



Director of
Central
Intelligence

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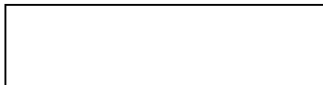
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Contents



France-Iran: Bracing for Reaction 3



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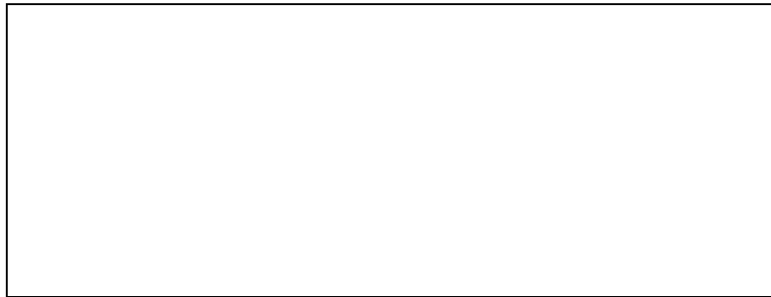
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FRANCE-IRAN: Bracing for Reaction

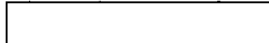
//The French are preparing for a possible strong Iranian reaction to the sale of Super Etendard aircraft with Exocet missiles to Iraq.//



Comment: //The French probably are hoping that Baghdad will use the planes only for diplomatic leverage and as a defensive deterrent. If the Iraqis decide, however, to use the aircraft and their Exocet missiles to attack Iranian offshore oil platforms or tankers, the French will have to be prepared in case Tehran carries out its threats to close the Strait of Hormuz.//



//Since the French have only limited resources in the area and have obligations in Lebanon, they would be dependent on the US for air cover and other assistance in military operations in the region.//



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