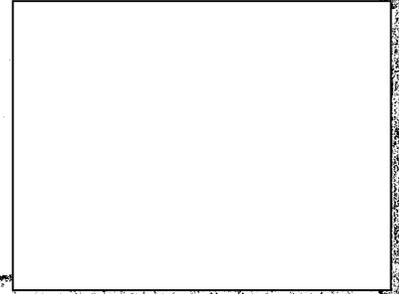


(b) (1)
(b) (3)



Director of
Central
Intelligence

~~Top Secret~~



National Intelligence Daily

*Saturday
26 April 1980*

~~Top Secret~~

CO NID 80-0991X

26 April 1980

Copy 000

~~Top Secret~~

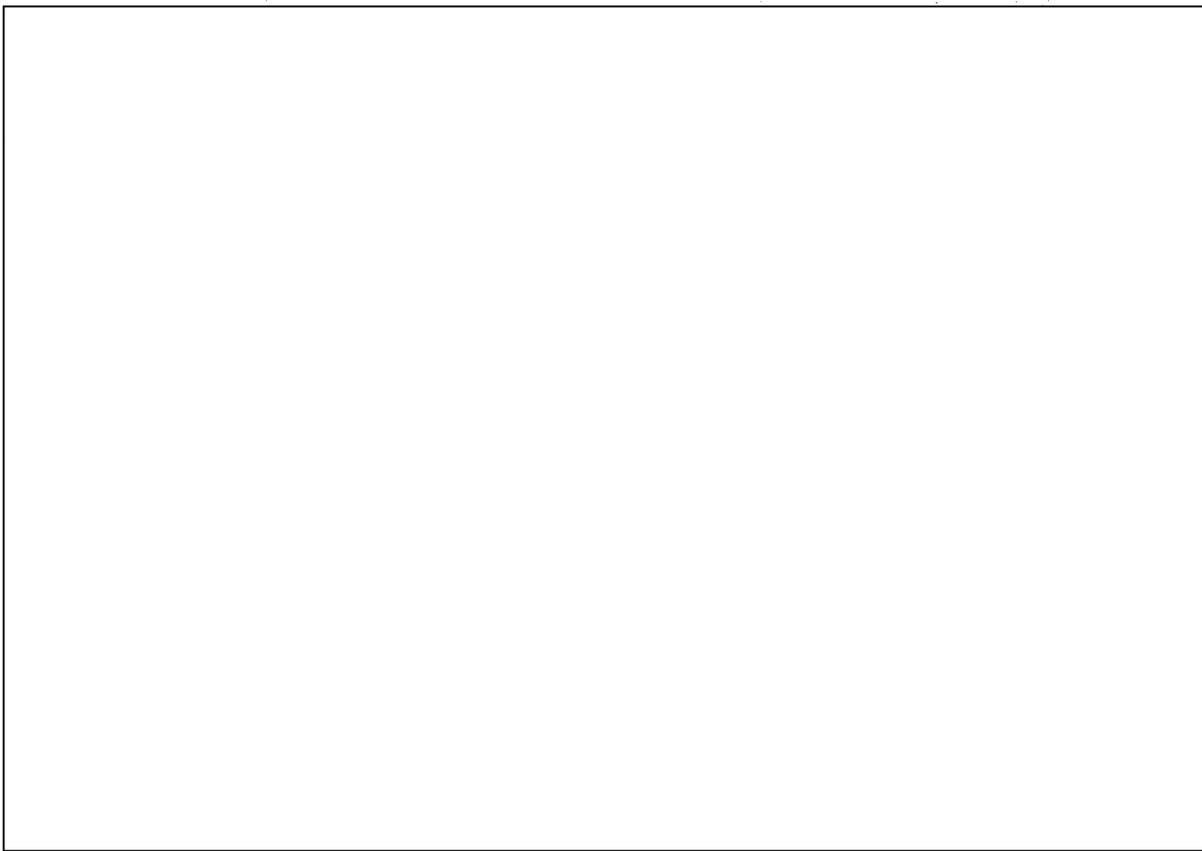


T-

Contents

Situation Report

Iran 1



~~Top Secret~~

26 April 1980

~~Top Secret~~

SITUATION REPORT

IRAN

As the full impact on Iran of the aborted US rescue mission sinks in, we expect a sharp increase in the level of threats to execute the hostages if any additional military action is taken.

[]
The militants' statement yesterday implied that they do not plan on taking any action against the hostages immediately. Nonetheless, we believe they will take several steps.

- Visits by the Red Cross and families of the hostages will almost certainly be refused for the foreseeable future.
- Living conditions for the hostages will probably deteriorate. The hostages are likely to face more solitary confinement, cancellation of the already minimal exercise periods outdoors, and more armed guards.
- Some of the hostages may be moved to other locations as "insurance" against the possibility of another attack.
[]
- We doubt, in any case, that all of the hostages will be moved because the militants probably are unwilling to relinquish completely control of them. []

Ayatollah Khomeini's statement yesterday repeated familiar themes. He accused President Carter of being prepared to "commit any crime . . . in order to be re-elected" and warned that any attack on Iran will lead to violence throughout the Muslim world. Khomeini also charged the US with responsibility for the unrest in the Kurdish region and at Iran's universities. []

--continued

~~Top Secret~~

[]
26 April 1980

~~Top Secret~~

West European Reactions

EC governments are limiting their public criticism of the rescue mission in order to maintain Allied solidarity, but most of them are clearly unhappy over the timing and outcome. Although most EC governments agreed to economic sanctions in the hope that the US would not undertake military action, they are unlikely to endorse a Danish suggestion that sanctions be re-assessed when the EC heads of government meet tomorrow in Luxembourg. They will, however, voice concern about the US failure to consult them. [redacted]

Although West German Chancellor Schmidt has voiced his understanding of the US need for action because of building public pressure, he had repeatedly cautioned against military action. In fact, the West Germans took the lead in the EC decision on sanctions to forestall the need for a US military role. [redacted]

France has not yet reacted publicly to the rescue attempt. The Thatcher government has reaffirmed its support for the US, noting that the unsuccessful mission has not lessened the need for Allied unity. London anticipates that the passage of enabling legislation for Iranian sanctions, agreed to by the EC last Tuesday, will now be more difficult in some countries, but not in the UK. [redacted]

Arab Reactions

There have been no reports of anti-US demonstrations in any Arab country. (U)

Algerian, Libyan, and Syrian media are likely to exploit the theme of US "aggression" against Muslims and make renewed calls for sanctions against the US, including an oil cutoff. The radicals, with the probable exception of Iraq, also may offer token assistance to Iran to ward off possible further actions by the US. [redacted]

Of more immediate concern, Arab extremists friendly to Iran--particularly some radical Palestinians--could attempt to retaliate by mounting terrorist operations against US facilities or personnel abroad. [redacted]

--continued

~~Top Secret~~

There has been no public reaction from Iraq yet. Tehran radio reported some new skirmishes along the border yesterday but did not link them to the US operation. [redacted]

The failure of the mission is likely to dismay Arab moderates and cause some to question further the ability of the US to help defend the region from threats posed by the Soviets and the radical Arabs. They will compare the operation unfavorably to the successful Israeli operation in Uganda in 1976. [redacted]

Over the short term, the moderates will be under increasing pressure to play down their ties to the US, and the abortive mission may cause further reluctance to cooperate militarily with the US. Those Arab countries publicly alleged to have supported the operation--particularly Egypt--will be targets of radical Arab criticism, and perhaps terrorist attacks. As the closest US ally in the region, Israel also could be the target of intensified terrorism. [redacted]

Pakistan

An official Pakistani spokesman last night termed the aborted US rescue effort a "serious violation" of Iran's sovereignty that could have far-reaching consequences for regional security. He denied foreign press reports that Pakistani bases had been used by the US aircraft, and praised Iranian Foreign Minister Ghotbzadeh's "statesmanlike" reaction in counseling restraint. (U)

USSR

[redacted]

Soviet commentary on the rescue mission has been harsh, but there has been nothing in the Soviet reaction linking the US move to Soviet security interests, nor any indication that Moscow plans a direct response. The Soviets dismissed the President's statement that the mission was a humanitarian action and accused the US of "reckless actions." A TASS report reiterated Soviet

--continued

~~Top Secret~~

[redacted]
26 April 1980

~~Top Secret~~

claims that the US is using the hostage issue as a pretext to pressure Iran and to strengthen the American military presence in the area. In Paris, Foreign Minister Gromyko said the USSR was resolutely opposed to any military measures against Iran. []

The Soviet reaction appears to reflect Moscow's apprehension and uncertainty about US intentions toward Iran as well as its interest in exploiting the US move to further its ties with Tehran. Soviet comment has sought to use the mission to inflame Iranian opinion against the US. One TASS dispatch, for example, reported Iranian claims that the US forces resorted to violence against Iranians at the landing area and implied they had killed an oil tank truck driver. []

A Soviet Persian-language broadcast charged that the President was guided solely by political considerations. TASS has also criticized the NATO countries for failing to stop US "reckless actions." (U)

Cuba

President Fidel Castro has sent a message to Khomeini expressing "solidarity" in the face of "grave threats" made by the "Yankee imperialists" against the Iranian revolution. (U)

China

In a previously scheduled meeting with Ambassador Woodcock yesterday, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Wenjin expressed sadness and regret over the American deaths and continued sympathy for the US as it tries to resolve the hostage crisis. China has not yet publicly commented on the rescue mission. []

Japan

Japanese Prime Minister Ohira today was generally sympathetic to the US action; he stated that the aborted mission will not affect Japanese sanctions against Iran. []

~~Top Secret~~

[]
26 April 1980

