



Directorate of
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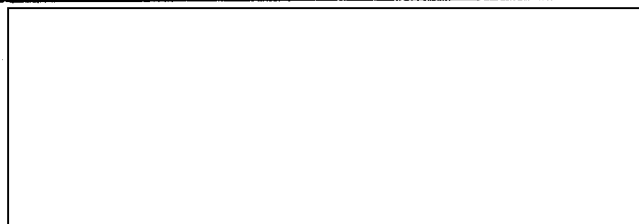
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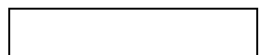
Article



Brief

Iran: Ready To Use Chemical Weapons

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**Near East and
South Asia Review** [Redacted]

Brief

Iran

Ready To Use Chemical Weapons [Redacted]

Iran may be preparing to employ chemical weapons against Iraq. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

Iran may have a sufficient stockpile of chemical weapons to retaliate forcefully against an Iraqi use of chemicals or possibly to initiate a chemical attack of its own in the next offensive. We believe Iran has a limited chemical agent production capability. The Iranians have been purchasing chemical agent precursors for several years. In early November, Mohsen Rafiq-Dust, Minister of the Revolutionary Guard, publicly stated that Iran had become self-sufficient in the production of both chemical and biological weapons. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

Tehran has laid the political groundwork for using chemical weapons by reserving the right to retaliate if international sanctions failed to restrain Baghdad. Iran probably chose not to use chemicals earlier because its stockpile was so small. Also, the clerical regime exploited Iraq's use of chemicals to cast Baghdad in the role of villain and to undermine Iraq's efforts to secure international sanctions against Iran. We believe, however, that Tehran is now willing to use chemical weapons, given the massive Iraqi usage and the relatively weak international condemnation it has aroused. [Redacted]

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