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Director of
Central
Intelligence

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National Intelligence Daily

Friday
21 March 1980

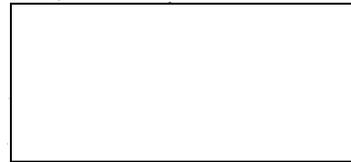
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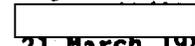
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SITUATION REPORT

IRAN

Ayatollah Khomeini's emphasis yesterday on the role of the National Assembly in determining future policies is a setback for President Bani-Sadr's hopes for a clear endorsement of his leadership. [redacted]

In a major speech, Khomeini said that the legislature "is higher than all the positions which exist in the country." Khomeini also strongly endorsed the legitimacy of last week's voting for the legislature in which the hardline Islamic Republic Party, Bani-Sadr's principal opposition, is leading. [redacted]

Khomeini's failure even to mention Bani-Sadr probably reflects his determination to strengthen the checks and balances among the institutions of the Islamic Republic and prevent any dominant leader from emerging. In his amnesty proclamation on Tuesday, however, Khomeini did support the President's role in restoring order in the judicial system. Bani-Sadr has long complained about the lack of government control over independent power centers, particularly local courts. [redacted]

The Ayatollah's statement would appear to rule out any major changes in the results of the legislative elections, which many political groups have charged are distorted because of ballot-tampering and fraud. Complete results probably will not be available for several more days if not weeks, and the second round of runoff elections may be delayed until mid-April. [redacted]

Khomeini did not mention the hostage issue. He did say, however, that his son will read a written message today dealing with the nation's problems. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

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[redacted]
21 March 1980

