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SENIOR EXECUTIVE INTELLIGENCE BRIEF
15 January 2003
PASS SEIB 03-012CHX

Iraq: SRBMs Located Closer to Kuwait [redacted]

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Baghdad has positioned Ababil-100 short-range ballistic missiles (SRBMs) in southern Iraq, possibly to support a forward deployment in preparation for war. [redacted]

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[redacted] an undisclosed number of missiles--referred to as al-Fat'h--at a missile range near Al Qurnah, 100 km north of the Kuwaiti border.

-- In its declarations to the UN last month, Iraq identified the Ababil-100 as synonymous with al-Fat'h.

-- There is no indication of Ababil-100 missile launchers near the Al Qurnah missile range, suggesting Iraq is using the area as a storage site.

-- [redacted] a Gulf war-era Scud launchsite is located near Al Qurnah, within range of US forces in northern Kuwait.

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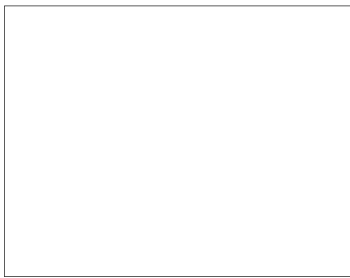
-- Baghdad would have to deploy the Ababil-100, one of Iraq's 150-km UN-authorized systems, closer to Al Basrah to strike Kuwait City. [redacted]

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This move probably is related to a countrywide dispersal of missile units under way since last fall in preparation for hostilities [redacted]

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