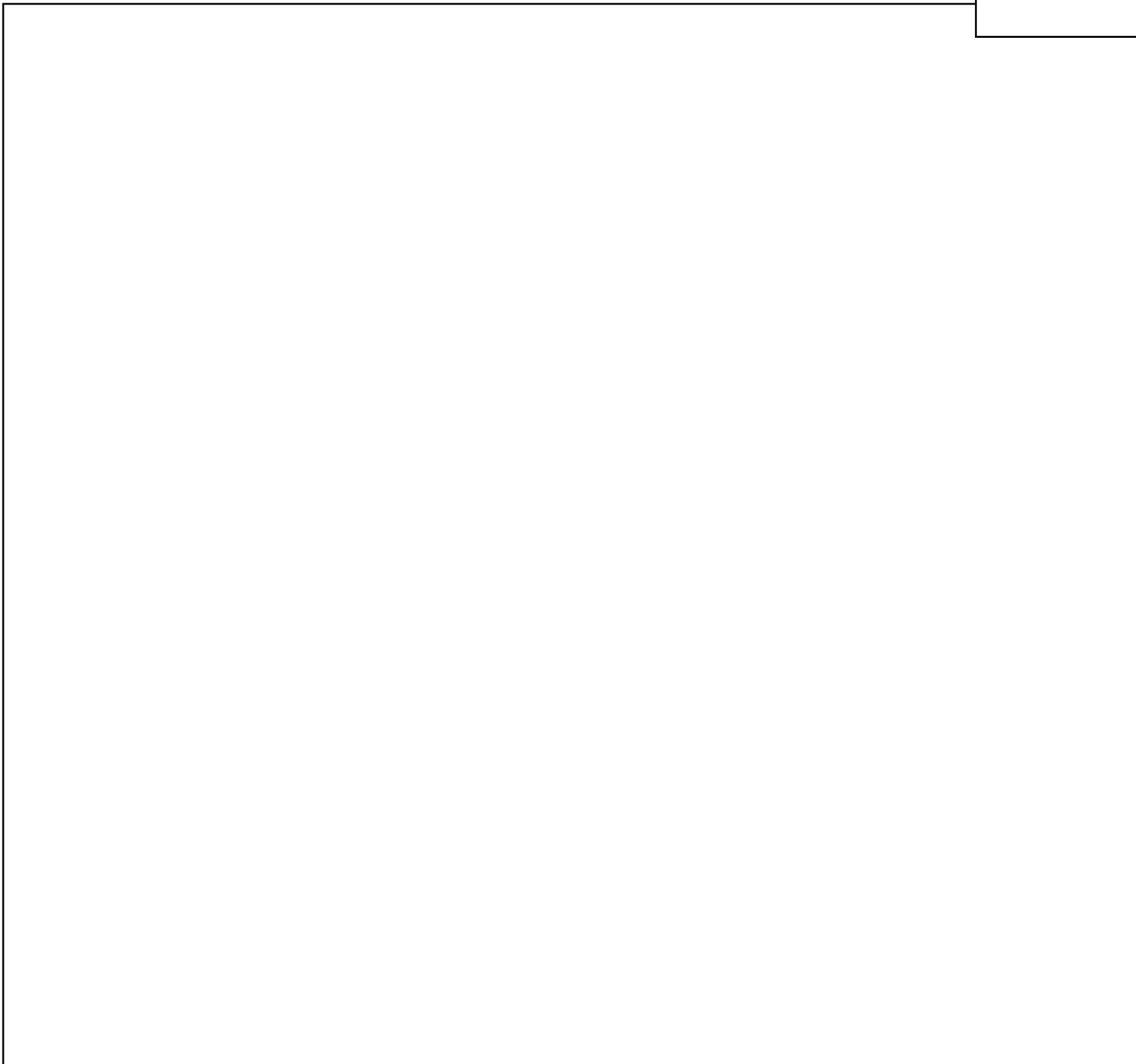
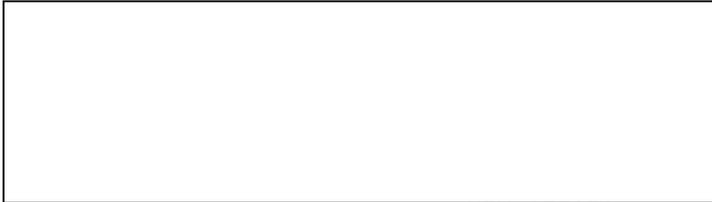


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1. IRAN-IRAQ: IRANIANS PREPARE FOR NEW ATTACK



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DATE: JUL 2004

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[REDACTED]

THE IRANIANS ARE CONTINUING THEIR PREPARATIONS FOR A MAJOR OFFENSIVE IN THE AL BASRAH AREA. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

IN A SPEECH ON SUNDAY, AYATOLLAH KHOMEINI CRITICIZED IRANIANS WHO WANT TO END THE WAR. HE ALSO DENIED IRAN HAD SUFFERED HEAVY LOSSES IN THE RECENT FIGHTING AND CASTIGATED IRANIANS WHO ARGUE THAT IRAN SHOULD TRY TO REACH A SETTLEMENT. [REDACTED]

COMMENT: IRAN MAY BE PLANNING ATTACKS BOTH NORTH AND EAST OF AL BASRAH. THE IRANIANS PROBABLY HOPE TO USE THE NEW BRIDGE TO MOVE MORE FORCES INTO THE MARSH AREA FOR AN OFFENSIVE TO THE SOUTH TO OUTFLANK IRAQI DEFENSES. THE ATTACKS COULD COME LATE THIS WEEK, WHEN IRAN COMPLETES REDEPLOYING TROOPS TO THE SOUTH. [REDACTED]

TEHRAN PRESUMABLY IS MAKING CONTINGENCY PLANS TO ATTACK SHIPPING BOUND FOR IRAQ'S PERSIAN GULF ALLIES IF BAGHDAD DISRUPTS IRANIAN OIL EXPORTS. ATTACKS ON SHIPPING IN THE GULF WOULD ENABLE TEHRAN TO RETALIATE WITHOUT CLOSING THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ AND CUTTING OFF ITS OWN OIL EXPORTS. [REDACTED]

KHOMEINI'S SPEECH IS ANOTHER INDICATION THAT LARGE NUMBERS OF IRANIANS ARE WEARY OF THE HIGH CASUALTIES AND ECONOMIC BURDENS OF THE WAR. CONSERVATIVE SENIOR AYATOLLAHS WHO OPPOSE KHOMEINI'S POLICIES MAY BE WILLING TO URGE CHANGES ON KHOMEINI AGAIN IF THE DISSATISFACTION LEADS TO PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS. KHOMEINI IS IN NO DANGER OF LOSING CONTROL, HOWEVER, AND HE IS UNLIKELY TO CHANGE HIS POSITION. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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