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Subject: IRAQI'S BW MISSION PLANNING
Not Finally Evaluated Intelligence

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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DIST: 1992

COUNTRY: IRAQ

SUBJ: IRAQI BW MISSION PLANNING

SUMMARY: IN THE FALL OF 1990, IRAQI PRESIDENT SADDAM FUSAYN ORDERED
THAT PLANS BE DRAWN UP FOR THE AIRBORNE DELIVERY OF A BIOLOGICAL
WARFARE (BW) AGENT THE PLAN CALLED FOR
THREE MIG-21'S, CARRYING ONLY CONVENTIONAL HIGH EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE TO
STAGE AN AIR RAID IF THIS INITIAL MISSION WAS SUCCESSFUL,
THEN A SECOND MISSION OF THREE MIG-21'S WAS TO BE FLOWN WITH AN SU-22
BW DISPERSAL AIRCRAFT FOLLOWING THEM AT A SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER
ALTITUDE. THE FIRST MISSION WAS SHOT DOWN OVER THE PERSIAN GULF,
HOWEVER, AND NO EFFORTS WERE MADE TO FIND ANOTHER METHOD TO DELIVER
THE BW AGENT.

2. THE PLAN CALLED FOR A TEST MISSION OF THREE MIG-21'S TO CONDUCT AN AIR RAID USING CONVENTIONAL HIGH EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE. IF THESE AIRCRAFT WERE ABLE TO PENETRATE AIR DEFENSES AND SUCCESSFULLY BOMB THEN A SECOND MISSION WAS TO TAKE OFF WITHIN A FEW DAYS OF THE FIRST, USING THE SAME FLIGHT PATH AND APPROACHES. THE SECOND MISSION, ALSO COMPOSED OF THREE MIG-21'S CARRYING CONVENTIONAL ORDNANCE, WAS TO SERVE AS A DECOY FOR A SINGLE SU-22 AIRCRAFT FOLLOWING THE SAME ROUTE BUT FLYING BETWEEN 50 AND 100 METERS ALTITUDE. OPTIMAL DELIVERY ALTITUDE FOR THE BW AGENT WAS JUDGED TO BE 50 METERS AT A SPEED OF 700 KILOMETERS AN HOUR. WHILE WIND AND WEATHER CONDITIONS WOULD BE CRITICAL TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF A BW MISSION, FOR SECURITY REASONS THERE WAS NO INTENTION TO INVOLVE AIR FORCE METEOROLOGISTS IN MISSION PLANNING.

SHORTLY AFTER HOSTILITIES BEGAN.

THE THREE-MIG TEST MISSION TOOK OFF FROM TALLIL AIRFIELD. NEAR AN NASARIYAH. ALL THREE AIRCRAFT WERE SHOT DOWN EARLY IN THE MISSION. AND AS A RESULT PLANS TO LAUNCH THE SU-22 ARMED WITH A BIOLOGICAL AGENT AND FLYING UNDER COVER OF A SECOND, DECOY MISSION WERE CANCELLED.

END OF MESSAGE

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