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IRAN-IRAQ:

Military Activity

Iran has increased its military pressure on Iraq and continues preparing for a large offensive. [redacted]

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Press reports say that at least 20 people were killed and as many as 80 were wounded by the Scud missile that hit Baghdad yesterday.

[redacted] however, there was no panic, and the civilian population seemed to be coping with the incident. The press also reports that Iranian aircraft bombed oil facilities near Karkuk in retaliation for Iraqi raids against civilian targets in northwestern Iran.

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[redacted]

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Satellite photography shows additional work on Iranian bridges across the Shatt-al Arab and continued high levels of activity at training camps throughout Iran. [redacted]

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Comment: Tehran is probably trying to improve its psychological and tactical advantage over Baghdad before launching a major offensive. Baghdad is likely to respond by increasing attacks on Iranian economic targets and may resume airstrikes on Tehran. Raids on Tehran last year generated significant Iranian public protests against the war. [redacted]

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The attack on Majnoon Island was probably a probe for weaknesses in Iraq's defenses and an attempt to gain a better foothold for launching further offensive operations on the southern front. [redacted]

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