

[REDACTED]

may 27, 1987

**IRAN-  
PERSIAN GULF:**

**Possibly Seeking US Target**

**Statements by Iran's leadership and preparations by its Navy in the Persian Gulf suggest Tehran may be contemplating action against US-associated shipping.**

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Assembly Speaker Rafsanjani, Iran's second most powerful political figure, said yesterday that the effectiveness of foreign fleets is questionable because a martyr in a helicopter could destroy a warship. Rafsanjani last week asserted that some US politicians were questioning US involvement in the Gulf.

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Rafsanjani is implicitly drawing parallels between the situation in the Gulf today and that in Lebanon in 1983. He reiterated the theme that a few radical Shias ended the US military presence in Lebanon by bombing the US Embassy and Marine barracks there. Rafsanjani is hinting that Iran may again try to exploit US political differences with dramatic military or terrorist attacks on US targets.

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