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Director of
Central
Intelligence

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National Intelligence Daily

Tuesday
4 March 1980

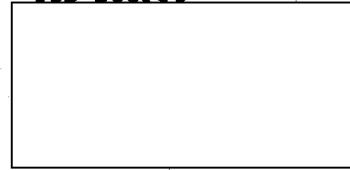
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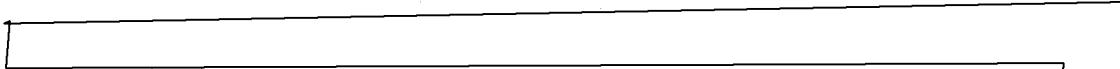
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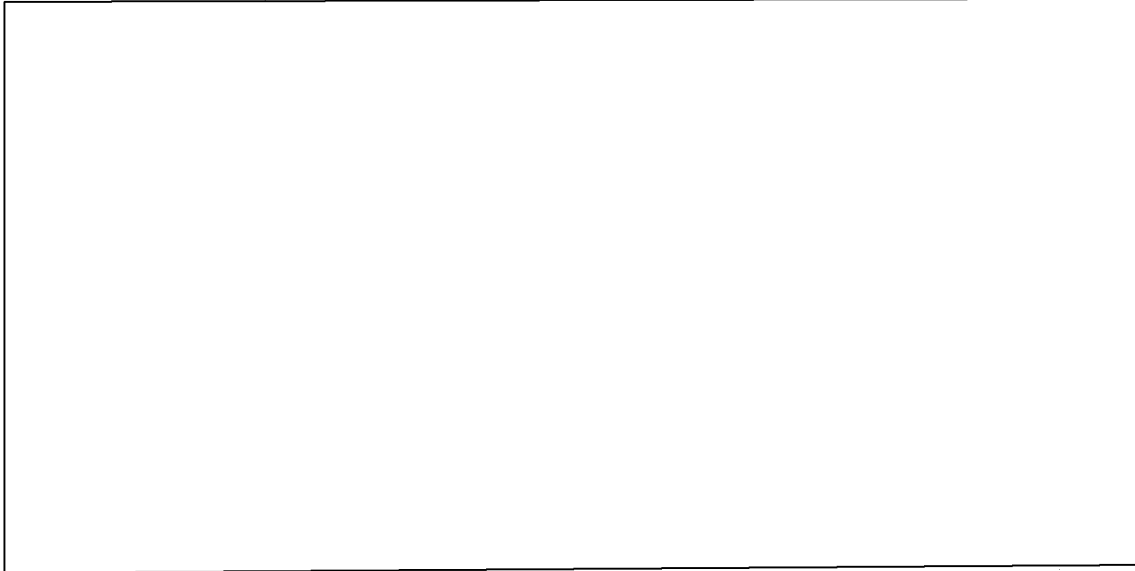


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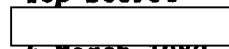
Situation Reports



Iran 3



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IRAN

The militants and their clerical backers have presented another strong challenge to President Bani-Sadr with the Revolutionary Prosecutor's demand that Embassy Political Counselor Tomseth testify about US contacts with a terrorist group.

Tomseth and two other US Embassy officers have remained in custody at the Foreign Ministry despite the militants' repeated attempts to gain control over them. The militants' case is stronger now, however, because the Prosecutor has taken the lead in calling for Tomseth to appear in court. Foreign Minister Ghotbzadeh today informed the Prosecutor that Ayatollah Khomeini must decide the issue, and added that the Revolutionary Council would resolve the problem if Khomeini did not.

Dissident Minorities

The Kurdish Democratic Party has renewed efforts to reach a local autonomy agreement with the government. Both sides have released prisoners taken in earlier clashes, and a party delegation is in Tehran to meet with Bani-Sadr. The party has announced that its members will vote in the election of a parliament and has emphasized its acceptance of the current political system.

Leaders of the Kurdish party are seeking to comply with an Interior Ministry announcement that any party may operate legally so long as its program is not contrary to the interests of the Islamic Republic. They hope to exploit an agreement that gives their party official recognition as spokesman for the Kurds and thus get credit for solving some Kurdish grievances. The leaders also want a clear path to increase party strength and quash other Kurdish political groups.

Clashes between rival leftist dissident groups have increased in recent weeks in Kurdish and Turkoman areas of northwest and north-central Iran.

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