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Director of  
Central  
Intelligence

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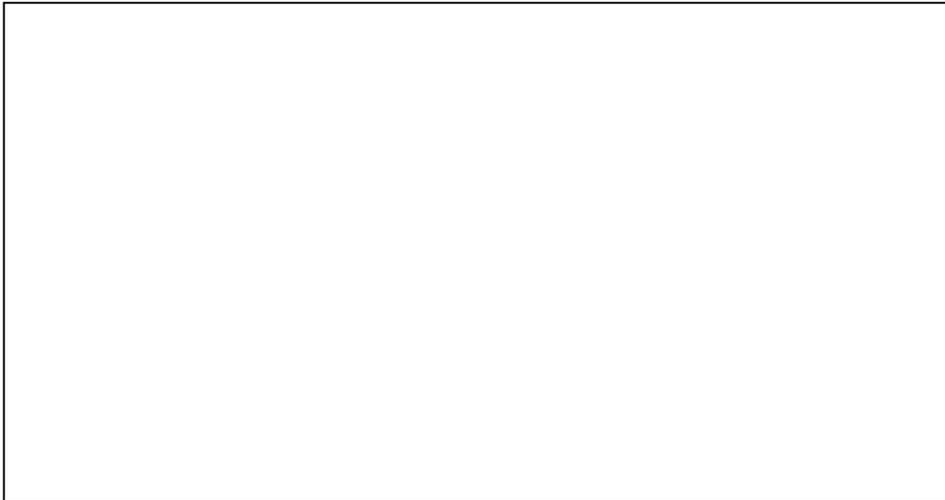


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IRAN-IRAQ

[REDACTED]

Iranian clerical leaders continue to take a tough stance in public, but they have offered hints of flexibility. The fundamentalists may believe it is necessary to end the war in order to undercut the growing political power of President Bani-Sadr, resulting from his alliance with the military and his role as commander in chief. [REDACTED]

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, [REDACTED] probably welcomed the opportunity to test Iranian acceptance of a political resolution to the conflict. He is not likely to turn off the Islamic initiative so long as it shows signs of progress. Saddam will continue to threaten military action to encourage Iranian flexibility. [REDACTED]

Search for Spare Parts

The Iranians are having only marginal success in efforts to buy spare parts and ammunition abroad. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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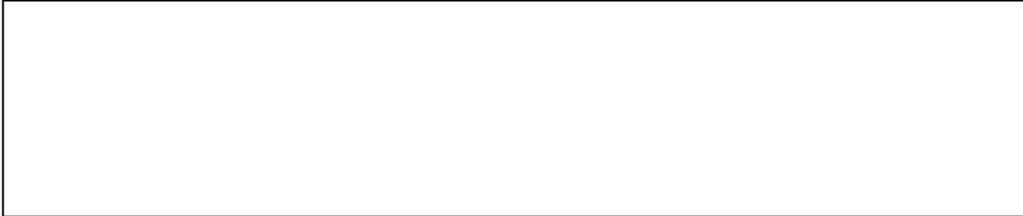
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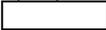
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The Iranians may soon receive delivery of some non-critical items covered in contracts negotiated under the Shah. Four Iranian-owned Sea King helicopters--stranded in Italy where they were being overhauled--and 16 new transport helicopters for which title had already been given to the Iranians are likely to be released soon.



The military, with help from civilian technicians including foreigners, has been able to repair some aircraft and tanks with parts from current inventories. Without a reliable source of critical spare parts, engines, and ammunition, however, Iran cannot sustain any counteroffensive and would be forced to give up additional territory if the Iraqis launch a major offensive.



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