

(b) (1)  
(b) (3)



Director of  
Central  
Intelligence

~~Top Secret~~



# National Intelligence Daily

*Saturday*  
*1 March 1980*

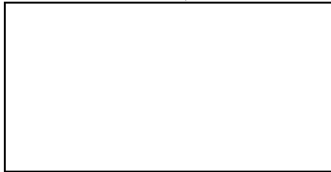
~~Top Secret~~

CO NIC 80-0511X

1 March 1980

Copy 000

~~Top Secret~~

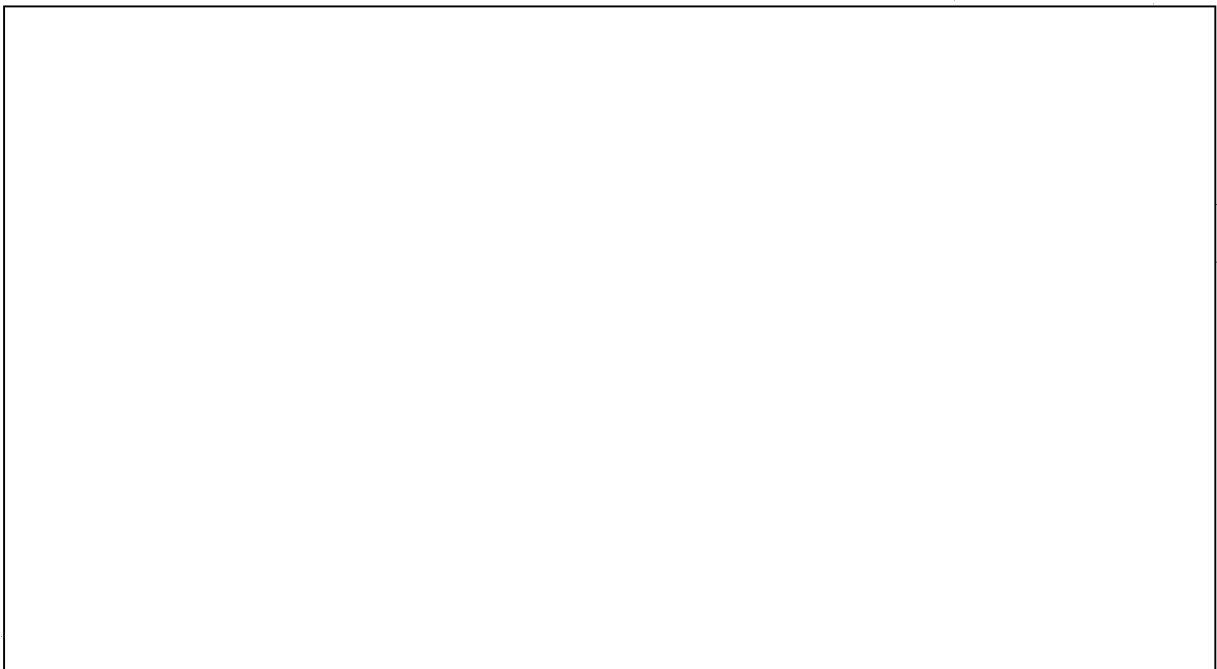


**Contents**

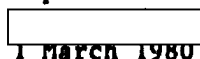


**Briefs and Comments**

USSR - Western Europe: *Proposed Energy Conference* . . . . 3



~~Top Secret~~



1 MARCH 1980

~~Top Secret~~

## BRIEFS AND COMMENTS

### USSR - WESTERN EUROPE: Proposed Energy Conference

*The Soviets, in an attempt to drive a wedge between the US and its West European allies, used a TASS commentary yesterday to raise the possibility that an all-European conference on energy consider the security of oil supply lines from the Persian Gulf and equal access to the oil supplies of the region. (U)*

The Soviets are well aware the West Germans in particular are interested in pursuing energy cooperation with the USSR. They also believe that many West Europeans are looking for ways to reduce East-West tension over Afghanistan and to resume a positive dialogue with the USSR. (U)

The author of the commentary termed his proposal a "sensible and promising alternative to the adventurist and hegemonistic policy of the US" in the Persian Gulf region. Although the author repeated President Brezhnev's acknowledgment on 22 February that the US interest in protecting its oil supply routes is understandable, he also tried to establish a comparable Soviet interest in ensuring the safety of the routes. He cited West German Chancellor Schmidt's recent comment that the USSR, "as a potential purchaser of Near East oil," has a legitimate right of access to its source. The implicit acknowledgment that the USSR will increasingly look to the Near East for oil puts the West on notice that Soviet strategic interests must be taken into account in any discussion of the Gulf and its oil routes. (U)

The Soviet commentary could also presage increased Soviet efforts to establish a dialogue with the conservative Arab oil producers on commercial matters. Moscow's use of force in Afghanistan has heightened Arab anxiety, and the Soviets will try to convince the Persian Gulf states that the expansion of a US military presence in the area is a real threat. (U)

~~Top Secret~~

1 March 1980

