



Director of
Central
Intelligence

~~Top Secret~~

NOFORN-NOCONTRACT-
ORCON

CIAC PAS --- NID 88-095JX ---

National Intelligence Daily

Saturday
23 April 1988

RELEASE IN PART
EXEMPTIONS: (b)(1)
(b)(3)
DATE: SEP 2001



T00 2725 23 19 604

~~Top Secret~~

CPAS NID 88-095JX

0 3 1 4

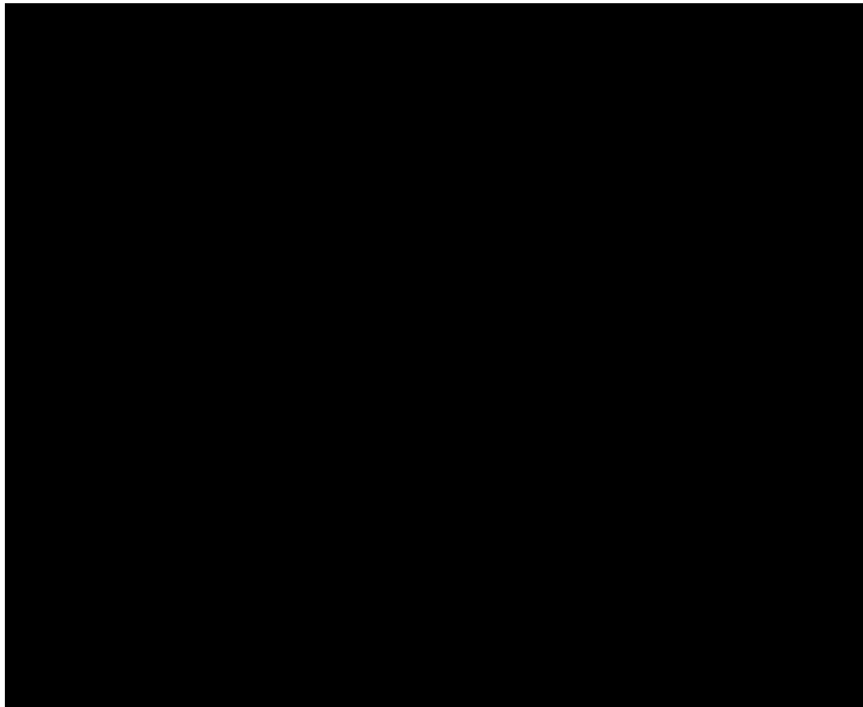
21

~~Top Secret~~

NOFORN-NOCONTRACT-
ORCON

Contents

Persian Gulf: Situation Report 1

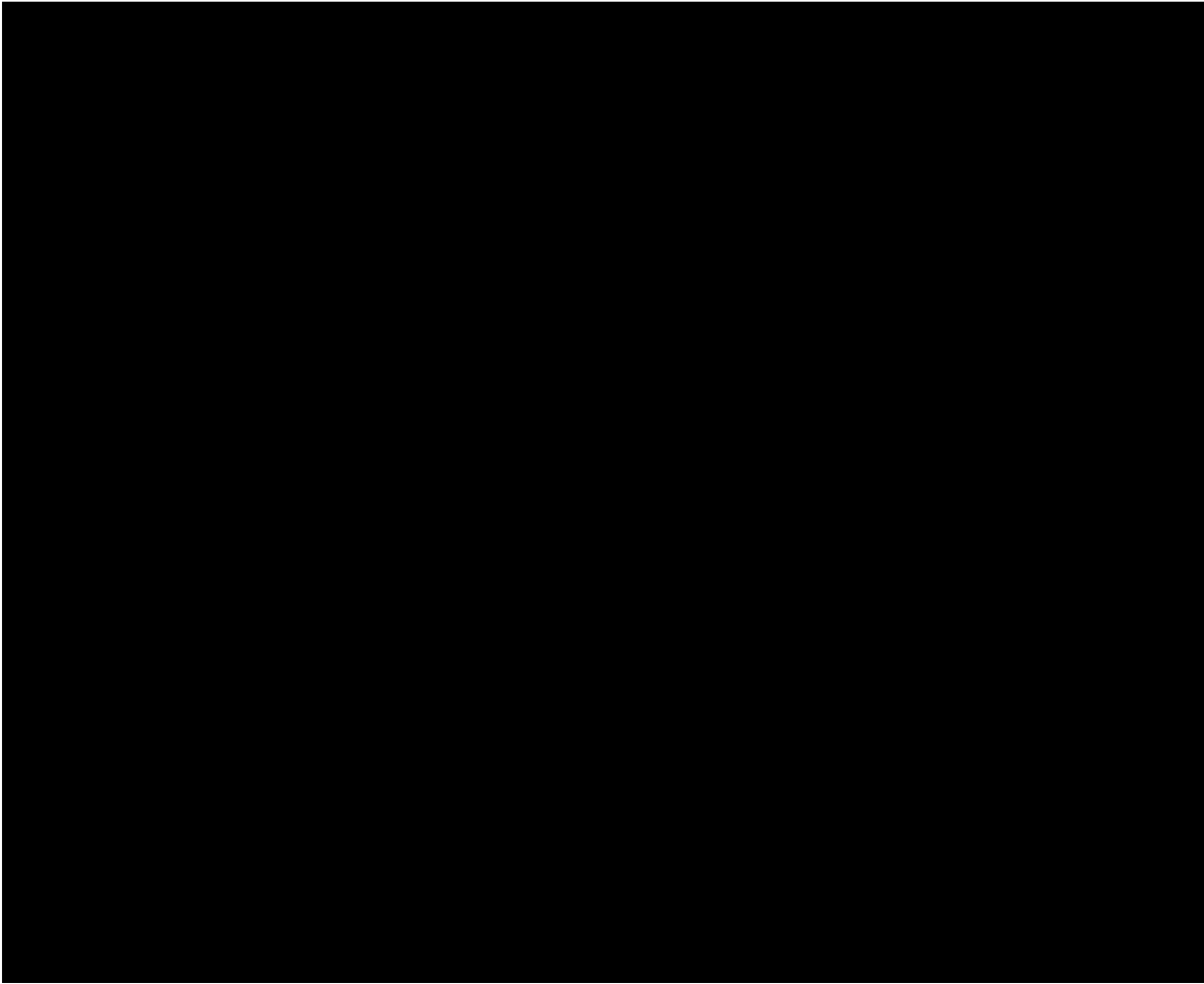


~~Top Secret~~

29 April 1988

0 3 1 6

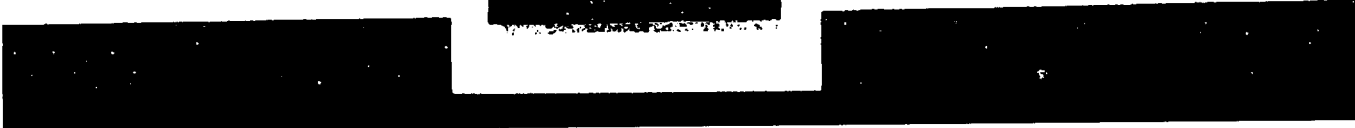
Top Secret



Top Secret

29 April 1966

0 3 1 7

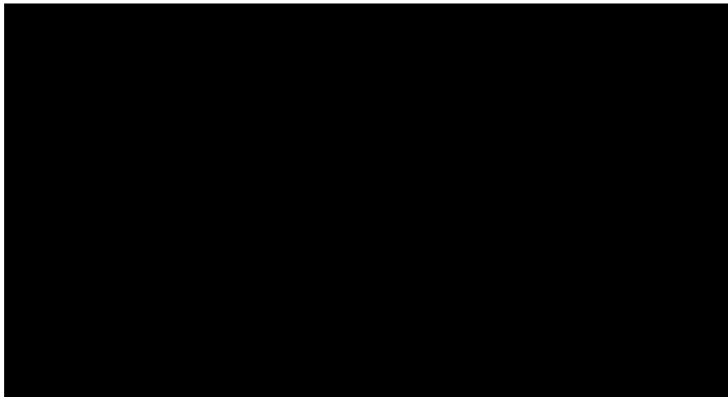


~~Top Secret~~

NOFORN-NOCONTRACT-
ORCON

PERSIAN GULF: Situation Report

Military Activity



Comment: The apparent minefield was found near major shipping lanes and anchorages used by unescorted tankers. It is not clear if the various mines discovered this week were part of the Iranian minelaying effort before the USS Roberts was hit or were laid more recently in retaliation for the clashes this week with the US. The Silkworm missile activity may have been for training or possibly in preparation for deployment. [REDACTED]

**Oil Exports
Unaffected by
Platform Attacks**

The US strikes Monday against Iran's Sassan and Sirri oil platforms—apparently no longer on fire—are unlikely to have any significant effect on Iranian oil earnings. Sassan was not producing oil prior to the attack, and Sirri's output of approximately 40,000 barrels per day—worth about \$200 million a year at current prices—represented only about 2 percent of total Iranian production. Both platforms were built by US companies before the revolution. [REDACTED]

Comment: Initial damage assessments indicate production is unlikely to resume at Sirri. Nonetheless, even a permanent shutdown of the facility would have little impact because Iranian onshore production could easily take up the slack. In addition, the oil export shuttle system will not be affected because Iran moved its shuttle operations from Sirri Island to Larak Island in 1986 following an Iraqi attack against Sirri. Iran will probably need Western expertise—likely to cost tens of millions of dollars—to repair either platform. [REDACTED]

continued

~~Top Secret~~

23 April 1988

0 3 1 8

Iraq Stressing Islam

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn used his sudden visit to Saudi Arabia Wednesday to advance his efforts to cloak his secular regime in Islam. Immediately after the military victory at Al Faw, Saddam flew to Saudi Arabia to visit Mecca before seeing the Saudi leaders in Riyadh. He last performed the pilgrimage in December 1986 to celebrate Iraq's defeat of the Iranian Karbala 4 ground offensive. Saddam named Iraq's recent ground offensive after the holy month of Ramadan, launched the attack on the first day of the month, and called the modified Scud missiles used in the war of the cities "Husayn" after the revered Shia martyr. [REDACTED]

Comment: Saddam's adoption of religious trappings is probably an attempt to boost Iraqi morale and weaken Iran's will to fight. During the seven years of fighting, the Ba'thist regime has maintained its secularism against Iran's call for an Islamic republic in Iraq. At the same time, Baghdad has highlighted Iraqi leaders' observance of religious rites, tightened enforcement of abstinence from alcohol during Ramadan, and refurbished Shia shrines. [REDACTED]

Iranian Silence

Ayatollah Khomeini has not appeared in public since Iran's military defeat at Al Faw and Iran's losses to the US naval forces in the Gulf earlier this week; he often appears during periods of tension in an effort to shore up the regime's leadership. Khomeini's last appearance—a televised meeting with Air Force personnel—was broadcast on 11 April. The next most likely time for a public appearance is the anniversary of the unsuccessful US mission to rescue American hostages, which occurred during 24 and 25 April 1980. [REDACTED]

Comment: Although Khomeini sometimes has waited several weeks before commenting on major events, his silence at this time is noticeable because of the importance to him of the war and of opposing the US military presence in the Gulf. His absence could also be due to physical disability or to a busy schedule of meetings to decide how to react to the recent military setbacks [REDACTED]