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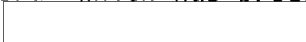
D/NESA 81-128  
29 December 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence  
VIA: Director, National Foreign Assessment Center  
FROM: Helene L. Boatner  
Director, Near East/South Asia Analysis  
National Foreign Assessment Center


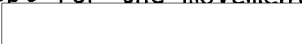
SUBJECT:  Increased Tension  
and Some Military Reinforcement Along Iran-Afghanistan  
Border 

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1. We have no evidence that Soviet forces in Afghanistan or along the USSR-Iran border are preparing to intervene in Iran. Moreover, we cannot identify any political or military development in Iran which has produced an apparent indication of heightened Soviet concern. 

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2. The deployment and strength of Soviet and Afghan forces near the Iran-Afghan border have not changed significantly in two years. The Soviets have one reduced strength motorized rifle division,  with about 200 tanks and 9,500 troops deployed near the Iran-Afghan border to conduct counter-guerrilla operations. An understrength Afghan infantry division with as many as 3,000 troops is stationed at Herat and launches aperiodic sweeps against guerrilla forces. The status of Soviet military forces in the USSR's Transcaucasus and Turkistan Military Districts has not changed during the past several months, except for the movement of those few forces recently dispatched to Afghanistan. 


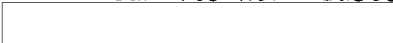
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3. We are unaware of any recent incidents which would cause Tehran to reinforce its border with Afghanistan. 

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 Iran has no sizable regular military forces near its northeastern border with Afghanistan or the Soviet Union. 

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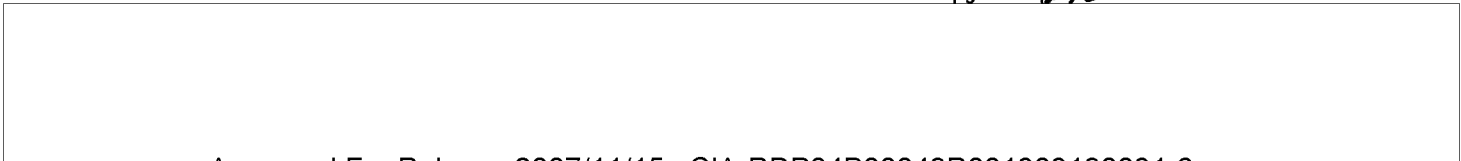
4. The political situation in Iran has been relative quiet for over two months. Acts of terrorism have declined dramatically from almost daily occurrences this summer to sporadic and isolated incidents. The internal

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SUBJECT: [Redacted] Increased Tension and  
Some Military Reinforcement Along Iran-Afghanistan Border

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opposition has been crippled by harsh government repression. The regime does not appear concerned about exiles, despite recent indications that those led by Bani-Sadr may be planning to call for a general strike in Iran. Although increased factionalization is evident within Iran's ruling clerical party--and between that party and the majority of clergy who remain outside its framework--Ayatollah Khomeini has prevented serious breaks in clerical ranks. [Redacted]

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5. Recent Soviet policy toward Iran has continued to emphasize cultivation of the Khomeini regime, reflecting an apparent assessment by Moscow that the clerical regime remains the dominant factor in Iranian political life. Soviet concern about the longevity of the regime--apparent during the assassination wave this past summer--seems to have eased. Moscow's relations with Tehran, however, remain strained.

[Redacted]

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Helene L. Boatner

[Redacted]

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Some Military Reinforcement Along Iran-Afghanistan Border

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