



Director of
Central
Intelligence

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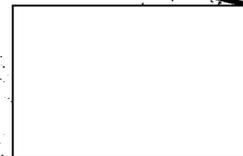
National Intelligence Daily

Wednesday
26 October 1983

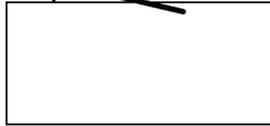
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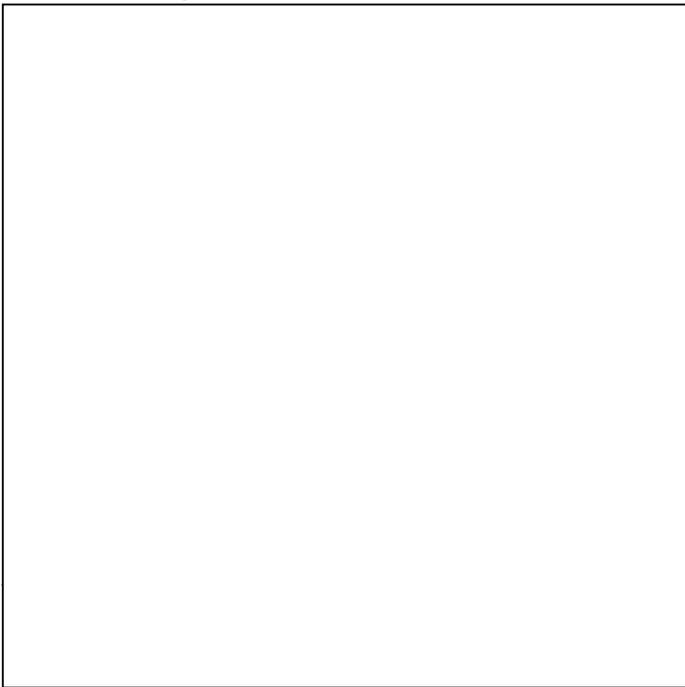
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IRAQ-IRAN: Baghdad Threatens Airstrikes

Iraq has repeated its threat to intensify air attacks against Iran, as Iranian forces in Iraq push toward Panjwin. [redacted]

[redacted] the Iraqis told the [redacted] Ambassador on Sunday that Iraqi aircraft soon would attack Iranian targets along the Persian Gulf, possibly including the Japanese-built petrochemical plant at Benzjar-e Khomeyni. The Japanese were advised to withdraw their technicians from the site. Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, following a visit to the front on Monday, warned that Iraq again would retaliate against targets in Iran unless Tehran stopped its offensive.

[redacted]

The warnings coincide with heavy fighting in northern Iraq.

[redacted] Iranian forces occupying key high ground have nearly encircled Panjwin. [redacted]

[redacted] Iraq had already suffered more than 5,000 casualties. Tehran claims the Iraqis have begun destroying facilities at Panjwin. [redacted]

Comment: Baghdad continues to seek to justify in advance an escalation of the war. As it increases its rhetoric, Iraq will feel more impelled to implement its threats, especially after the Super Etendards arrive from France. [redacted]

If Iraqi forces are destroying facilities at Panjwin, they probably expect it to fall soon. The Iranians are likely to use the town as a base to support dissidents in Iraq. [redacted]

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[redacted]
26 October 1983