat needs to adopt a more militant posture to firm up his position, and, thus, may well feel compelled to increase his efforts to infiltrate in to the West Bank and Israel proper.

Philippines

Support for a boycott of the upcoming election is increasing as Marcos and his people appear to be willing to manipulate voter registration and thus rig the election. IMF negotiations have been stopped until after the elections and the economy continues to deteriorate. The insurgency continues to grow. The effect of both the political and economic situations on the military's attitudes remains unclear. Although not definitive, there continue to be disturbing reports on the state of Marcos' health.

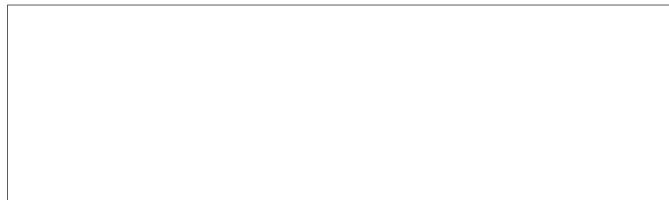
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3. Trend Commentary

With the exception of the situation in Lebanon, which has fallen off the warning screen for the time being, the warning issues have remained fairly consistent over the last three months. It should be noted however, that the Soviets did conduct one of their largest fleet exercises, which while it featured many firsts, should not be that surprising, but rather viewed as part of the trend toward larger and more realistic exercise play.



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Attachments:
Warning Reports (h/w)

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