

IMMEDIATE

IRAN/IRAQ

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TELNO 274 OF 20 MAY 1984

INFO IMMEDIATE MODUK (D14), BAGHDAD, GULF POSTS, WASHINGTON
INFO PRIORITY UKMIS NEW YORK, UKDEL NATO, PARIS, UKREP BRUSSELS
SAVING TO UKDEL OECD.

MY TELNO 266 : ATTACKS ON GULF SHIPPING.

SUMMARY.

1. STATEMENTS BY IRANIAN LEADERS OVER THE WEEKEND SHOWED DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE THE WAR AND THREATENED ACTION AGAINST REGIONAL AND WESTERN COUNTRIES IF THEY INTERVENED. THE IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER APPEALED TO THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL LAST WEEK TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST IRAQ'S ATTACKS ON SHIPPING.

DETAIL.

2. IRAN AT FIRST DENIED IRAQ'S CLAIM TO HAVE ATTACKED TWO NAVAL TARGETS IN THE GULF ON THE MORNING OF 18 MAY, BUT HAS SINCE REPORTED THE SINKING OF THE PANAMANIAN-REGISTERED BULK CARRIER FIDELITY.

3. AT FRIDAY PRAYERS ON 18 MAY, RAFSANJANI TALKED AT LENGTH ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE GULF, AMID SHOUTS OF "WAR, WAR UNTIL VICTORY" FROM THE CONGREGATION. HE SAID THAT SADDAM'S NEW POLICY TO SAVE HIS TOTTERING REGIME WAS TO EMBARK ON ADVENTURISM AND ESCALATE THE WAR INTO A REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT. THE US, SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT AND FRANCE WERE ACCOMPLICES IN THIS POLICY. THERE WAS A PLOT TO PUT PRESSURE ON IRAN AND CUT ITS OIL EXPORTS. SHOULD THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC DISPLAY THE SLIGHTEST DEGREE OF WEAKNESS, WITHIN A FORTNIGHT, NO SHIP WOULD COME TO KHARG, BUT IRAN WAS PREPARED TO PAY ANY PRICE AND WOULD NEVER SURRENDER TO INTERNATIONAL BULLYING. HE WARNED THE GULF COUNTRIES NOT TO GET DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE WAR, AS SAUDI ARABIA AND KUWAIT ALREADY HAD THROUGH THEIR RECENT COLLABORATION WITH THE IRAQI REGIME. HE ALSO WARNED THE SUPERPOWERS NOT TO THINK IN

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4. IN A COMMUNIQUE ISSUED LATE ON 18 MAY, THE REVOLUTIONARY GUARDS WARNED THAT THEY WOULD TURN THE WHOLE MIDDLE EAST INTO A BATTLEFRONT IF THE SUPERPOWERS AND THEIR REGIONAL AGENTS SOUGHT TO INVOLVE THEMSELVES DIRECTLY IN THE WAR. THEY ALSO CALLED ON ALL MUSLIM ACTIVISTS TO PREPARE THEMSELVES FOR ACTION AGAINST AMERICAN INTERESTS THROUGHOUT THE GLOBE IF THE US CONTINUED ITS ADVENTURISM IN ISLAMIC COUNTRIES.

5. IN A SPEECH AT QOM ON 18 MAY, PRESIDENT KHAMENE'I SAID THAT IRAN'S ENEMIES HAD STARTED THE WAR AND WERE NOW TRYING TO IMPLEMENT DIABOLICAL PLANS IN THE GULF, BUT THEY WOULD BE DEFEATED.

6. ON 19 MAY THE IRANIAN RADIO REPORTED THAT LAST WEEK THE IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SENT A NOTE TO THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL CALLING FOR ACTION TO STOP IRAQ ATTACKING SHIPPING IN THE GULF IN VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.

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