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SITUATION REPORT

IRAN

A senior official of the Islamic Republic Party and Interior Ministry officials said yesterday that the second round of legislative elections may be postponed until mid-May. (U)

Ayatollah Bahonar, a close ally of Ayatollah Beheshti, indicated that postponement may be necessary because the investigation of vote-tampering in the first round is going slowly. President Bani-Sadr's supporters need more time to organize for the second round, but there is no evidence that he is focusing his attention on the elections. (U)

In a speech telecast last night in Iran, Ayatollah Khomeini told Iranians not to fear sanctions and urged Western Europe not to support US reprisals against Iran. Foreign Minister Ghotbzadeh last night publicly claimed sanctions would not "bite" Iranians for at least six months. (U)

Foreign reaction to President Carter's announcement yesterday of new US measures against Iran has so far been scanty. Moscow radio covered the steps rather matter-of-factly but did claim that Western Europe had given him only a "cool response." Japanese officials are said to have begun a "detailed study" of the US announcement.

Iran-Iraq

The Iranian Charge in Lebanon was wounded outside his Embassy in Beirut last night, apparently by machine-gun fire from the area of the Iraqi Embassy. The shooting capped three days of clashes between pro-Iraqi

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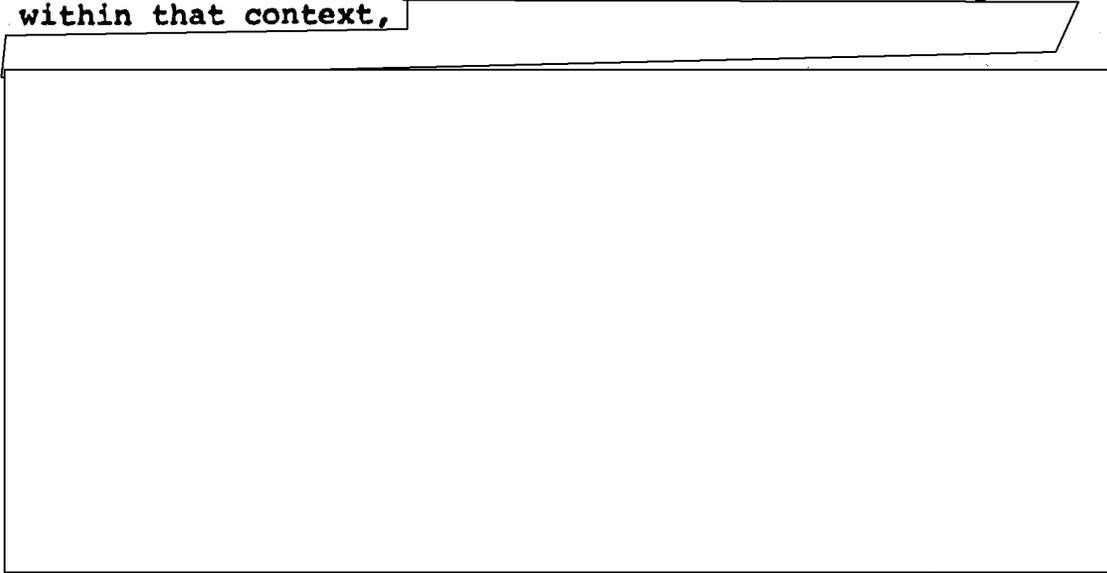
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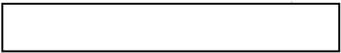
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Palestinian guerrillas and Shiite elements in the Beirut area; the wounding of the Charge may have been simply within that context, 



Oil Pricing

Iran has turned down requests from some crude oil buyers to cancel or reduce the \$2.50 per barrel price increase of 1 April. British Petroleum and Japanese representatives met with the National Iranian Oil Company this week in hopes of renegotiating prices. National Iranian Oil Company officials reportedly told a Japanese company that the price is not subject to negotiation and suggested that the Japanese firm could reduce its liftings if it does not like the new price. British Petroleum has not scheduled tankers to go into Kharg next week. 

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