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SITUATION REPORT

IRAN

Despite repeated appeals from President Bani-Sadr and other government leaders, clashes between leftists and Muslim extremists are continuing on university campuses in several cities. []

In Tehran, the Revolutionary Guards had to intervene yesterday to quell the fighting at one university. [] [] the leftist Fedayeen has taken control of parts of Tehran University and is urging all Iranians to support the leftist students. The situation in Tabriz is also said to be tense, and there have been clashes in high schools near Shiraz. []

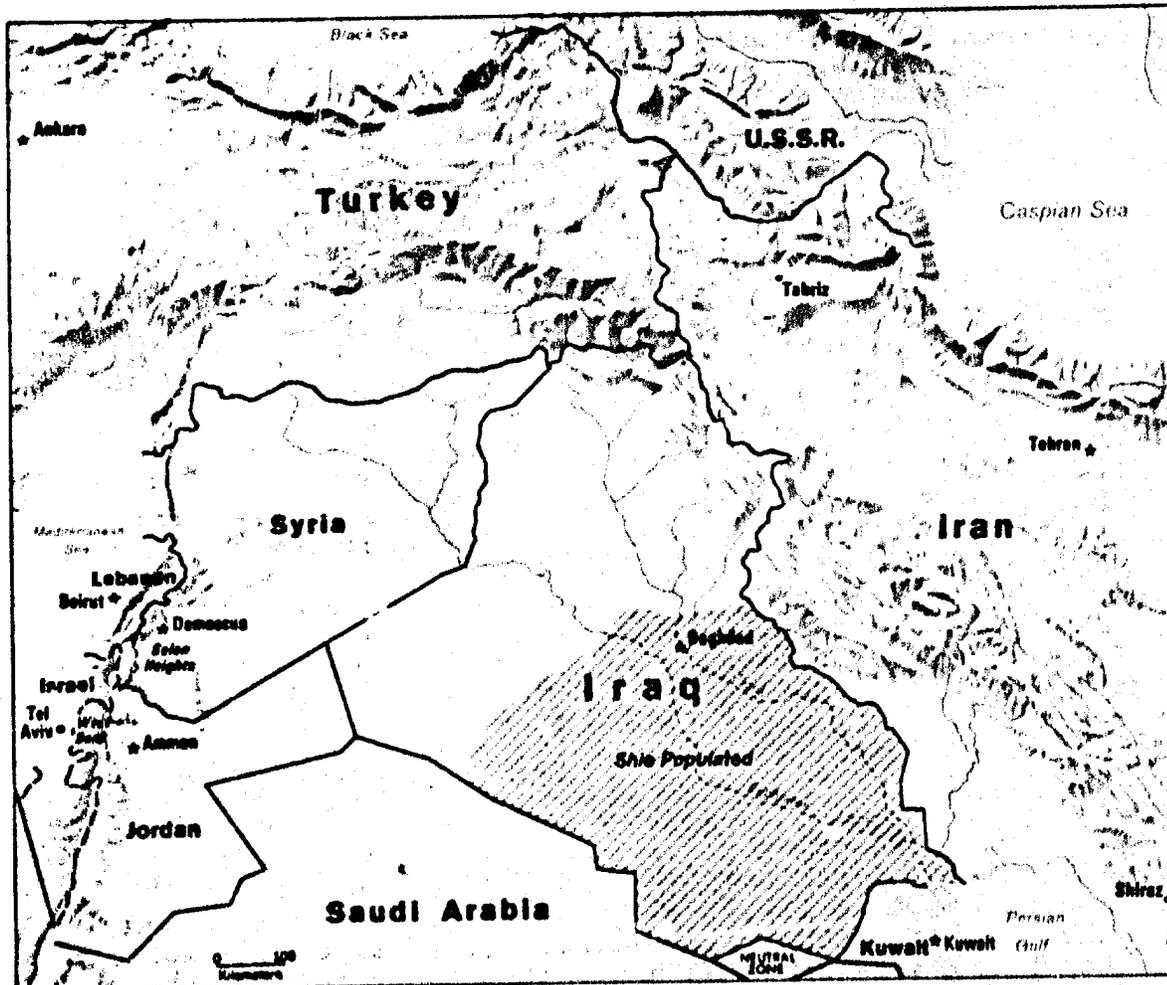
The clashes are spreading beyond the campuses as Muslims organize a general attack on the left. In Tehran, Muslim extremists reportedly burned down the office of the pro-Soviet Tudeh Party newspaper on Saturday. The Tudeh has agreed to close its offices at universities but is criticizing the regime for purging the campuses. []

Ayatollah Khomeini yesterday strongly endorsed a purge of all Western and Communist influences from the universities. By urging students to fight the left, he probably has undercut Bani-Sadr's efforts to calm the situation. []

Elections

A prominent newspaper in Tehran quoted Interior Ministry officials yesterday as indicating that the second round of legislative elections will be postponed until 9 May. Last week a senior official of the Islamic Republic Party urged such a postponement to give the government more time to investigate charges of vote-tampering in the first round. (U)

--continued



Iraq-Iran

[Redacted]

The fact of Sadr's execution probably also will lead to more anti-Iraqi violence in Lebanon and other countries. Rumors of his death have already caused serious fighting in Lebanon between the Shia Amal Movement and the Iraqi-backed Arab Liberation Front. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

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JAPAN-IRAN: Preparing for Oil Cutoff

The National Iranian Oil Company's refusal yesterday to load three Japan-bound tankers may be intended primarily to force Japanese acquiescence to the \$2.50 per barrel increase adopted by Iran on 1 April. (U)

Japan's oil companies have been under pressure from the powerful Ministry of International Trade and Industry to rebuff the price increase in part to avoid antagonizing the US. (U)

Iran yesterday warned Tokyo that the substantial Japanese investment in the huge petrochemical complex not yet completed at Bandar Khomeini may be lost if Japan goes along with US-proposed sanctions. Such warnings have been frequent, however, as the project has lagged, and Japanese officials so far appear to be taking this latest threat in stride.

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