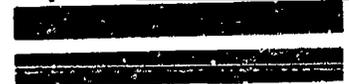


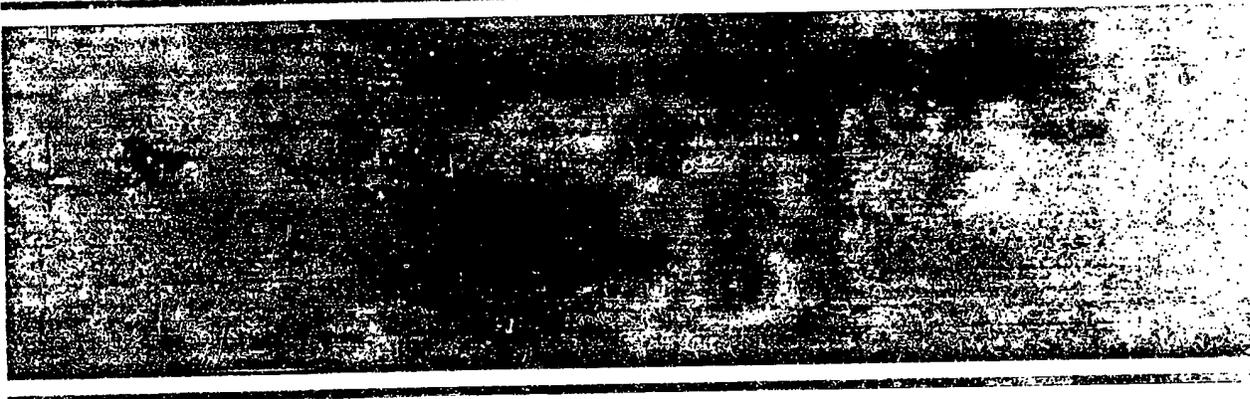


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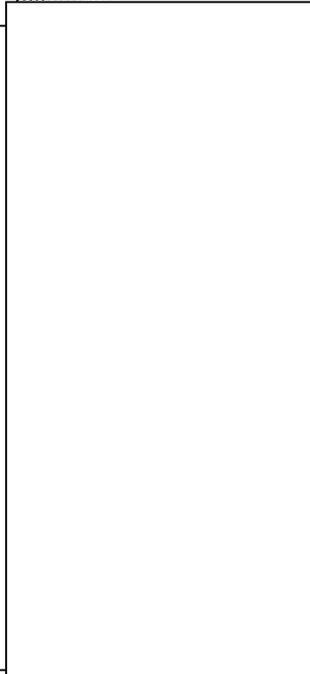
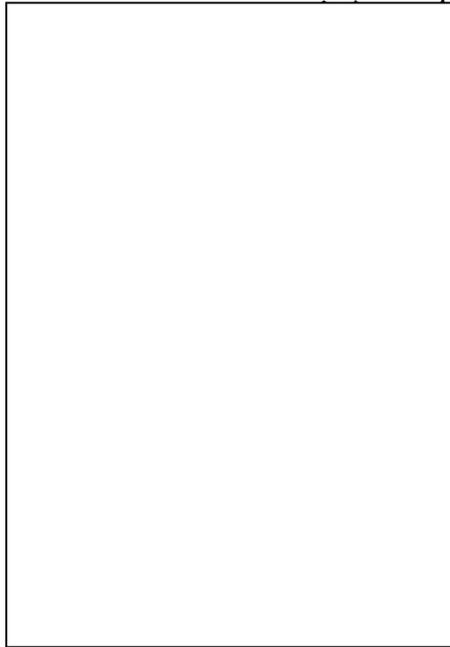


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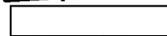


Persian Gulf: Iranian Offensive Delayed

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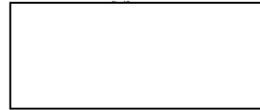


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PERSIAN GULF:

Iranian Offensive Delayed

Reports of damage to a ship in the southern Persian Gulf and Iranian calls for an exclusion zone in the Strait of Hormuz probably will increase tensions in the area. Iran's offensive at Al Basrah reportedly will not be launched before the end of the month, and Tehran appears uncertain over how to pursue the war. Saudi Arabia is alert for possible Iranian retaliation for the downing on Tuesday of at least one Iranian aircraft.



A Liberian-registered cargo ship was abandoned and sinking yesterday afternoon about 35 nautical miles south of Lavan Island after an explosion in its engine room.

A major Iranian newspaper said yesterday that an exclusion zone should be established near the Strait of Hormuz, in which commercial ships would be stopped and searched and vessels bound for Iraq would be seized.



Comment: The cause of the Liberian ship's problem has not been determined. Lavan Island is near the limit of the Super Etendards' range.

The status of the Iranian exclusion zone is unclear in the absence of any official statement confirming a Tehran newspaper's call for such a zone near the Strait of Hormuz. Iran has stopped at least two ships in recent weeks to search for materiel bound for Iraq.

Military Situation



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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Tehran announced that an Iraqi aircraft flew over Khorramabad yesterday. A pumping station there was bombed last week. Iraq claims Iranian artillery shelled Al Basrah late yesterday. [Redacted]

Comment: The Iranians continue to prepare for an offensive, and an attack could be launched at any time. There is no indication that a push is imminent, however, and considerable evidence of problems with logistics, flooding, and Iraqi bombing lend weight to reports of a postponement. [Redacted]

The Iraqi overflight of Khorramabad probably was a reconnaissance mission in preparation for further airstrikes. Iraq probably will begin extensive air and missile attacks against Iranian cities soon. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

7 June 1984

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Gromyko Meets Iranian Official

TASS reports that Foreign Minister Gromyko yesterday met with Mohammed Sadr, Iran's ranking Foreign Ministry official responsible for Soviet affairs. Sadr, who is on a three-day visit to the USSR, handed Gromyko a message from Foreign Minister Velayati [Redacted]

Comment: Gromyko's decision to meet with Sadr, a mid-level official, reflects Moscow's interest in maintaining a dialogue with Tehran. [Redacted]

[Redacted] The discussions with Sadr probably focused on the Iran-Iraq war but probably did not yield any tangible result or reverse the downward spiral of Soviet-Iranian relations. [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

7 June 1984