

[REDACTED]

25 OCT 82

IRAQ: Leadership Purge

Several senior Iraqi Ba'th Party leaders and ex-cabinet ministers have been executed and others arrested since the death of ex-President Bakr on 4 October [REDACTED]. They had lost their government and party positions in a major reshuffle of the regime in late June. Those executed [REDACTED] had urged Iraqi President Saddam to step down "temporarily" in favor of Bakr in the hope that the ex-President could achieve a negotiated settlement with Iran. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The death of Bakr, a popular figure with longstanding ties to the military, removed the major rallying point for those in the Iraqi leadership opposed to Saddam. The arrests and executions appear designed to eliminate the threat altogether. [REDACTED]