



Director of
Central
Intelligence

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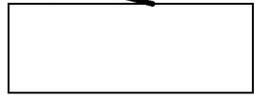
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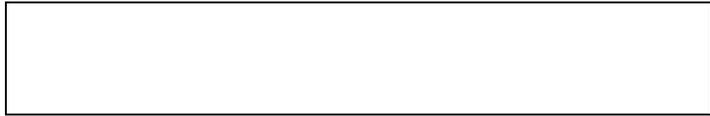
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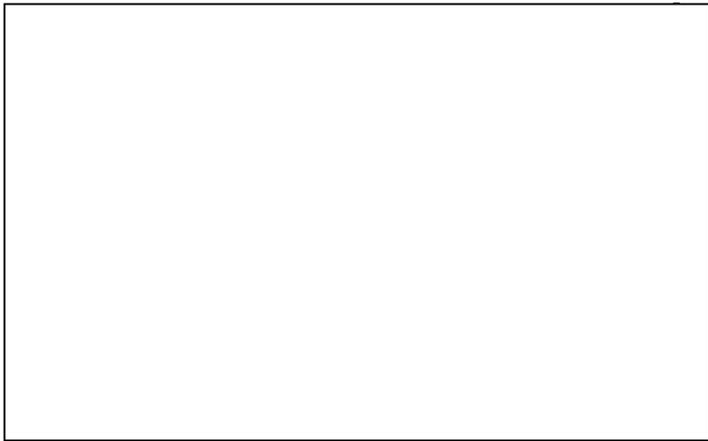
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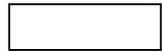
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[redacted]

TURKEY: Concern About Border Security

//The Turkish Government has taken several steps in recent months to increase the security of its southeastern border. [redacted]

[redacted] a Turkish commando battalion was sent from Kayseri to the Iraqi border area

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted] Turkish security forces along the border with Iraq and Syria increased their security posture. [redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]

//Last summer the Turks began constructing a fence along most of the eastern segment of the Syrian border. In this same area soldiers man a series of 36 watchtowers plus 15 small stations farther back from the border. [redacted]

//In addition, a new commando base and training facility have been built near Siverek. [redacted]
[redacted] the commando unit could undertake operations in Syria or along the Syrian border. [redacted]

Comment: //Turkey has been primarily concerned with protecting vital economic targets along the border, including the Iraqi-Turkish oil pipeline and trade routes. The recent Turkish moves also may have been prompted by fears of a rumored Iraqi offer of autonomy to Iraqi Kurds that might have repercussions among Turkish Kurds. Kurdish separatism and harassment of Turkish border security forces have long been a problem for Ankara. [redacted]

//Iraq's preoccupation with its war with Iran has reduced its ability to control the Kurds in the north. This was probably a major factor in Baghdad's decision to permit the Turks to conduct the operation last spring against the Kurds in Iraq. Any major resurgence of Kurdish dissident activity might prompt Ankara to consider mounting another sweep against the Kurds. [redacted]

[redacted]