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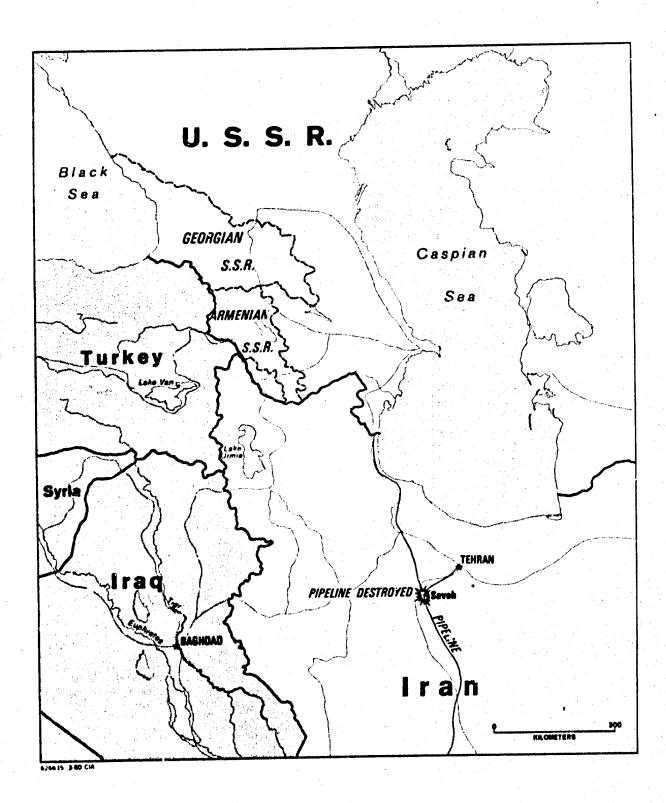
Saturday 8 March 1980

Top Secret

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Contents Briefs and Comments Iran-USSR: Damaged Gas Pipeline				-Top-Secret-
Briefs and Comments Iran-USSR: Damaged Gas Pipeline				
Briefs and Comments Iran-USSR: Damaged Gas Pipeline				
Briefs and Comments Iran-USSR: Damaged Gas Pipeline				
Briefs and Comments Iran-USSR: Damaged Gas Pipeline	Combonto			
Top Secret	Contents			
Top Secret				
Top Secret				
• Top Secret	Briefs and C	omments		
• Top Secret		·		
• Top Secret				
• Top Secret				
• Top Secret				
• Top Secret				
• Top Secret				
• Ton Secret				
Top Secret.				
*Top Secret				
Top Secret.				
Top Secret.				
• Ton Secret				
• Ton Secret	Iran-US	ISR: Damaged G	as Pipeline	10
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				Ton Secret
				8 March 1980



Top Secret	

IRAN-USSR: Damaged Gas Pipeline

A major gas pipeline explosion southwest of Tehran late last month will halt gas deliveries to the USSR for five to seven weeks. The explosion, apparently caused by corrosion of the pipeline, destroyed more than five kilometers of the line. As a result of the cutoff, the Soviet republics of Armenia and Georgia are once again facing a fuel shortage. Supply disruptions since the Iranian revolution, however, have prompted the Soviets to build new oil and gas pipelines, expand gas storage capacity, and take other steps to improve domestic energy supplies in the region.

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