

The overall exemptions for this document (b)(1) and (b)(3).

F(b)(1)
F(b)(3)
(T)

~~Top Secret~~ *TK*

~~Noform-Nocontract-Orcon~~

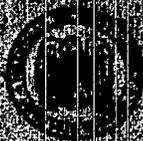
CIAC/CPAS ... NID 91-2265X ...



Director of Central Intelligence

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY

Friday, 17 December 1991



APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: JAN 2001



TCS 2926/81 COPY 684

~~Top Secret~~ *TK*

~~CPAS NID 91.2265X~~

~~Top Secret~~
RUFFUMBRA

Special Analysis

IRAQ:

Kurdish Radicalism on Rise

Frustrated by the deep rift between Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani, Iraqi repression, and the dwindling prospects for an autonomy agreement with Baghdad, local Kurdish tribal leaders and small rebel groups are taking more independent or extreme measures to oppose the Iraqi Government and gain a say in Kurdish politics. [REDACTED]

Claiming the old-guard Kurdish opposition leaders are ignoring their interests, 32 tribal chiefs this month formed the Kurdish Tribal Society. [REDACTED] The society says it will remain politically independent from the Kurdish Front, led by Barzani and Talabani, but will support the front's antiregime military operations. Talabani is encouraging the group's leaders, probably to gain their support against Barzani, whom many chiefs view as having sold out to Saddam Husayn. [REDACTED]

The leftwing, anti-Turkish Kurdish Workers' Party is offering disaffected Iraqi Kurds an even more radical option. It has formed the Kurdistan Freedom Party in northern Iraq [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] may attract some younger Kurds frustrated by the apparent inability of the old-guard leaders to obtain concessions from the regime in the autonomy talks. [REDACTED]

With no autonomy agreement in sight, both political and military Kurdish infighting is likely to increase. Moreover, living conditions of the more than a half million displaced Kurdish civilians in northern Iraq will deteriorate with the arrival of winter, putting more pressure on their leaders to find a solution acceptable to most Kurds. Barzani probably will continue to advocate a watered-down agreement so as to speed the return of refugees to their original homes. Talabani appears steadfastly opposed to the current draft agreement but probably would soften his position if he detected a shift in the Kurdish political climate. [REDACTED]

Whatever the outcome of the autonomy debate, Kurdish violence and political squabbling almost certainly will increase as rebel factions, local tribal leaders, and other individual Kurds maneuver for territorial control and political influence. Security in Kurdistan has greatly deteriorated over the past several weeks. [REDACTED] clashes have occurred this week between rebels and elements of the Fursan—Kurdish tribes that traditionally have supported the government but largely abandoned it during the March rebellion; this may indicate that some tribes are quitting the opposition and realigning with the regime. [REDACTED]

~~Top Secret~~