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DATE: 1/17/01 *Microfilm*

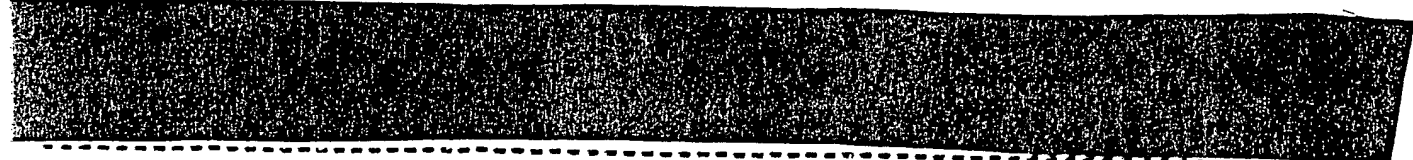
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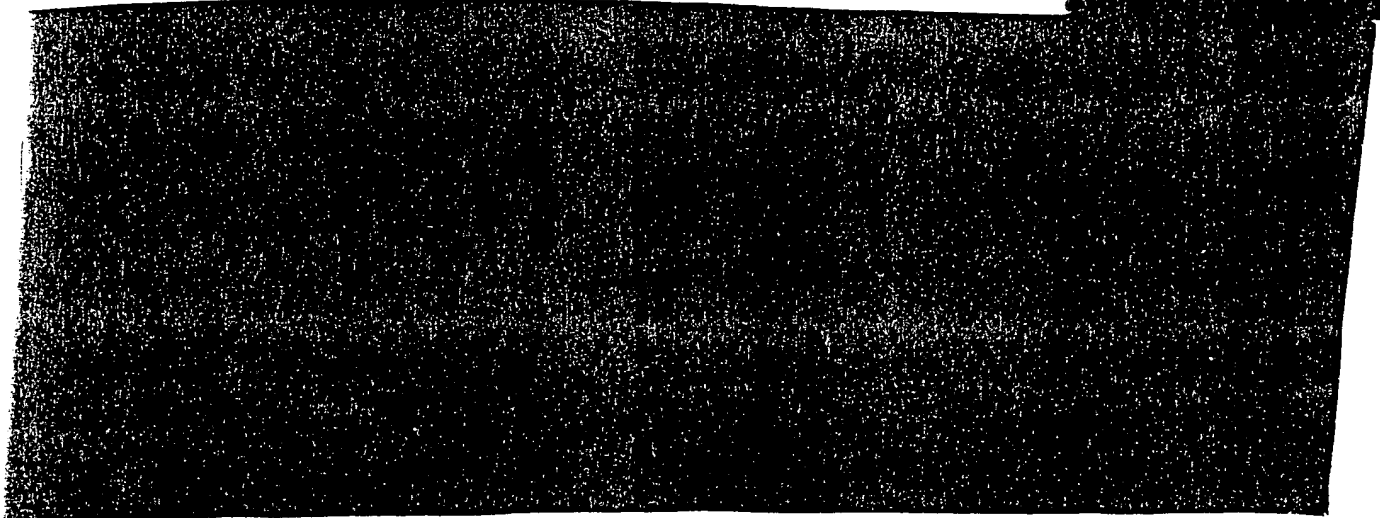
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PAGE 001
TOT: 202353Z MAY 80.



MEA BRIEF CO MEAB 80-099 FOR 20 MAY 1980



1. IRAN: SITUATION REPORT



CONTENTS

1. IRAN: IRAN'S SUPPORT FOR THE AFGHAN INSURGENCY
REMAINS LARGELY SYMBOLIC.

TEHRAN'S DECISION TO INCLUDE AFGHAN REPRESENTATIVES
IN ITS DELEGATION TO THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE UNDERSCORES
IRAN'S COMMITMENT TO THE AFGHAN CAUSE. SEVERAL AFGHAN
GROUPS HAVE OFFICES IN TEHRAN, QDM, MASHHAD, AND OTHER
IRANIAN CITIES, AND UP TO 100,000 AFGHAN REFUGEES HAVE
TAKEN REFUGE IN IRAN.



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PAGE 002
TOT: 202353Z MAY 80

DESPITE FREQUENT PROMISES FROM BANI-SADR AND OTHER IRANIAN LEADERS, HOWEVER, TEHRAN IS PROBABLY SUPPLYING ONLY LIMITED AMOUNTS OF ARMS AND OTHER SUPPLIES TO THE INSURGENTS. THE GOVERNMENT IS TOO PREOCCUPIED WITH OTHER PROBLEMS TO FOCUS MUCH ATTENTION ON THE AFGHANS, AND AFGHAN LEADERS HAVE PUBLICLY EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION WITH THE LACK OF SIGNIFICANT IRANIAN SUPPORT.

TEHRAN'S SUPPORT FOR THE INSURGENTS WILL CONTINUE TO BE AN IRRITANT IN IRANIAN-USSR RELATIONS, BUT TEHRAN PROBABLY DOES NOT WANT TO LET THE AFGHAN ISSUE INTERFERE WITH ITS EFFORTS TO INCREASE TRADE AND ECONOMIC CONTACTS WITH THE SOVIETS. WE EXPECT IRAN TO CONTINUE TO GIVE VOCAL PUBLIC SUPPORT TO THE AFGHANS, SAFE HAVEN, AND SOME LIMITED AID, BUT WE DOUBT TEHRAN WILL BECOME A MAJOR SUPPORTER OF THE INSURGENCY FOR SOME TIME.