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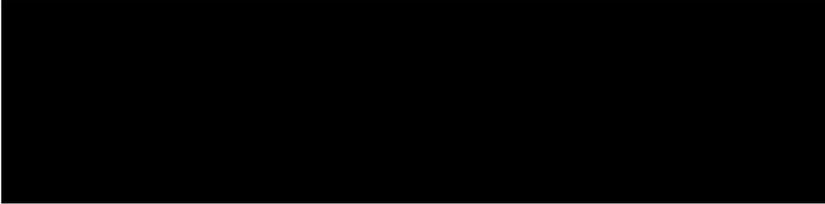
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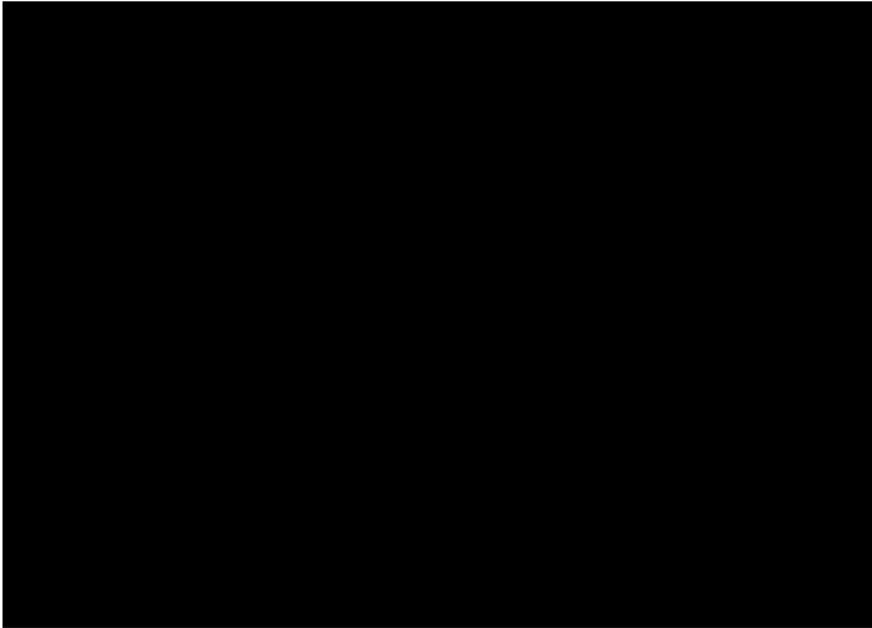
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Iran-Iraq: Situation Report 5

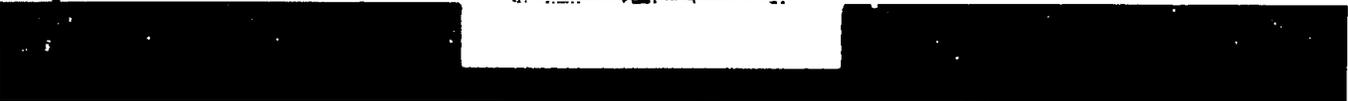


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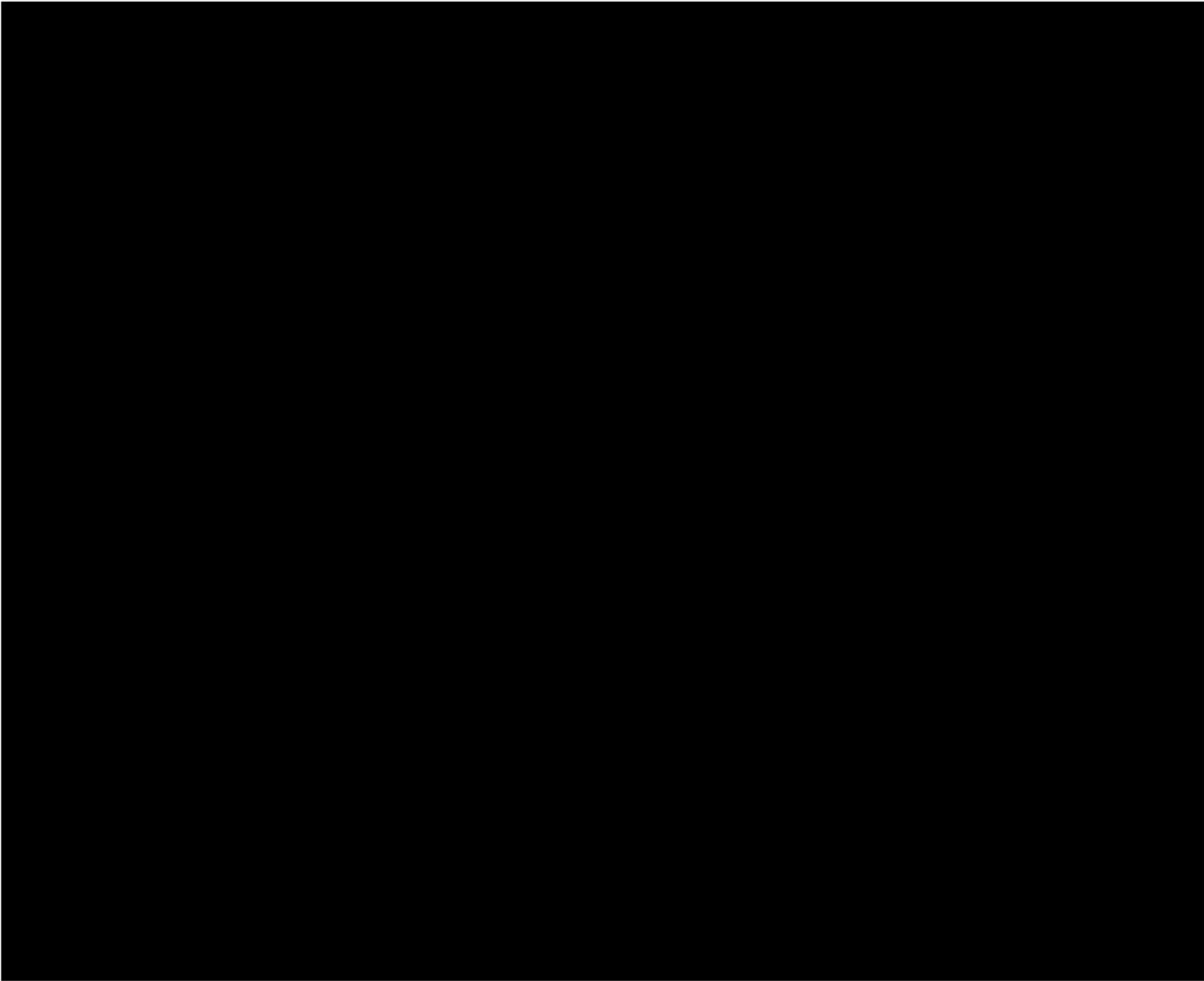
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18 March 1988

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IRAN-IRAQ: Situation Report

Iran Gains Ground

Tehran claims its Val-Fajr 10 offensive continued yesterday in northeastern Iraq, with Iranian troops capturing the town of Halabjah and advancing toward Sayyid Sadiq. Iranian press reports claim that Tehran inflicted 11,000 Iraqi casualties and overran a brigade-size unit in Halabjah and captured a major general. Tehran also claims that its forces in the area were attacked with chemical bombs dropped from Iraqi aircraft. Iraqi press [redacted] reporting indicates that Iraqi forces have withdrawn from the Khormal-Halabjah area. [redacted] Iraqi aircraft flew about 200 sorties yesterday against Iranian targets along the front. [redacted]

Ayatollah Khomeini and Assembly Speaker Rafsanjani yesterday depicted the offensive as Tehran's response to Iraqi missile attacks on Iranian cities and said that it demonstrated that the missile attacks would not deter Tehran from vigorous pursuit of the war. [redacted]

[redacted]

Iraq fired one missile at Tehran yesterday, and Iran did not retaliate. Iraqi aircraft continue to conduct daily ship-attack missions over the Persian Gulf, and Iranian naval units continue to shadow Gulf shipping. [redacted]

Comment: The capture of Iraqi territory will hurt Baghdad politically, and Iraq is likely to reinforce the northern front with units from elsewhere along the front, but such a move risks weakening other areas. Tehran in the past has monitored troop movements to spot vulnerabilities in Iraqi defenses, and pressure against As Sulaymaniyah is sure to increase. [redacted]

Khomeini's public comments on the offensive indicate Tehran is confident it can hold the newly captured territory. The remarks are probably designed to stiffen Iranian resolve by reminding Iranian people that he remains behind the war effort. Tehran's instruction to its UN Mission reflects an attempt to exploit international sentiment against Baghdad for continuing the "war of the cities." The Iranians are attempting to fuel concerns expressed by some UN members that an arms embargo at this time would only reinforce Tehran's determination to continue the war. [redacted]

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18 March 1988

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Iraq Attacks Oil Refinery

Press reports indicate that Iraqi aircraft hit oil installations in Shiraz late Wednesday. The attack was the first carried out against major Iranian economic targets since 27 February, when the Tehran refinery was hit. The extent of damage to the Tehran refinery is not clear, but no petroleum shortages have been reported, and Iran appears to be stockpiling in anticipation of further refinery attacks. Tehran is importing petroleum products at the rate of at least 250,000 barrels per day, according to [redacted] press reports, nearly twice the import levels in December. [redacted]

Comment: All six of Iran's refineries have sustained war damage in the past, but Iraq's recent strikes do not appear to have had a significant impact on Iran's domestic petroleum product supplies. Nevertheless, Tehran's stockpiling efforts reflect its concern future attacks could seriously disrupt supplies. [redacted]

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