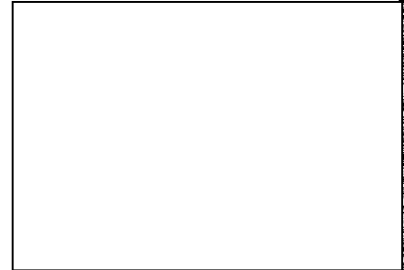


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Director of
Central
Intelligence

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National Intelligence Daily

Monday
28 April 1980

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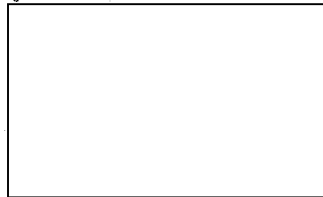
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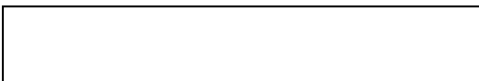
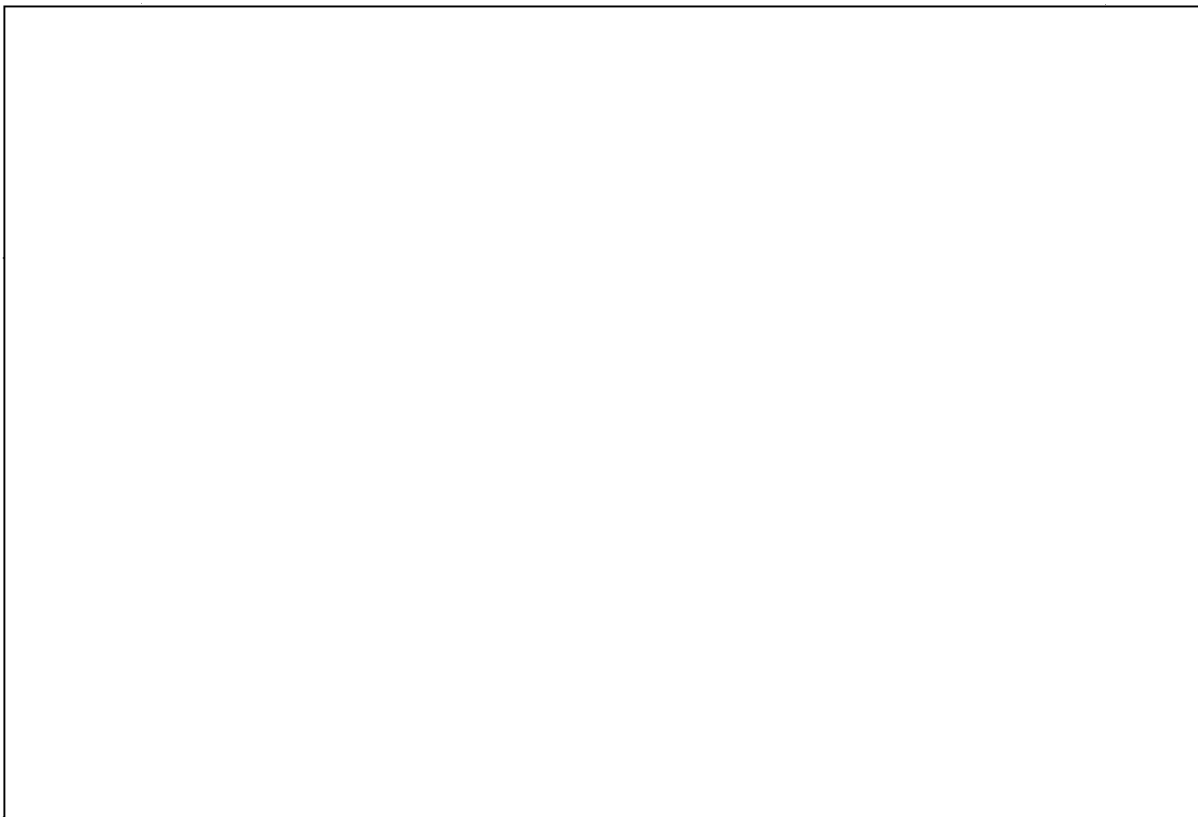
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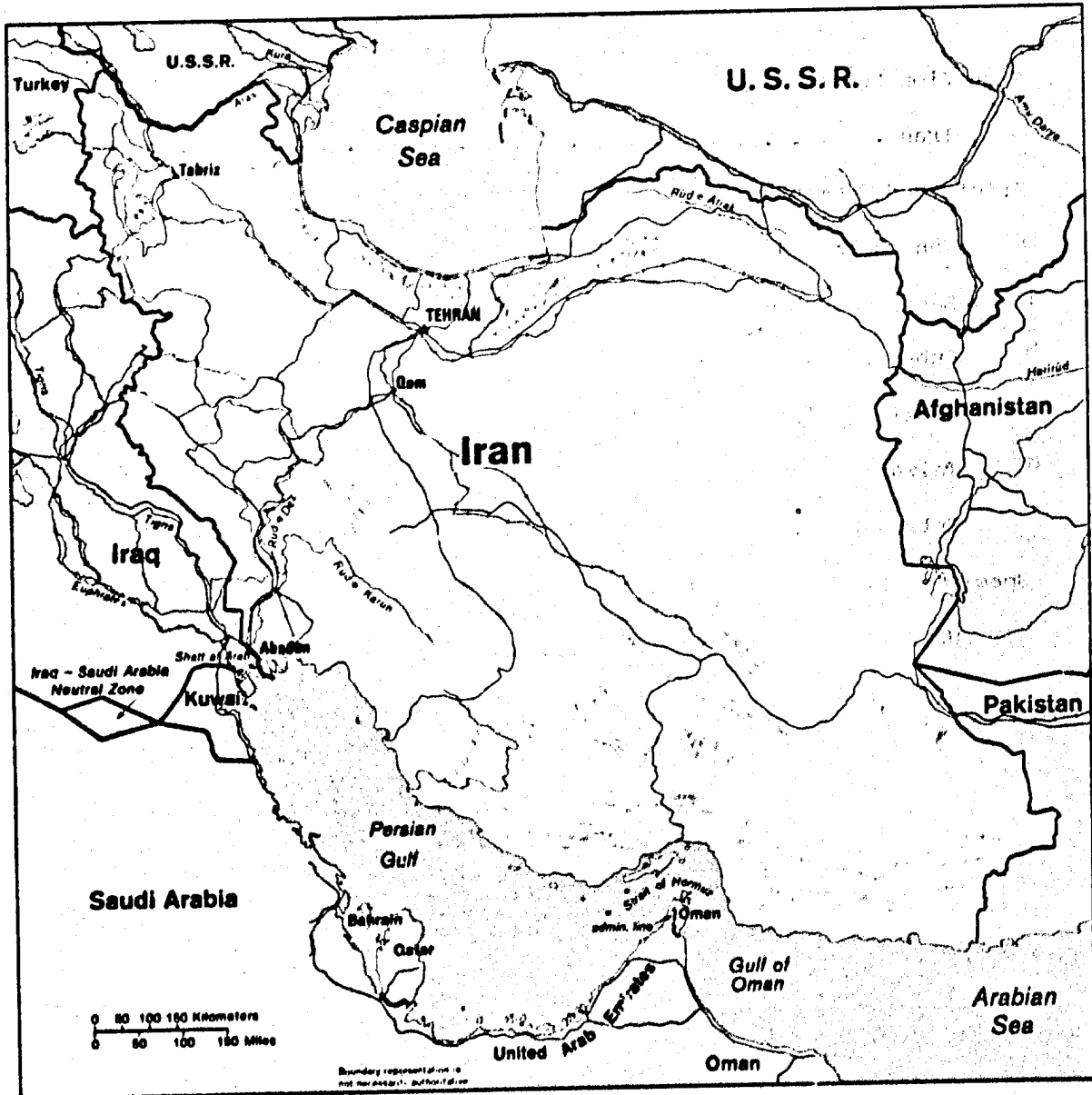
Situation Report

Iran 1



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SITUATION REPORT

IRAN

The aborted rescue mission apparently has strengthened the position of Iranian hardliners who are opposed to any compromise with the US. []

[]
Beheshti's statement yesterday that Bani-Sadr should not have agreed to the unconditional return of the commandos' bodies indicates that Beheshti believes Bani-Sadr is vulnerable. Beheshti's Islamic Republic Party newspaper demanded yesterday that the bodies--currently on display at the Embassy--be returned only in exchange for Iranian assets blocked by the US. []

Tehran radio has broadcast the purported full text of a Khomeini message to President Bani-Sadr last night. The Ayatollah blasts Western and UN support for "world-devouring America" and suggests Bani-Sadr invite various foreign groups to observe the results of the aborted US mission. He flatly refers to "50 spies" being detained--using "we" to describe those holding the hostages--but contends they are being treated with "the utmost humanity." The final paragraph admonishes Bani-Sadr to caution subversive elements against dissident activity "at the crucial moment," citing Iranian Kurds and US supporters "quite numerous among our own so-called intelligentsia and the youngsters who have been deceived by these groups." (U)

We have no information to confirm or deny the militants' claim that they have transferred hostages to Qom and Tabriz, but it appears likely that at least some of the hostages have been taken out of the compound. []

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[REDACTED]

EC Summit Communique

Iran appears certain to be a key topic in the EC summit communique to be issued later today. Press backgrounders on the initial discussions, which wound up early today in Luxembourg, indicate it is likely to stress solidarity with the US on the hostage issue and reiterate the decisions announced by the EC Foreign Ministers last Tuesday.

[REDACTED]

Asian Reactions

In its first official reaction to the rescue mission, China expressed "regret" over the US move and strongly implied that such an action played into the hands of the USSR. A Chinese Foreign Ministry statement issued yesterday characterized US sanctions as well as the rescue operation as a violation of Iran's sovereignty and called on "both sides" to exercise "prudence and restraint" in working toward a solution. According to press reports, Vice Premier Li Xiannian made similar points today in a meeting with a delegation of visiting US newspaper executives. (U)

Since the beginning of the hostage situation the Chinese have counseled restraint because they are fearful of moves that might work to Moscow's benefit. In an effort to add balance, the Foreign Ministry statement also expressed the "hope" that Iran will release the hostages as soon as possible. (U)

Japanese Prime Minister Ohira told reporters yesterday that he will urge President Carter in their meeting Thursday to use "only peaceful means" to solve the hostage problem and will commit Japan to act in coordination with Western Europe to press Iran for an early release of the

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hostages. [redacted]

USSR - East European Reactions

Soviet commentary continues to be sharply critical, describing the rescue attempt as "new adventurism" and a threat to peace in the Persian Gulf. To date, however, no ranking Soviet leader has reacted publicly, with the exception of Foreign Minister Gromyko's negative comments at a news conference on Friday in Paris. [redacted]

Reaction in Eastern Europe consists mostly of factual reporting and sparse, but highly critical, editorial comments, with most countries apparently following Moscow's lead. Romania, however, has departed from its past restraint on controversial international issues and is giving the story extensive coverage, including a report in the party daily expressing the Romanian Government's disapproval. The unusually sharp tone of the Romanian response undoubtedly reflects Bucharest's desire to safeguard its newly signed oil import agreement with Iran. [redacted]

Saudi Reaction

The Saudi Government in an official statement last night expressed "great concern and much regret" about the US rescue mission, which it characterized as "going beyond" the "acceptable limits of international behavior." Riyadh urged both the US and Iran to exercise "self-restraint" and work for the release of the hostages. (U)

The little media coverage of the incident in Saudi Arabia has been largely negative, in keeping with the Saudi position as a primary proponent of Islamic solidarity. Editorial comment has ranged from calls for restraint to condemnation of the US action. Reactions from other Persian Gulf states have centered on the possible effects the operation might have on the stability of the area. [redacted]

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Iran-Iraq

Iraq appears to be planning sabotage operations in Iran and against Iranian facilities in Kuwait. (S)

The Iranian Government announced yesterday that it shot down an Iraqi helicopter and chased off three others trying to rescue the survivors.

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