

~~TOP SECRET~~ [redacted]

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SENIOR EXECUTIVE INTELLIGENCE BRIEF  
20 November 2002  
PASS SEIB 02-270CHX

**Iraq: International Humanitarian Planning Muddled** [redacted]

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*The UN's reluctance to discuss humanitarian planning, coordination problems, and budget cuts threatens to slow potential humanitarian response efforts in case of a US conflict with Iraq.*

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*There also are differing estimates between UN agencies and Iraq's neighbors regarding potential population displacement.* [redacted] UNHCR is forecasting about 200,000 Iraqi refugees in the event of a conventional conflict while Iraq's neighbors publicly fear more substantial outflows.

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-- Iran this month announced that it would accept 50,000 refugees and assist an additional 500,000 along the border. The UNHCR, however, is forecasting only 150,000 refugees fleeing to Iran [redacted]

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-- [redacted] Turkey is preparing to accommodate 300,000 refugees in camps on the Iraqi side, but UNHCR estimates that only 20,000 people are likely to arrive. Jordan, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait also have expressed concerns about accommodating massive refugee flows, but UNHCR estimates an outflow of only 40,000 to those countries.

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-- Tehran, Ankara, and others could be projecting higher numbers to ensure preparedness, to request additional international assistance, or to restrain US military action. [redacted]

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