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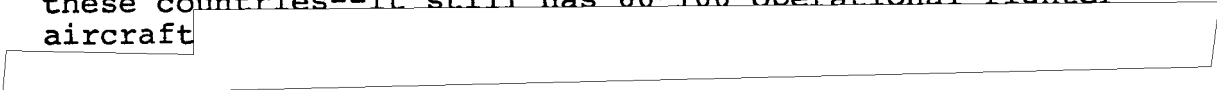
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31 December 1981

SSG Briefing

Iranian Threat to the Gulf

q Iran has not followed up its threats made last week against its Persian Gulf neighbors supporting Iraq. Tehran retains the capability to attack port and oil facilities in these countries--it still has 60-100 operational fighter aircraft



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Iran, however, has been reluctant to attack neighbors other than Kuwait--against which it has staged three strikes--in part because it fears reprisals on its own port and oil facilities. The Saudis, if attacked, could, for example, close the Gulf to shipping bound for Iranian ports and could allow the Iraqi Air Force to operate out of Saudi bases against Iranian oil facilities.



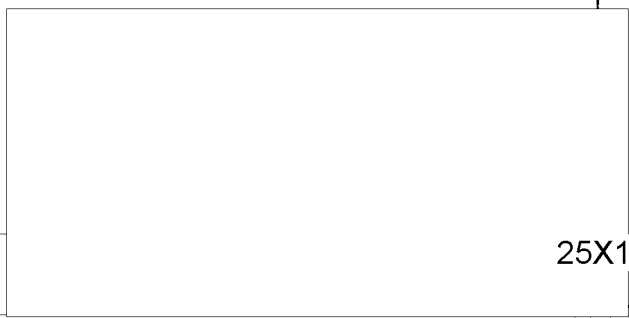
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Nonetheless, Iran's recent battlefield successes against the Iraqis have produced a new sense of confidence in Tehran, which may embolden Iran in its efforts to convince the Gulf states that aid to Baghdad is both futile and short-sighted. So far, Iran's warnings have gone unheeded, and Tehran might come to the conclusion that at least another demonstration attack is needed.

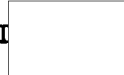


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