

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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RECOMMEND FULL RELEASE

JUL 12 2 07 PM '82

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ACTION

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Marvin Russell, Senior Reviewer

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: WILLIAM P. CLARK

SUBJECT: An Iranian Invasion of Iraq; Considerations for US Policy

Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
Date: 15 JAN 2014 Authority: EO 13526
Declassify: Deny in Full:
Declassify in Part: X
Reason: 3-3(b)(6)
MDR: 12-M-1510

It appears that Iran will invade Iraq in the next few days. An invasion will create shock waves throughout the Gulf and pose further dangers for US interests in the Middle East, which are already threatened because of Lebanon. This memorandum summarizes the situation, reviews US interests and objectives, and outlines contingency measures which require your approval as we prepare to deal with the Iranian threat.

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL
Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: JAN 14 2014

The Current Situation

The Iranians have made the necessary preparations to launch an invasion of southwestern Iraq. While attacks may occur at other points along the border, the Iranians are massing 100,000 troops opposite Basra, and their initial goal appears to be the destruction of the Iraqi army and the capture of Basra. The attainment of these objectives, coupled with the fomenting of Shia and Kurdish unrest, could succeed in bringing down the regime of Saddam Hussein. In these circumstances, Iranian forces will sit astride Kuwait, leaving the Kuwaitis very vulnerable to direct or indirect Iranian threats. The Saudis, Jordanians, and Gulf states will be extremely alarmed, and can be expected to turn to us for protection. Faced with direct threats on their own territory, Iraqi forces may be invigorated and succeed in resisting Iran's invasion. However, given the past performance of the Iraqi army, it seems likely that Iran eventually will succeed in accomplishing its military objectives.

US Interests

- To deny Iran to the Soviet Union and keep open the possibility of US rapprochement with Iran.
- To protect moderate Arab states from overt or covert Iranian aggression and protect US economic interests (including oil access) in the region.
- To prevent a strengthening of Iraqi ties with the Soviet Union or the "capture" of Baghdad by Tehran or Damascus.

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Stornell
Date 3/11/10
Classify as
Declassify on
Reason
of public

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Review on 7/10/2003

OSD Rcy No. 2A

Downgraded to Secret
Date: 13 JAN 2014
Chief, Declassification Division, WHS

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See Def Cont No.

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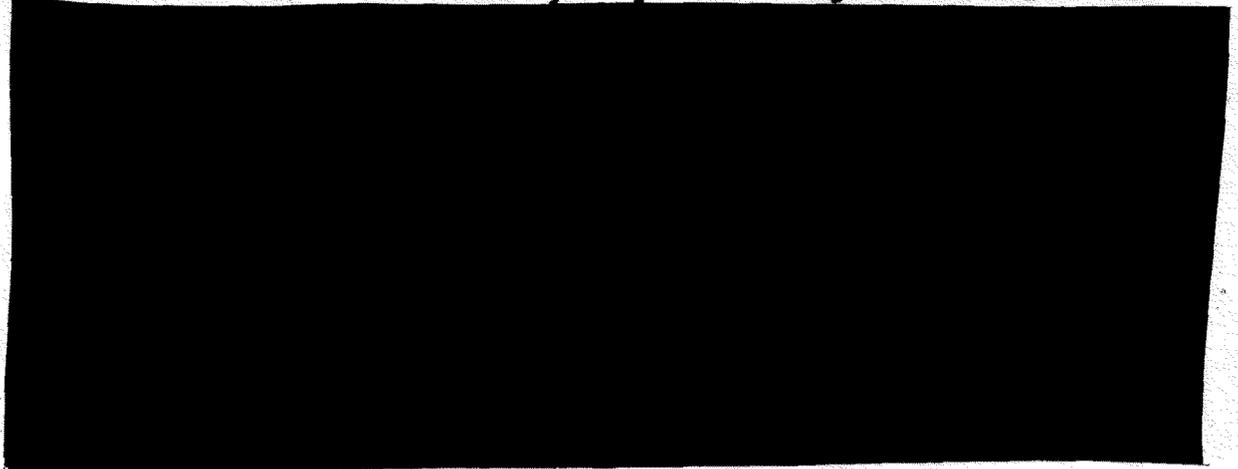
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JS 3.3(b)(6)

-- To demonstrate the reliability and value of the US as an ally
and the cynicism of the Soviet Union.

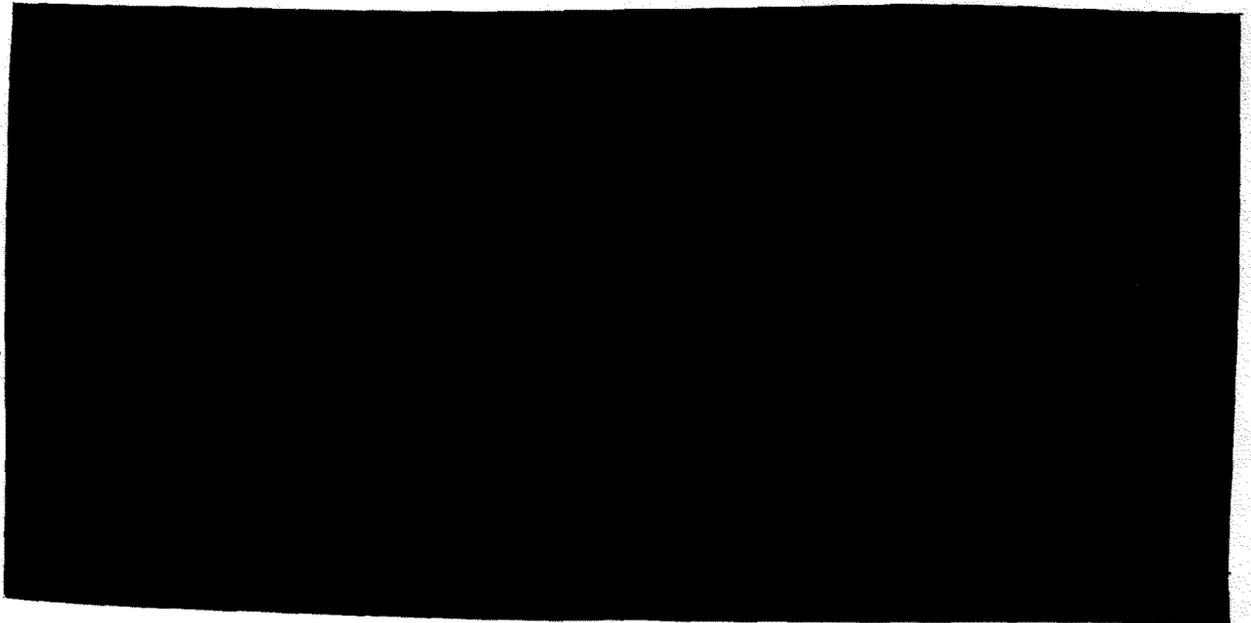
US Objectives

Political. Our principal objective is to help bring an end to the
war before Iran can assume hegemony in the region and undermines



Economic. We must work with allies and friends to prevent the
widening of the war in a manner that would disrupt Gulf oil supplies
and/or international financial markets.

US Policy



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JS 3.3(b)(6)

If you approve, the following measures would position us to act quickly to respond to requests from our friends in the area for assistance in the face of Iranian threats:

1. A Presidential letter to [redacted] perhaps carried by a Special Envoy, that describes our concerns and states our readiness to cooperate in the defense of [redacted]
2. Messages to [redacted] expressing support and suggesting immediate consultations on the threat.
3. Public statements opposing acquisition of territory by force and raising the perception of the gravity of the situation.
4. Develop Congressional briefings that make clear the character of US interests in the region, threats to those interests, and feasible courses of action that the US may take to protect American interests.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10. Initiate with our allies an UNSC resolution calling for cease-fire, withdrawal, negotiations, and war relief measures.

11. Contingency press guidance at Tab A.

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RECOMMENDATION

That you approve the above-listed measures.

Approve _____

Disapprove _____

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Prepared by: Howard J. Teicher

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CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE

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The United States Government has and will maintain a policy of neutrality in the war between Iran and Iraq. We believe a political solution to the war must be sought which is based on respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of both states. The United States will support all efforts to bring about a cessation of hostilities and a negotiated end to the conflict. Because of our vital interests and responsibilities in the Gulf area, the United States is prepared in concert with the states of the area, to take all appropriate measures to support the security of friendly states.