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DISSEMINATION CONTROL ABBREVIATIONS

NOFORN-	Not Releasable to Foreign Nationals
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19 September 1980

MEMORANDUM

IRAN: IMAM MUSA SADR'S WHEREABOUTS

Imam Musa Sadr was last seen in Tripoli, Libya on 31 August 1978. Libyan officials claim he left Libya on that date on Alitalia flight 881 for Rome and they claim that his baggage was discovered at the Holiday Inn in Rome several days later when he failed to contact friends in the city. Official and private Italian contacts of the US Embassy in Rome claim he never arrived in Rome.

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[redacted] report that Libyan leader Qadhafi was unhappy with Musa Sadr because the Shia leader had misspent and misappropriated funds given by the Libyans to him to support his Amal (Hope) movements in southern Lebanon. [redacted] differ on what happend to him in August 1978. Some say he was detained for interrogation by the Libyans and killed either by accident or design. Other [redacted] report that he was detained and remained a prisoner in Libya.

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There are a wide variety of other rumors about Musa Sadr's whereabouts. Some claim he was killed by SAVAK, CIA, Israeli intelligence or some rival Lebanese group. None of these claims seem credible.

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[redacted] most local observers including Arab and foreign diplomats believe Musa Sadr was killed by the Libyans. None of these observers has definite proof of this but most base it on conversations with local Libyan officials [redacted]

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*This memorandum was prepared by [redacted] of the Southwest Asia Analytic Center, Near East South Asia Division, Office of Political Analysis. Comments and queries may be addressed to Deputy Chief, Southwest Asia Analytic Center on [redacted]*

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**WARNING NOTICE**  
INTELLIGENCE SOURCES  
AND METHODS INVOLVED

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[Redacted]

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[Large Redacted Area]

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SUBJECT: Iran: Imam Musa Sadr's Whereabouts

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