

FR-112-184341

Kurds

IRAQ-IRAN SITUATION: IRAQI AND IRANIAN TROOPS HAVE CLASHED FOR THE PAST FEW DAYS IN THE SAME AREA WHERE FIGHTING TOOK PLACE IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH A YEAR AGO. THE IRANIAN PRESS SAYS AN IRAQI FORCE THAT INCLUDED SOME TANKS AND ARTILLERY WAS DRIVEN BACK BY IRANIAN BORDER GUARDS. IN BAGHDAD'S VERSION, THE FIGHTING OCCURRED WHEN IRANIAN TROOPS CROSSED INTO IRAQ. [REDACTED] IRAQ HAD BEEN INCREASING ITS TROOP AND ARMOR STRENGTH ALONG THE BORDER SINCE THE BEGINNING

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OF THIS MONTH. [REDACTED] THE IRAQIS WERE PREPARING TO RETALIATE AGAINST IRAN FOR THE DOWNING OF TWO IRAQI AIRCRAFT IN NORTHERN IRAQ IN DECEMBER. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] IRAQIS APPARENT ATTEMPT TO PLAY UP ITS QUARREL WITH IRAN MAY HAVE BEEN TIMED WITH THE COMING VISIT OF WALDHEIM TO TEHRAN AND BAGHDAD. THE IRAQIS MAY BE HOPING THE UN WILL ASSUME A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN THE DISPUTE, AS IT DID A YEAR AGO WHEN THE SECURITY COUNCIL TOOK UP THE ISSUE.

INDOCHINA SITUATION: KC GUNNERS YESTERDAY SANK A CAMBODIAN NAVY BARGE NEAR THE MEKONG RIVER NARROWS, SOME 25 MILES SOUTH-EAST OF PHNOM PENH. INSURGENT GROUND UNITS ARE KEEPING HEAVY PRESSURE ON GOVERNMENT POSITIONS ALL ALONG THE RIVER. COMBAT ACTIVITY IN THE PHNOM PENH AREA DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS CAME LARGELY AT THE GOVERNMENT'S INITIATIVE. IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, THE COMMUNISTS HAVE LAUNCHED FRESH ATTACKS AGAINST A NUMBER OF WIDELY SEPARATED PROVINCIAL CAPITALS, BUT GOVERNMENT DEFENDERS HAVE REACTED WELL.

LITTLE MILITARY ACTION WAS REPORTED IN SOUTH VIETNAM ON THE FIRST DAY OF TET -- THE THREE-DAY LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAY -- WHICH BEGAN TODAY. ONGOING GOVERNMENT COUNTERATTACK AND MOPPING-UP OPERATIONS IN SEVERAL OF THE NORTHERN PROVINCES PROVOKED SOME SMALL CLASHES, BUT CASUALTIES WERE LIGHT.

THATCHER WINS LEADERSHIP OF CONSERVATIVE PARTY:
 REUTER REPORTS THAT MARGARET THATCHER TODAY WON THE LEADERSHIP OF BRITAIN'S OPPOSITION CONSERVATIVE PARTY. THE FIRST WOMAN TO HOLD THE POST, THE FORMER EDUCATION MINISTER WON 146 OF THE 276 TOTAL ELIGIBLE VOTES.
 8598

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

ARMY Review Completed

Feb. 11, 1975
 Situation Room
 "Information Items" for HHC
 TOTAK 14 (111610Z FEB 75)