



Director of
Central
Intelligence

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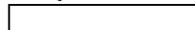


France-Iraq: Status of Super Etendard Deal

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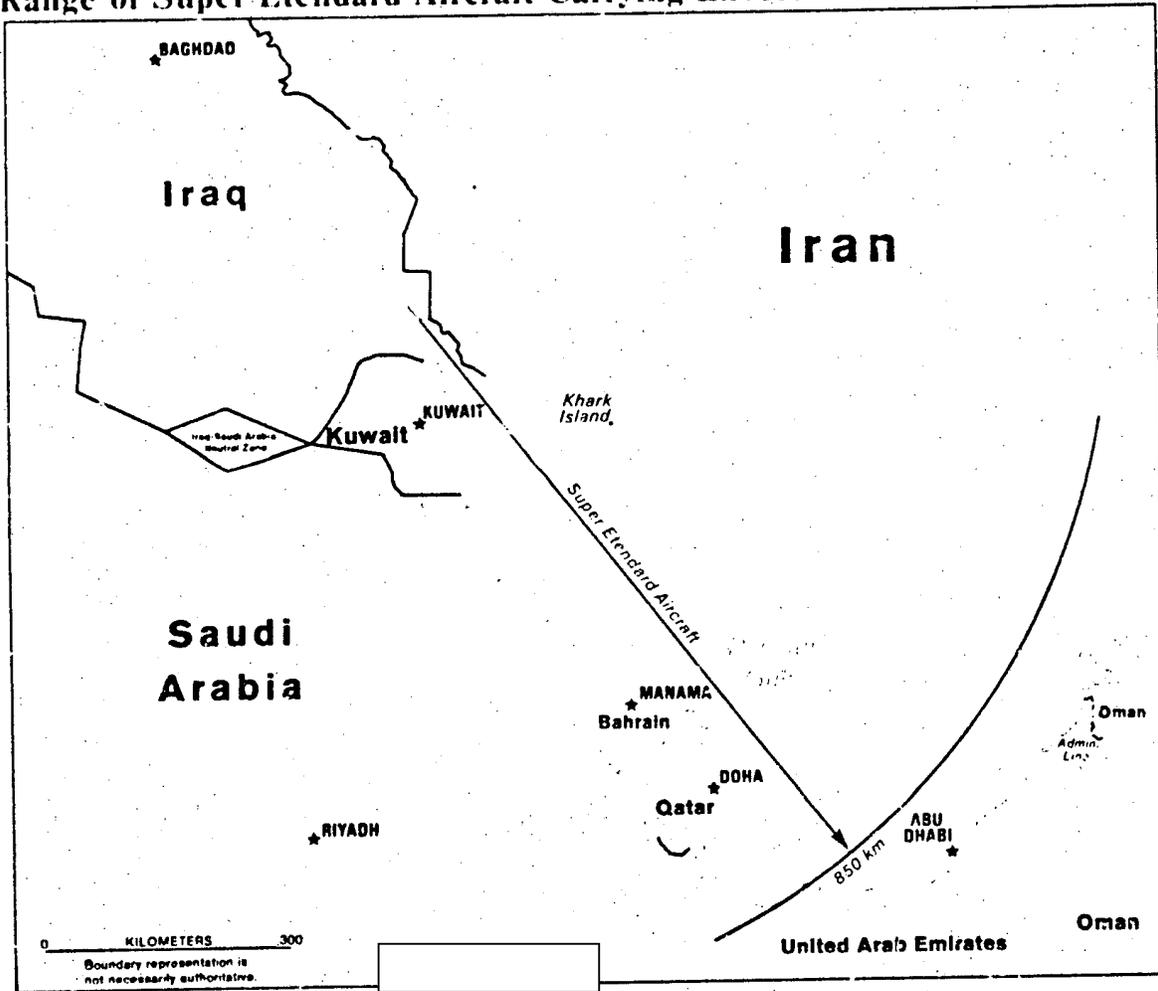


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Range of Super Etendard Aircraft Carrying Exocet Missiles



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[redacted]

FRANCE-IRAQ: Status of Super Etendard Deal

Paris apparently remains firm in its intention to complete the sale of Super Etendard fighter-bombers to Iraq, although French Foreign Minister Cheysson's statement yesterday did not include a delivery date for the planes. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] Tehran radio yesterday quoted Ayatollah Khomeini as threatening to block the strait if the major powers help Iraq "attack our economic resources." [redacted]

Comment:

[redacted]

If the French keep delaying the shipment of the aircraft, Iraq will be unable to threaten shipping in the southern half of the Persian Gul'. It could, however, launch attacks against Iran's major oil export facility at Khark Island with the fighter aircraft it already has. [redacted]

Baghdad probably would not risk retaliating against the French for delays in delivering the Super Etendards because France is still a major arms supplier. Instead, Iraq might focus its anger on the US, suspecting it of influencing the French. [redacted]

[redacted]