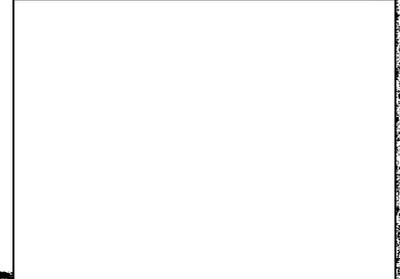


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Director of  
Central  
Intelligence

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# National Intelligence Daily

*Monday*  
*24 March 1980*

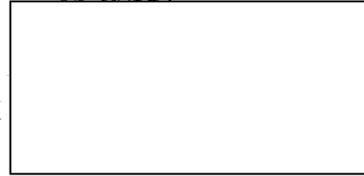
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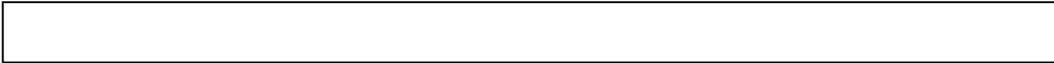
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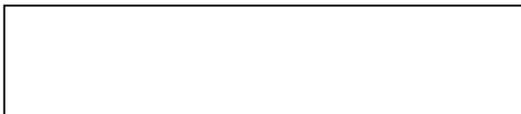
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SITUATION REPORTS

IRAN

*The Shah's departure from Panama will undercut President Bani-Sadr's efforts to consolidate his political position and complicate his already troubled relations with Ayatollah Khomeini.* [redacted]

Bani-Sadr and Foreign Minister Ghotbzadeh have been closely identified with Tehran's diplomatic and legal efforts to extradite the Shah from Panama. Their opponents in Iran--including the militants occupying the US Embassy and the hardline clerics led by Ayatollah Beheshti--probably will now argue that the President's approach has failed and that only the continued incarceration of the hostages will lead to the Shah's return to Iran. [redacted]  
the hostages' fate remains tied to the Shah's return to Iran. [redacted]

[redacted]

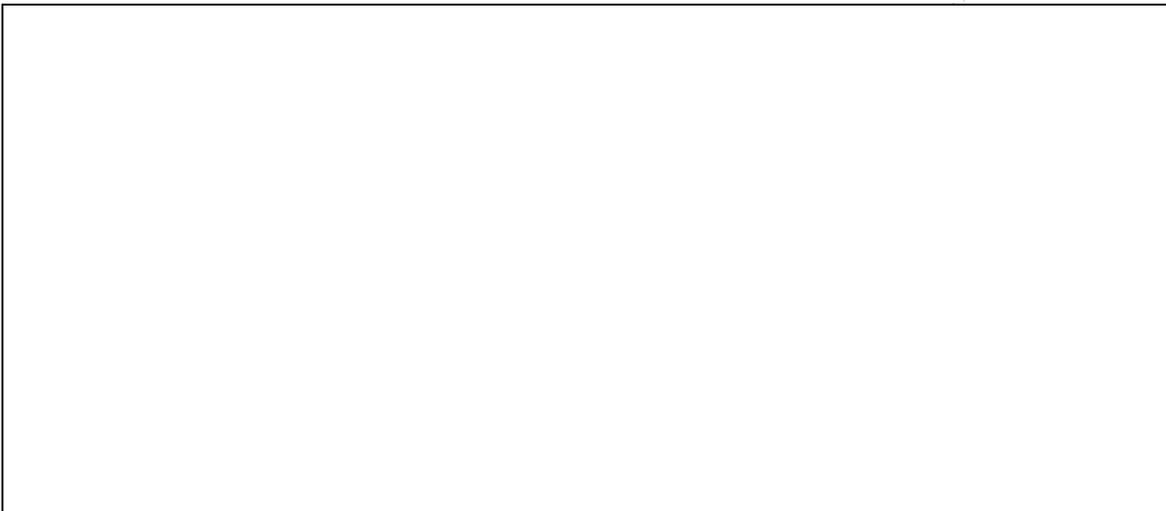
The trend of recent events has been against Bani-Sadr, and his political position is now more fragile than ever. He may try to appease his critics by shifting blame to Ghotbzadeh, a longtime rival, or by taking a hardline public position. There is also a possibility that at some point Bani-Sadr will conclude that his position is no longer viable and resign. [redacted]

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[redacted]

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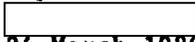


**ARAB STATES: Hardline Summit Apparently Postponed**

Press reports from Damascus indicate that a hardline summit of Syria, Libya, Algeria, South Yemen, and the PLO expected to open in Damascus later this week probably will be postponed. No official explanation has been offered, but the coming US, Egyptian, and Israeli talks in Washington and the continuing dispute between Libya and the PLO presumably were principal causes for the delay. 

Syrian President Assad held talks this weekend with visiting Algerian President Bendjedid, who will go on to Jordan today and to Iraq later this week. Bendjedid may carry a conciliatory message from Assad designed to paper over Syrian differences with Jordan and Iraq in order to rejuvenate Arab opposition to the US-sponsored peace process. 

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