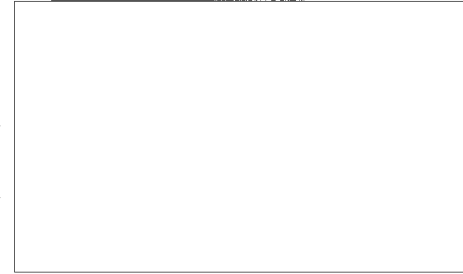




Director of
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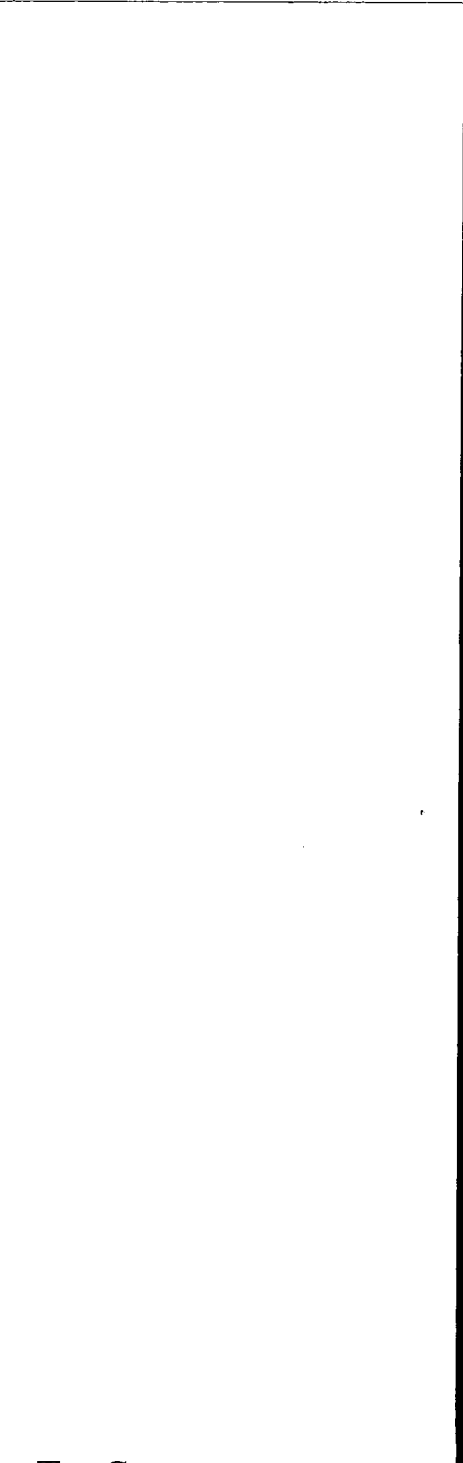


CY# 281



National Intelligence Daily

Wednesday
30 March 1983



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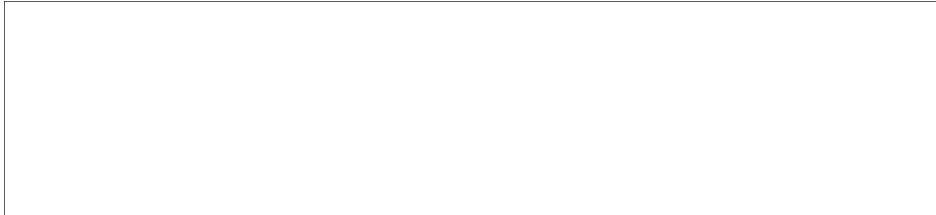
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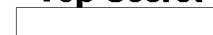


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Shia Muslim Areas



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LEBANON: Increasing Problems With the Shias

Clashes last weekend between armed Shia demonstrators and Lebanese security personnel in West Beirut reflect growing antigovernment sentiment among Lebanon's largest and poorest religious sect. [Redacted]

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The clashes, in which 17 were injured, marked the first time government forces have faced concerted armed resistance since the Army entered West Beirut last September. The demonstrators were protesting the arrest of 28 members of Amal, the mainline Shia organization, in connection with the government's investigation of recent attacks on members of the multinational peacekeeping force in Beirut. [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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The US Embassy reports that in predominantly Shia southern Lebanon—where many Shias have been cooperating with the Israelis—resentment over the occupation is increasing. The central government fears that its inability to exercise control in the area will turn more Shias against it. [Redacted]

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Comment: Although Amal is progovernment, the authorities believe it is heavily penetrated by Iranian supporters. In tracking down leftist Shias and fundamentalists sympathetic to Iran, the government risks provoking a general Shia backlash. [Redacted]

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The government long has been indifferent to the Shias, who are the most politically and economically deprived confessional group in Lebanon. Their growing political activism, however, makes them a potential source of instability that Beirut cannot afford to continue to ignore. [Redacted]

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PANAMA: Shifting Foreign Policy

The confused foreign policy positions taken by various government officials reflect the rivalry between President de la Espriella and National Guard Commander Paredes. [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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The US Embassy reports conflicting signals in the government's statements about the retention of the US Army School of the Americas in Panama beyond 1984. The announcement by Paredes last week that the school will revert to Panama next year subsequently was modified by the Foreign Minister and by Guard Chief of Staff Noriega. They have suggested independently that the school might be retained in exchange for an increase in Panama's sugar exports to the US. [Redacted]

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Comment: De la Espriella probably sees his authority as increasingly undermined by the growing political ambitions of Paredes. More confusion in foreign policy is likely as Paredes—using anti-US rhetoric—bids for the support of leftist elements. If the President believes his usefulness to the government has ended, however, he may decide to resign before elections can be held in 1984. [Redacted]

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USSR: Hints of Political Disarray

The US Embassy reports rumors of a recent hospitalization or attempted assassination of General Secretary Andropov have become more widespread. In addition, the Embassy notes that some of its informants now believe that the Central Committee plenum that had been predicted for this week will be held next month, while others believe it will occur in June. Meanwhile, a Soviet science official has told the Embassy that a Karl Marx commemorative meeting would be held today and that the speaker would be party secretary Chernenko.

[Redacted]

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Comment: Despite the seeming disarray, Andropov recently has made a strong showing. In the past week, for example, he has talked with two foreign visitors, responded to President Reagan's speech, and seen his ally, Foreign Minister Gromyko, promoted to First Deputy Premier. If a plenum was postponed, it may have been because Andropov was not yet ready to make key personnel changes. The choice of a speaker for a Karl Marx commemorative meeting has been the subject of conflicting reports, suggesting some disagreement in the leadership.

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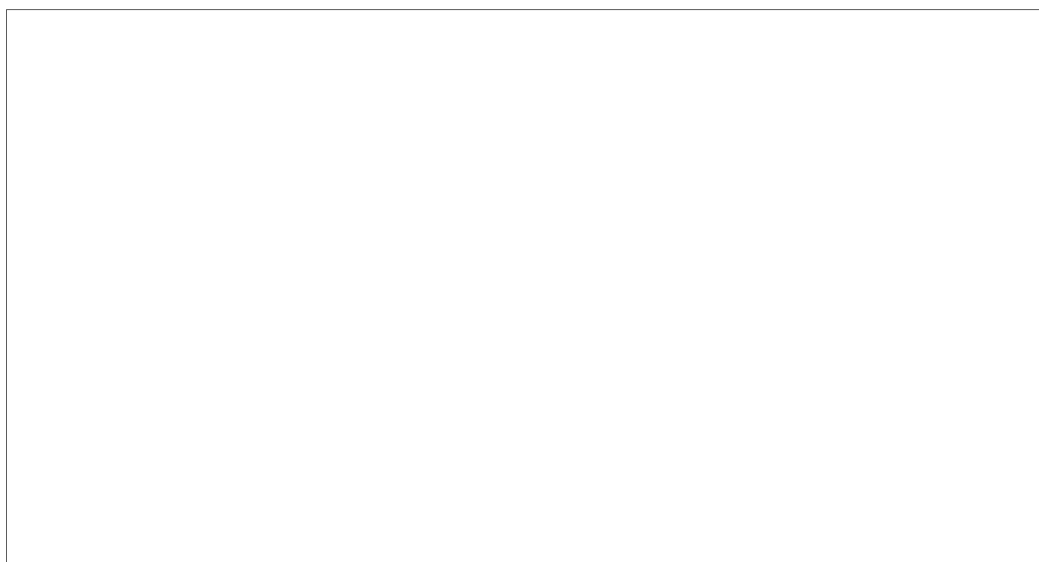
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NICARAGUA: Continued Pressure on the Church

Church officials are preparing a formal protest of the government's prohibition of live broadcasts of Holy Week religious services on Managua's Catholic radio station. The government's action is the first application of a directive requiring prior censorship of all programming by the few remaining independent radio stations. Earlier this month the Sandinistas issued a point-by-point rebuttal of the Pope's endorsement of the right of the Church to control the curriculum in Catholic schools. [Redacted]

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Comment: The Sandinistas appear confident they can continue their campaign against the Church hierarchy, despite potentially adverse domestic and international reaction. Last year the government failed to discourage participation in Holy Week processions. In the current tense atmosphere, supporters of Archbishop Obando y Bravo may clash with those backing the government and the "popular church." [Redacted]

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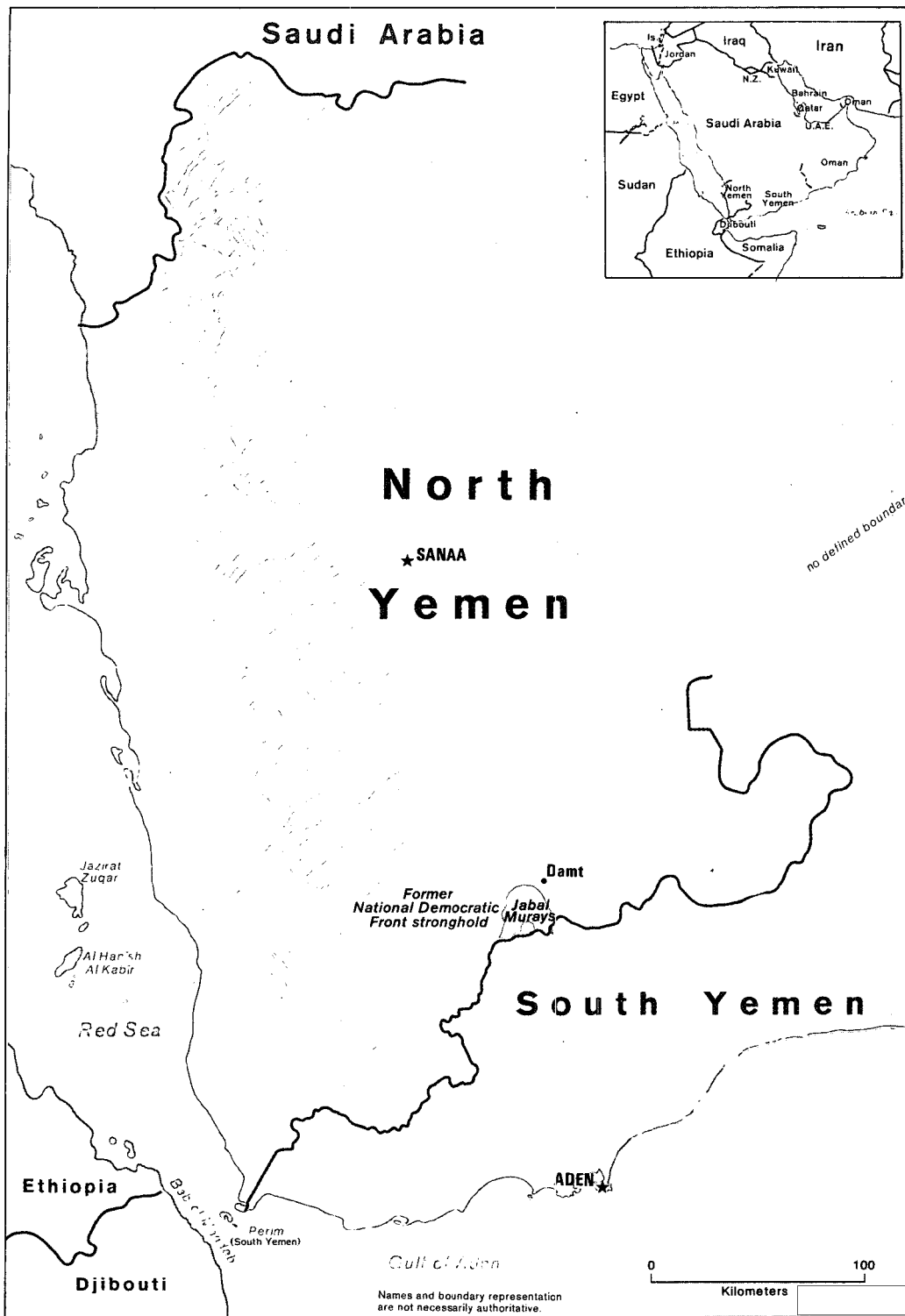
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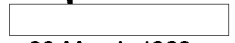
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NORTH YEMEN: Use of Tribal Militia

North Yemen is forming a tribal militia in the recently liberated Jabal Murays area near the border with South Yemen [Redacted]

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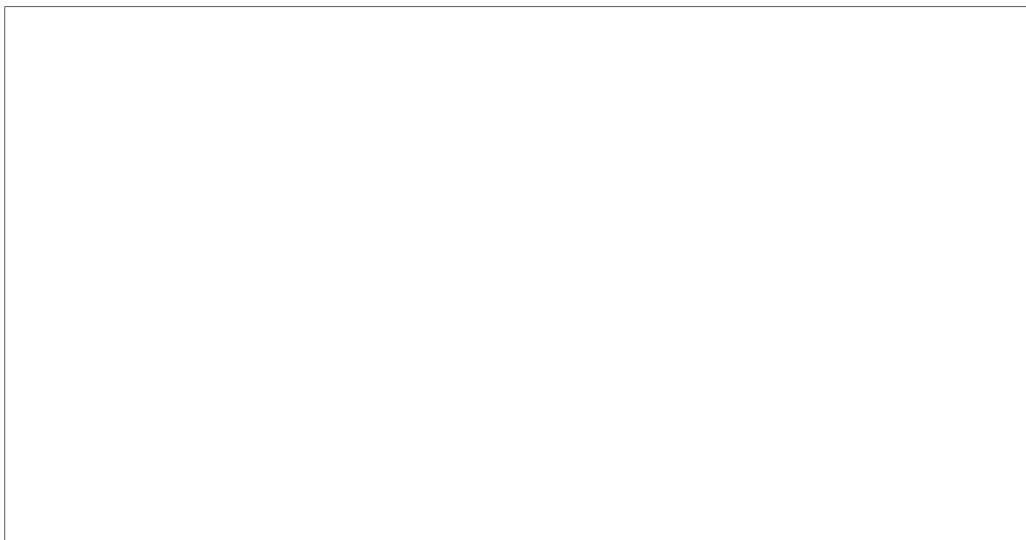
[Redacted] The militia will be used to help prevent a resurgence of activity by insurgents of the Aden-supported National Democratic Front. A similar unit, composed of former Front fighters, has been operating effectively near Damt. North Yemeni regular forces are strengthening bases along the border and could easily reenter the Jabal Murays area if needed. [Redacted]

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Comment: The government's increasing use of tribal militias represents a new emphasis on irregular forces in its counter-insurgency strategy. In the past regular forces swept Front-controlled areas, but often did not remain long enough to prevent the insurgents from returning. To solidify his government's gains, President Salih has promised economic aid for areas formerly controlled by the Front, but this may be prevented by Sanaa's increasing financial problems. [Redacted]

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