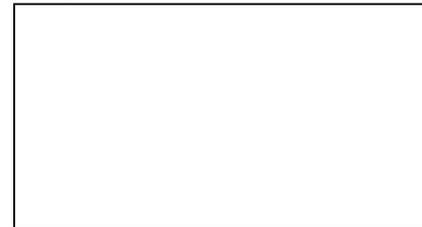




Director of  
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# National Intelligence Daily

*Thursday*  
*13 October 1983*

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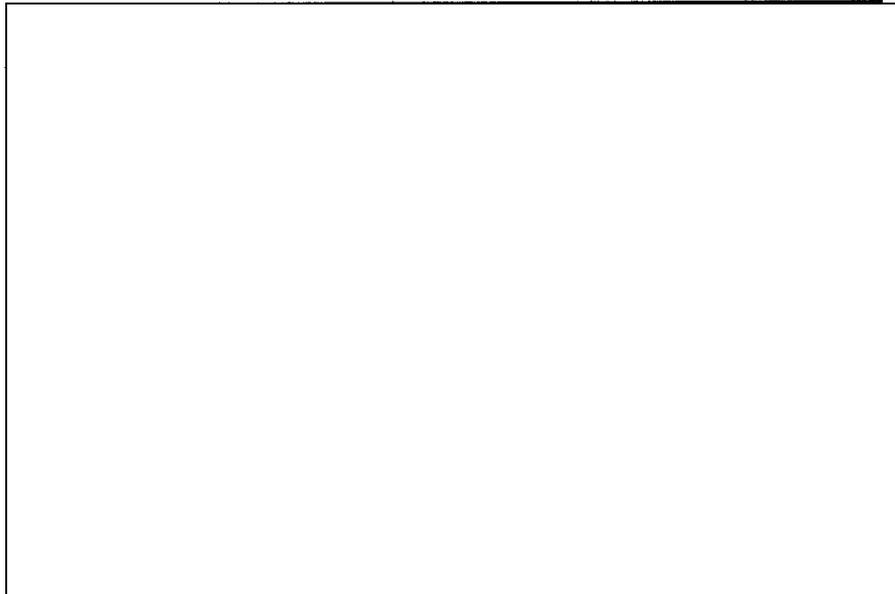
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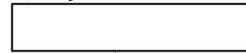
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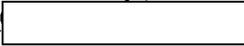


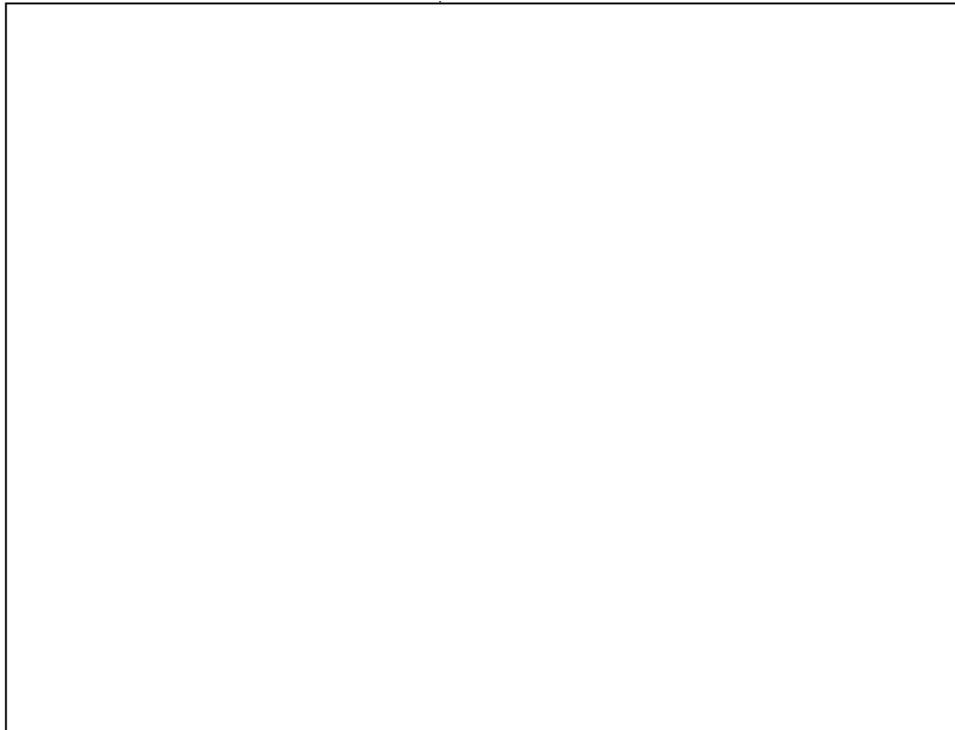
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**USSR-IRAQ-IRAN: Commentary on French Aircraft Sale**

A Soviet television commentator on Tuesday said the Iranian reaction to the reported delivery to Iraq of five French Super Etendard aircraft could lead to the involvement of other countries in the war. He claimed that the "greatest danger" is that the US would use such an escalation as an excuse for "armed interference." The commentator repeated the USSR's longstanding appeal for a negotiated settlement and said the Soviets are "resolutely against" outside military interference. 

**Comment:** These remarks, although not especially authoritative, are Moscow's first response to the reported delivery of the aircraft and Tehran's threat to close the Persian Gulf. His focus on the possibility of US military involvement suggests concern about an increased US military presence in the region. For the Soviets, such a prospect probably outweighs the potential benefits of the temporary disruption of Western economies that may follow an interruption in oil exports from the Persian Gulf. 



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