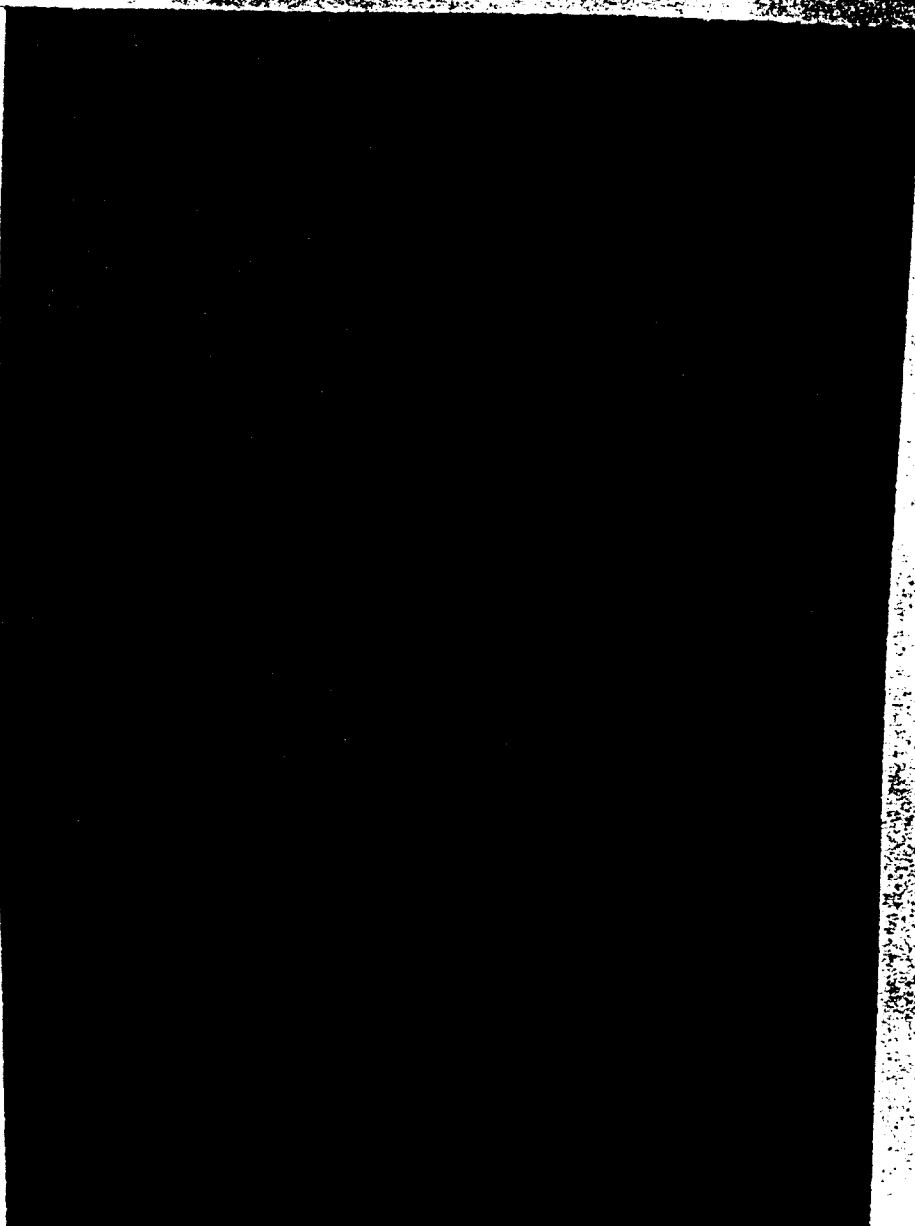




august 03, 1987

PERSIAN GULF:



NR

**Aftermath of Mecca Rioting**

Riyadh now reports 402 people killed, including 275 Iranian pilgrims, and 649 injured as a result of Friday's rioting in Mecca.



*continued*

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[REDACTED]

august 03, 1987

#### **Iranian and Saudi Reaction**

In a speech yesterday to commemorate the dead pilgrims, Iranian Assembly Speaker Rafsanjani said they had been murdered by Saudi Arabia acting under orders from the US. He said the US wanted to create a "tragedy" for Iran to compensate for the US failure to escort Kuwaiti tankers safely through the Gulf. Promising that Iran would take revenge for the deaths, Rafsanjani said Iran must uproot Saudi leaders from the region and send Americans to their death.

[REDACTED]

Rafsanjani's threat that Iran will work to overthrow the Saudi regime marks a significant escalation in Tehran's pressure on Riyadh to end its support for US intervention in the Gulf. Tehran, which probably orchestrated the riot, is trying to exploit the deaths to inflame Saudi Arabia's Shia minority to rebel against the Sunni leadership. Iran also is warning the Saudis they could face a campaign of Iranian-sponsored terrorism similar to that experienced by Kuwait.

[REDACTED]