

[REDACTED]

september 03, 1987

PERSIAN GULF: Situation Report

Ship Attacks Continue

Iranian gunboats attacked a Japanese oil tanker and an Italian cargo ship this morning. Shipping sources indicate the tanker, which is carrying Iranian oil, was hit by three rockets in the southern Persian Gulf but is steaming under its own power to the United Arab Emirates. The attack on the Italian ship took place in the northern Gulf, injuring two crewmen [REDACTED]

Iranian small boats, probably from Farsi Island, attacked a Greek merchant ship after it left the Saudi port of Al Jubayl yesterday, according to [REDACTED] press reports.

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

[REDACTED]

Ship attacks by Iran and Iraq will continue. Tehran is attacking non-Kuwaiti ships to put pressure on the other Gulf Arab states and to avoid confronting US escorts. The increase in Iranian small boat activity probably is related to preparations for future ship attacks. Iranian air and artillery attacks are unlikely to deter Iraq, however, and Tehran may soon decide to use its Scud surface-to-surface missiles. [REDACTED]

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Exemptions: (b)(1), (b)(3)