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SENIOR EXECUTIVE INTELLIGENCE BRIEF  
5 December 2002  
PASS SEIB 02-282CHX

**Iraq: Moving To Keep the Public in Line** [redacted]

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*Saddam Husayn is using both incentives and intimidation to reduce the risk of popular unrest or other challenges that would undermine his authority during the crisis with Washington.*

Baghdad during the past six weeks distributed additional rations and supplies, released numerous prisoners, pardoned some military deserters, and offered investment grants to Iraqis in the south,

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-- Baghdad is considering the formation of a "national unity" government that would include Kurd, Shia, and opposition representatives to deflect domestic and international criticism of the regime [redacted]

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-- At the same time, the regime has increased patrols and checkpoints, ordered the execution of two military officers, arrested unregistered Iraqis, and pressed tribal leaders to support the regime, [redacted]

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*Saddam's gestures probably have done little to bolster his domestic standing, but his control tactics are likely to heighten the public's longstanding fear of taking direct action against him.*

Most Iraqis say they hate Saddam and would welcome his removal but are unwilling to oppose him out of fear of retribution, [redacted]

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[redacted]

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-- Antiregime graffiti is beginning to appear in a predominantly Shia neighborhood in Baghdad, as it did during the Gulf war. [redacted]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

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