

Director of Central Intelligence (b)(1) (b)(3) Top Secret

# **National Intelligence Daily**

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Situation Reports

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## SITUATION REPORTS

#### IRAQ-IRAN

The Iraqis may be moving to cut Iranian supply lines between Khorramshahr and Abadan. (U)

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ern press reports indicate that a pontoon crossing took place yesterday.

The Iraqis issued a warning yesterday that they plan to use more surface-to-surface weapons against Dezful and Ahvaz. Scud missiles or FROG rockets have been used against Dezful twice-on the first day of the war and again on Thursday; the Iranians claim there were substantial casualties in the attack on Thursday.

### Iraqi Shias

Ayatollah Khomeini's exhortations for Iraqis to rise up and overthrow President Saddam Hussein are having little apparent impact on Iraq's majority Shia Muslim population, although Shia dissident groups are continuing their operations against the regime. Iraqi security officials probably have redoubled their efforts to crack down on Shia opposition groups since the beginning of the hostilities.

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Baghdad is countering Iranian calls for rebellion by broadcasting messages of support for Saddam from Iraqi Shia leaders.

#### The Libyan Position

Libyan leader Qadhafi's message yesterday to Saudi Arabia and the smaller Persian Gulf states underlines the growing division among Arab states over the Iraqi-Iranian war. Qadhafi called for resistance to the "American military advance" in the Arabian peninsula and made it clear that he intended to oppose the US "occupation" with or without the cooperation of the peninsula governments. He presumably was threatening to work against regimes accepting US military assistance or assurances. (U)

Qadhafi also noted that it is an Islamic "duty" to side with the Muslims of Iran in this confrontation, implying that Iraq is allied with the West. The Libyan leader's impulse to side with Iran probably grows out of recent strained relations with Iraq and his sympathy for the Iranian revolution, which he sees as an imitation of his own. (U)

Iraq yesterday announced the closure of its embassies in Libya, Syria, and North Korea in protest of these countries' support for Iran. Libyan, Syrian, and North Korean diplomats have been told to leave Iraq by this weekend. Baghdad, however, apparently has stopped short of formally breaking diplomatic relations. (U)

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# Persian Gulf Shipping

Merchant ships continue to move safely through the Strait of Hormuz. There has been a rise in the number of tankers entering the Gulf of Oman this week as fears caused by the conflict began to abate.

Oil company officials involved in tanker operations meeting in London Wednesday agreed that there is no serious problem with navigation through the Strait. Insurance rates are no longer posted for ships in the Shatt al Arab and Iranian coastal waters except on an ad hoc basis.

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