

[REDACTED]

september 30, 1987

[REDACTED]

PERSIAN GULF:

Bolder Iranian Actions

Iran is apparently willing to accept greater risks of a confrontation with US warships in order to attack shipping in retaliation for Iraqi airstrikes against Iranian offshore and mainland economic targets. [REDACTED]

An Iranian frigate yesterday attacked a Greek-flag tanker despite the close presence of a US warship. [REDACTED] A Sea Killer missile fired by the Iranians fell short of the tanker, which was about 3 miles (5 kilometers) away, as well as the USS Flatley, which was 6 miles (10 kilometers) away. The Iranian ship then fired its 4.5-inch guns on the tanker, inflicting minor damage, before leaving the area. [REDACTED]

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

Tehran's Navy Commander Malekzahdegan said Monday that the US seizure and destruction of the Iran Ajr would not go unanswered, and Revolutionary Guard Commander Rezaei warned that "the time is ripe for striking US frigates" in the area, according to press reports.

[REDACTED]

Tehran's boldness probably reflects its determination to show that it will not be intimidated by the US attack on the Iran Ajr. Iran had not attacked a ship since 21 September, despite more than six Iraqi attacks on Iranian tankers and several airstrikes against economic facilities onshore. [REDACTED]