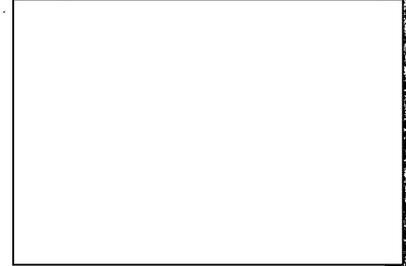




Director of
Central
Intelligence

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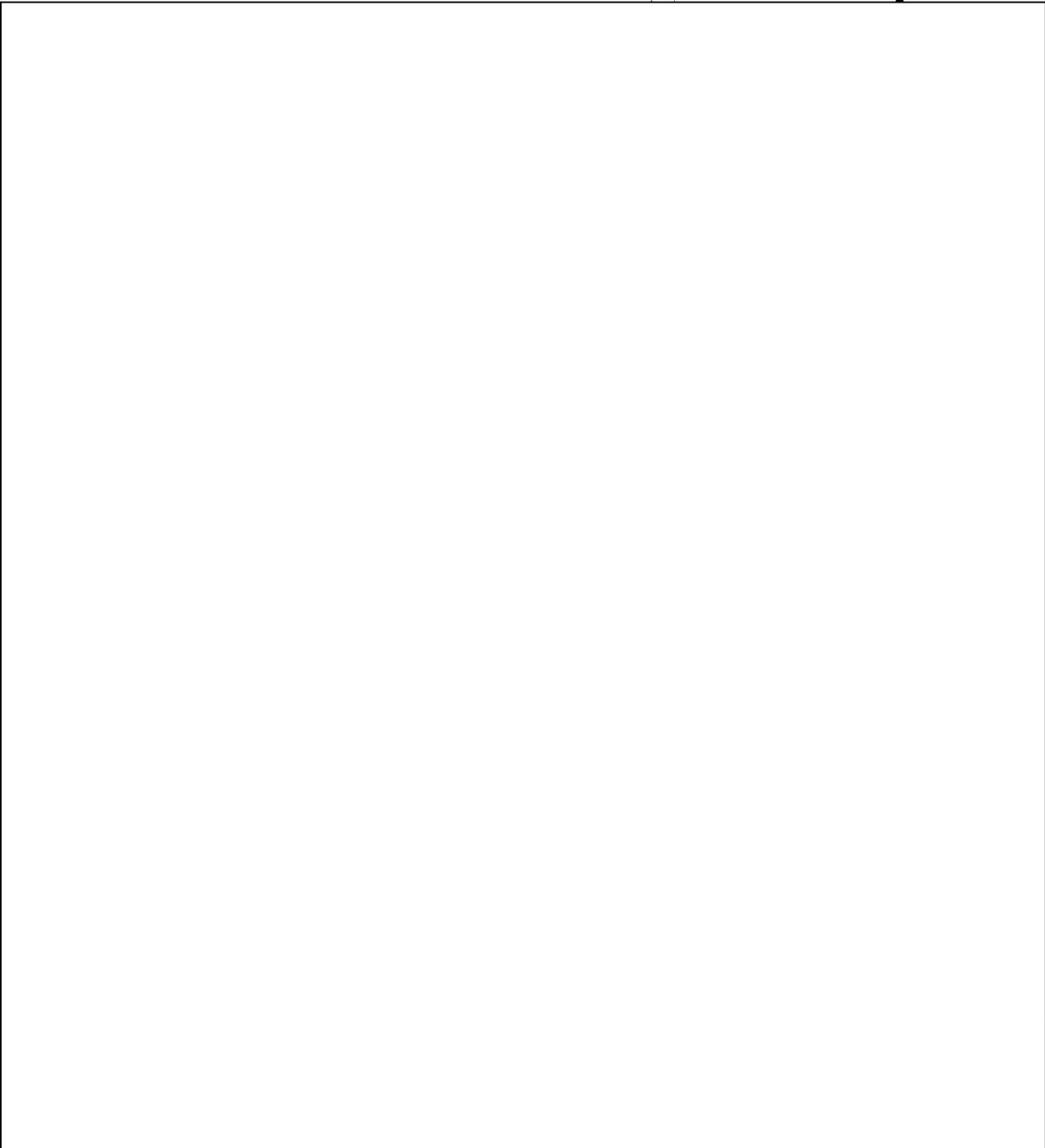
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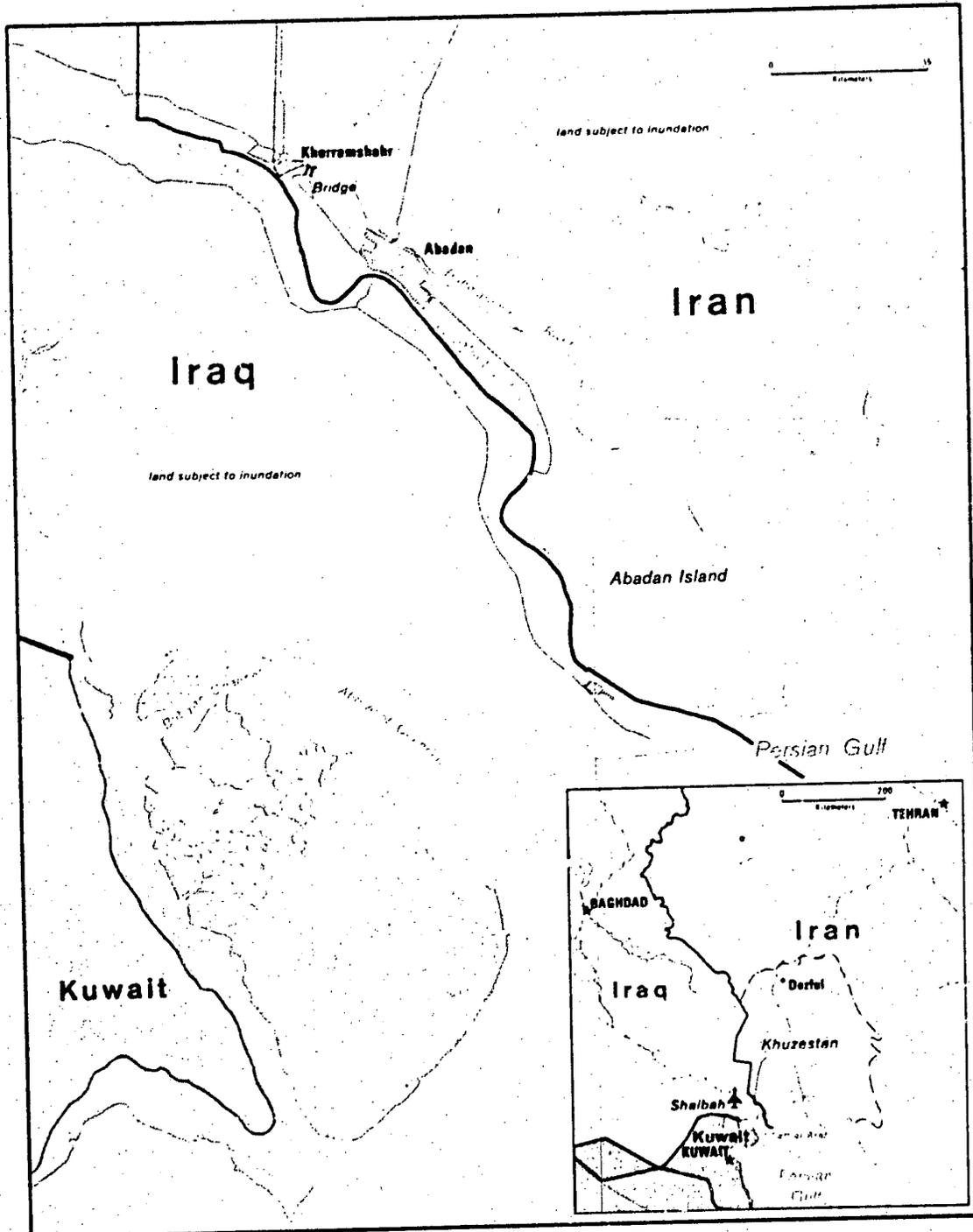


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SITUATION REPORTS

IRAQ-IRAN

Recriminations over the war may have begun in Baghdad.

[redacted]

Iraqi officers reportedly have begun voicing discontent over political constraints on military operations, particularly those caused by orders to avoid heavy casualties.

[redacted]

[redacted] Military leaders also have used the opportunity presented by the war to reinstate competent officers previously purged because of questionable political loyalty. [redacted]

The political constraints probably are responsible for Baghdad's failure to press its campaign in Khuzestan to a successful conclusion. Despite overwhelming superiority on the ground and no apparent shortage of supplies, Iraqi units essentially occupy the same positions they seized during the first two weeks in the war. In many cases Iraqi forces are opposed by only token Iranian armored forces. Even in Khorramshahr, where the heaviest fighting has taken place, the Iraqis have been reluctant to storm Iranian positions, preferring instead to wear down resistance through artillery fire. [redacted]

The Iraqi failure to cut the road and rail lines at Dezful and to clear other cities rapidly has given the Iranians time to regroup and to bring in reinforcements.

--continued

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In the long term these failures may cost Baghdad's forces more casualties than they would have suffered through aggressive military action at the outset. [redacted]

Criticism of the civilian leadership's role in directing the Iraqi war effort reflects longstanding tension between the Baath Party and the military. We have no hard evidence that military discontent with Saddam's leadership has led to plotting, but the Iraqi military is the only institution capable of posing a serious challenge to Baathist rule. [redacted]

Both sides, meanwhile, continued shelling each other's positions around Abadan. [redacted]

[redacted] SCUD missiles fired from Shaibah could reach Dezful, which has been hit at least twice by surface-to-surface missiles. [redacted]

Iranians Reject Cease-fire

Ayatollah Khomeini yesterday rejected the "peace offer" made by Saddam in his recent speech and said there can be "no compromise" with the "infidels." Khomeini again called for the overthrow of Saddam's government. (U)

Earlier this week Prime Minister Rajai reiterated the Iranian position that Iraq must withdraw to its pre-war border before negotiations on the war could be held. Rajai indicated that Iran might then be willing to discuss all issues of concern to Iraq--sovereignty over the Shatt al Arab, other territorial demands, and nonintervention in each other's internal affairs--but hinted that he would oppose direct talks with Baghdad, preferring instead either nonaligned or Islamic mediation. (U)

[redacted]

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6 November 1980