september 29, 1987

PERSIAN GULF: Iranian Naval Activity

Several naval mines were found yesterday in a heavily traveled shipping channel in the Persian Guif near Dubayy, according to shipping sources

Abu Musa Island
two Iranian landing craft similar to ones involved in the minelaying near Farsi Island in July.

an increase in landing craft and small boats at the Revolutionary Guard naval base at Bushehr Halileh.

an Iranian frigate was ordered yesterday to carry out an attack south of Sirri Island.

(b)(i) (b)(3)

The Iranian landing craft at Abu Musa probably were involved in laying the minefield off Dubayy. More mining is likely, although Tehran undoubtedly is tightening security around its operations to prevent a repetition of the Iran Ajr incident. The buildup of small craft at Bushehr Hallleh may indicate that Iran is preparing for more widespread attacks on shipping in the northern Gulf. Alternatively, the Revolutionary Guard may be planning amphibious operations against Iraqi, Kuwaiti, or Saudi oil platforms and coastal facilities in the Gulf.