

(b) (1)
(b) (3)



Director of
Central
Intelligence

~~Top Secret~~

National Intelligence Daily

Monday
10 March 1980

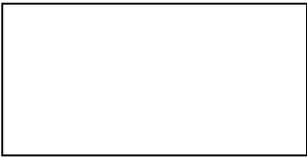
~~Top Secret~~

CO NID 80-0581X

10 MARCH 1980

Copy 000

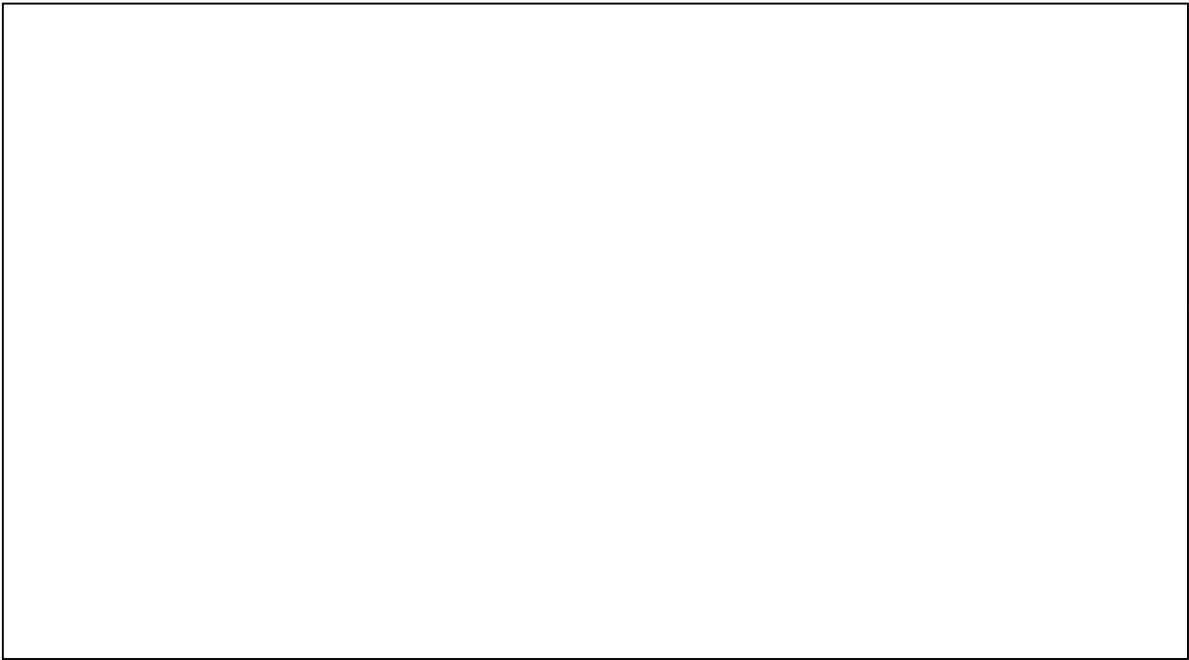
~~Top Secret~~



Contents

Situation Report

Iran 1



~~Top Secret~~

10 March 1980

~~Top Secret~~

SITUATION REPORT

IRAN

The stalling this weekend over delivering the hostages may have reflected last-minute efforts by the militants to retain custody or at least force concessions from President Bani-Sadr.



Following yesterday's Revolutionary Council meeting-- which was attended by Ahmad Khomeini--Foreign Minister Ghotbzadeh announced that a final decision on the time of the hostages' transfer would be made today. Council spokesman Habibi said the militants' refusal to accept Ghotbzadeh as the Council's intermediary does not pose an insoluble problem. It is the Foreign Ministry, not Ghotbzadeh, that is responsible for handling the transfer, he said, and other officials could deal with the arrangements. (U)

Although the demonstrations outside the Embassy have so far been relatively small by Iranian standards, the militants have been encouraged by indications that some members of the Revolutionary Council, including Ayatollahs Khamanei, Rafsanjani, and Khalkhali, oppose taking custody of the hostages. The Islamic Republic Party has also issued a statement encouraging the militants to retain control, although it also urged them to respect the government's wishes.

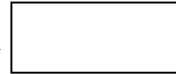
--continued




~~Top Secret~~

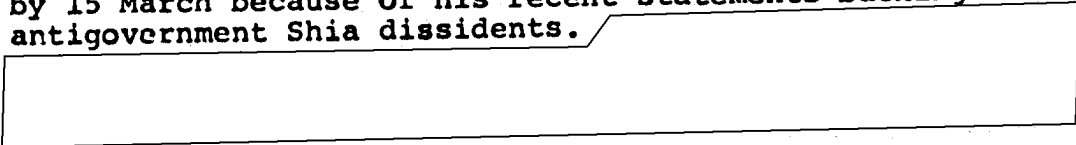
10 March 1980

Top Secret



The militants seem to be in a good position to gain some concessions from Bani-Sadr. They could, for example, demand Ghotbzadeh's dismissal or press for a guarantee that they can continue to occupy the Embassy compound, have access to the media, and release Embassy documents. There is little reason to believe the hostages will be freed any time before the National Assembly meets. 

Iran-Iraq

Relations between Tehran and Baghdad are again deteriorating. Iraq yesterday publicly declared Iran's Ambassador persona non grata and demanded his withdrawal by 15 March because of his recent statements backing antigovernment Shia dissidents. 

Top Secret


10 March 1980