



Director of
Central
Intelligence

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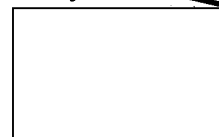


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[Redacted]

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**Dissemination Control
Abbreviations**

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Iran-Iraq: Fighting in Iraq Continues



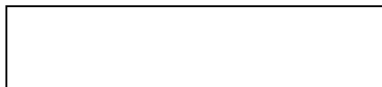
Special Analysis



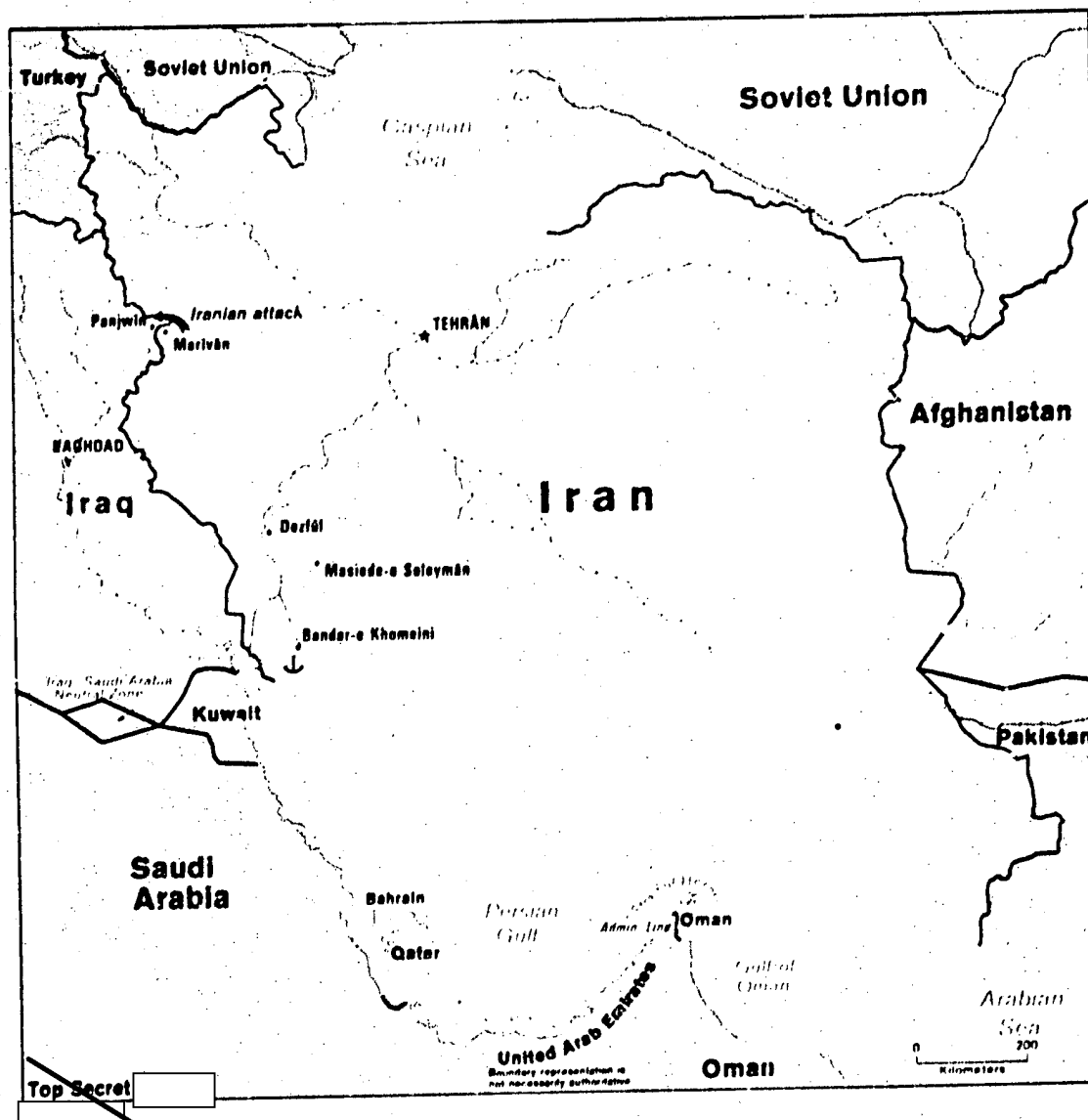
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IRAN-IRAQ: Fighting in Iraq Continues

Iran's initial success in recent fighting along the northern portion of the border has prompted Iraq to retaliate against Iranian cities.

[redacted] Iranian forces at least 10 kilometers inside Iraq northwest of Panjwin and in position to threaten the town. A small Iraqi armored force was counterattacking. Both sides report heavy fighting in the hills just north and east of Panjwin. [redacted]

Iraq has reacted by increasing its airstrikes on Marivan, headquarters of the Iranian operation, and by launching surface-to-surface missile attacks on Dezful and Maslede-e Soleyman [redacted]. In addition, the Iraqis claim to have mined the approaches to Bandar-e Khomelil, Iran's only functioning port with a railhead. [redacted]

[redacted] Iran's military attache in Damascus privately has repeated Tehran's warning that it will mine the Strait of Hormuz if Baghdad attacks Iranian oil facilities. One of Iran's destroyers conducted an exercise near the Strait of Hormuz on Friday [redacted]

Comment: The outcome of the border fighting is still unclear, but the Iranians probably will try to consolidate their gains to secure control of the important border crossing from Marivan to Panjwin before winter weather makes further heavy fighting difficult. Iraq's strategy of punishing Iran by attacking population centers is unlikely to alter Iran's determination to continue its war of attrition. [redacted]

Iraq's claim to have mined Bandar-e Khomelini is not confirmed. A similar Iraqi claim earlier in the war and repeated Iraqi attacks on merchant ships have failed to deter vessels from calling at the port. [redacted]

Iranian officials have repeatedly warned publicly and privately that the Strait of Hormuz would be closed if the Iraqis interfered with Iranian oil exports. Iran's second naval exercise near the Strait of Hormuz in less than a month is part of its campaign to demonstrate the seriousness of its threats. [redacted]

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