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# Collection: EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT, NSC: COUNTRY FILE Folder: IRAN-IRAQ WAR (03/19/1984-04/16/1984) [TOO LATE TO FILE] Box: RAC Box 36

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### **Ronald Reagan Library**

Collection Name	EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT, NSC: COUNTRY	FILE	<b>Wit</b> l LOJ	h <b>drawer</b> 9/25/2006
File Folder	IRAN-IRAQ WAR (3/19/1984-4/16/1984) [TOO LA FILE]	ATE TO		A
Box Number	36		BAT 39	TLE
ID Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages		Restrictions
27653 MEMO	DUR AND FORTIER TO MCFARLANE, RE MEETING	1	3/19/1984	B1
27654 TALKING POINTS	FOR MCFARLANE	4	ND	B1
27655 CABLE	151030Z MAR 84	2	3/15/1984	B1
27656 CABLE	161551Z MAR 84	2	3/16/1984	B1
27657 MEMO	RE PAPER ON IRAN-IRAQ WAR <b>PAR 1/8/2008 NLRRF1718</b>	1	3/13/1984	B3
27658 PAPER	IRAN-IRAQ WAR <b>PAR 1/8/2008 NLRRF1718</b>	5	ND	B1 B3

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

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### WITHDRAWAL SHEET **Ronald Reagan Library**

Collection Name	EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT, NSC: COUNTRY	FILE Withdrawer LOJ 9/25/2000
File Folder	IRAN-IRAQ WAR (3/19/1984-4/16/1984) [TOO I FILE]	
Box Number	36	BATTLE 39
ID Doc Type	Document Description	No of Doc Date Restrictions Pages
27659 SUMMARY	RE UK <b>D 1/8/2008 NLRRF1718</b>	2 10/19/1983 B1 B3 B6
27660 PROFILE SHEET	8490440	1 4/5/1984 B1
27661 MEMO	JACK N MERRITT TO DEPUTY ASISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS	1 4/10/1984 B1
27662 POINTS	ATTACHMENT TO 27661 (PAGES MARKED AS 7-10)	4 ND B1
27663 PROFILE SHEET	8490440 (SAME INFORMATION 27660, BUT DIFFERENT ACTION OFFICERS)	1 4/5/1984 B1
27664 MEMO	POINDEXTER TO MURPHY, HOWE, ARMITAGE AND MOREAU	1 4/9/1984 B1

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Box Number	36		BAT 39	TLE
ID Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
27665 TALKING POINTS	ATTACHMENT FOR 27664	8	ND	B1
27666 MEMO	DUR TO POINDEXTER, RE TALKING POINTS	1	4/9/1984	B1
27667 MEMO	POINDEXTER TO MURPHY, HOWE, ARMITAGE, MOREAU	1	4/6/1984	B1
27668 TALKING POINTS	ATTACHMENT TO 27667 (DIFFERENT TEXT THAN 27665)	8	ND	B1
27669 MEMO	DUR TO POINDEXTER, RE TALKING POINTS	1	4/5/1984	B1
27670 TALKING POINTS	PAGE 8 ONLY	1	ND	B1

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ID Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages		Restrictions
27671 MEMO	DUR TO MCFARLANE, RE FOLLOW-ON ACTIVITY	1	4/25/1984	B1
27672 MEMO	CHARLES HILL TO MCFARLANE, RE FOLLOW-ON	1	4/16/1984	B1

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ID	Document Type Document Description	No of pages	Doc Date	Restric- tions
27653	3 MEMO	1	3/19/1984	<b>B</b> 1
	DUR AND FORTIER TO MCFARLANE, RE MEETING			

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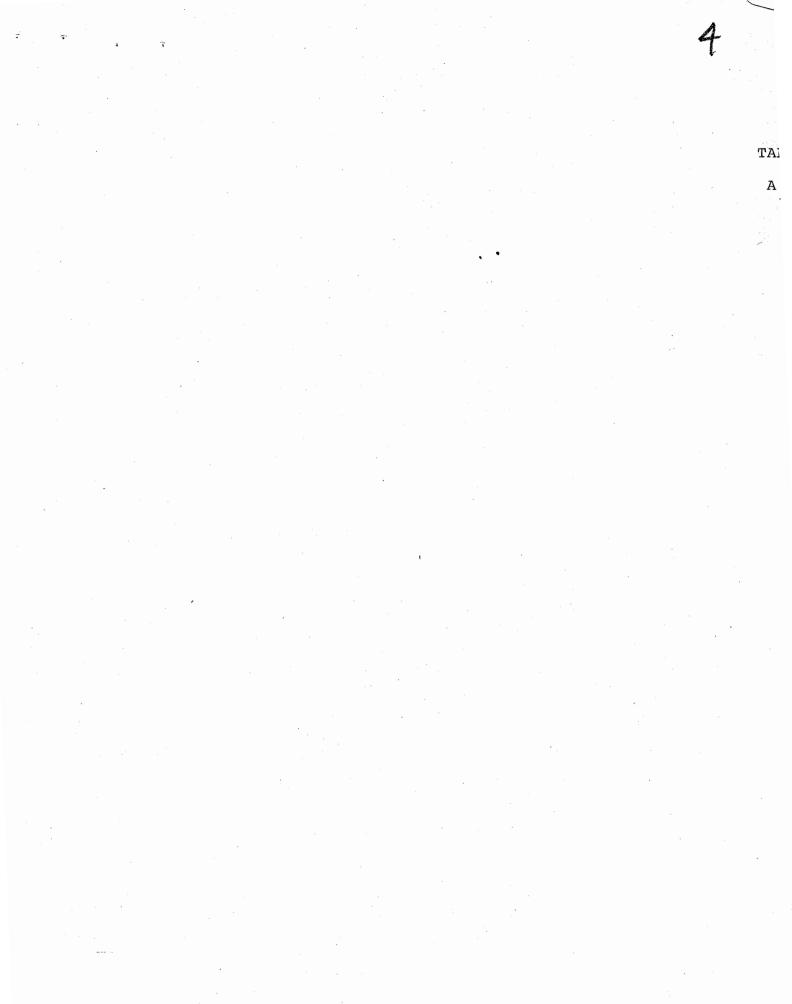
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Box N	lumber			
36			39	
ID	Document Type Document Description	No of pages	Doc Date	Restric- tions
27654	4 TALKING POINTS FOR MCFARLANE	4	ND	B1

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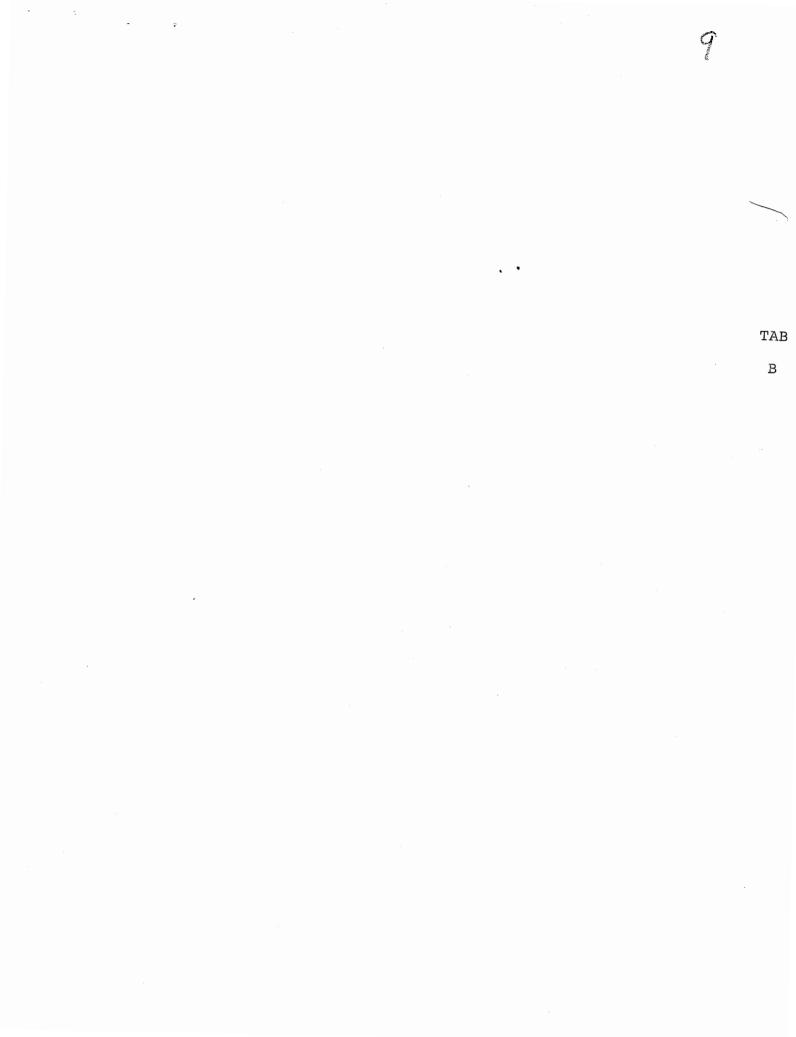
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ID	Document Type Document Description	No of pages	Doc Date	Restric- tions
27655	5 CABLE 151030Z MAR 84	2	3/15/1984	B1

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36			39	
ID	Document Type Document Description	No of pages	Doc Date	Restric- tions
27656	6 CABLE 161551Z MAR 84	2	3/16/1984	B1

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Central Intelligence Agency' Office of the Deputy Director for Intelligence

#### 13 March 1984

NOTE TO: Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

Attached is an Interagency Intelligence Assessment updating last October's Special National Intelligence Estimate on the Iran-Iraq War. It also addresses the vulnerability of Gulf States to various types of Iranian action.

It is my understanding that DOE will address the energy and economic implications of the various scenarios addressed in this paper.

Copies of this paper are being provided simultaneously to the other CPPG principals.

Robert M. Gates

Deputy Director for Intelligence

Attachment: NIC M 84-10003, dtd 12Mar84

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#### INTERAGENCY INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT 12 March 1984

#### IRAN-IRAU WAR: Escalation Scenarios and Threats to Persian Gulf States

We believe the warnings about possible escalation of the Gulf war contained in SNIE 34/35-2-83 dated October 1983 remain valid. The SNIE predicted a series of intermediate escalatory steps by Iraq to increase military pressure on Iran, possibly culminating in Iraqi attacks on Iran's Khark Island oil terminal or associated tanker traffic and Iranian retaliation against oil exports from Arab Gulf states. We believe Iraq already has passed through many of the intermediate warning steps outlined in the SNIE.

The risk of a serious Iraqi effort against tankers or Khark Island will increase if, as expected, Iran launches its next major offensive, probably within a month. A serious Iraqi effort against Khark is particularly likely if the battle goes badly for Baghdad. On paper Iraq has the capability to shut down Khark Island through direct military attack or attack on tankers calling at Khark. Iraqi willingness to risk heavy losses in such efforts is the question.

As we noted in the October SNIE, the result of Iraq's initial attacks on Iranian oil exports from Khark is not likely to be clear cut. Should sporadic or limited Iraqi attacks cause only a modest interruption in Iranian oil export we believe Iran would choose options at the lower end of the escalatory scale.

This Interagency Intelligence Assessment was requested by the National Security Council Staff. It was prepared under the auspices of the National Intelligence Officer for Near East and South Asia. The Assessment was coordinated at the working level with the Central Intelligence Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, the Department of State, and the intelligence services of the U.S. Army and Marine Corps. Information available as of 12 March 1984 was used in preparation of this Assessment.

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At a minimum, we believe the Iranians will employ psychological warfare through the use of Iranian inspired and supported Shia terrorism directed at Iraq's Gulf supporters as well as US personnel and facilities in the region and beyond.

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Iran might also execute some of the lower risk options if its new offensive is defeated by Iraq.

#### Lower Risk Options

As discussed in the SNIE, Iran has numerous options for retaliation but we believe the Iranians would first try to choose optons which Tehran felt would not provide a pretext for Western military intervention. We continue to believe that trying to shut down the Strait would be Iran's last step in escalating the war. We believe lower-risk options include:

- -- overflight of off-shore Arab Gulf oil facilities and terminals or shipping bound for them by Iranian combat aircraft.
- -- random detention and search of bulk shipping carriers bound for Arab Gulf ports for contraband
- -- further air raids against targets in Kuwait
- -- attacks against Iraq's remaining oil exporting facilities, including the Iraq-Turkey pipeline.

Should Iraq inflict serious damage on Khark--through which 90 percent of Iran's oil is exported--or cut off tanker traffic to Khark for a prolonged period, we believe Iran would react more sharply.

#### More Serious Steps

Tehran probably recognizes that its other two escalatory options would carry a significant risk of confrontation with the US. They are:

- -- military actions against Saudi Arabia or the Arab states of the lower Gulf. This would include naval air or commando attacks against off-shore or on-shore Arab Gulf oil facilities, desalination plants, or other economic targets.
- -- disruption of Gulf oil shipping. This could range from a declaration that the Strait had been closed or mined--a bluff that initially probably would be respected by most shipping--to a direct air and naval action, including mining, to force the closure of the Strait to commercial traffic. It would entail continued attacks against tankers in the Gulf even if the Strait was cleared.

We believe these scenarios would occur roughly in the order stated. We cannot, however, rule out simultaneous use of some actions. Terrorism could be expected to form a backdrop to any of the above.

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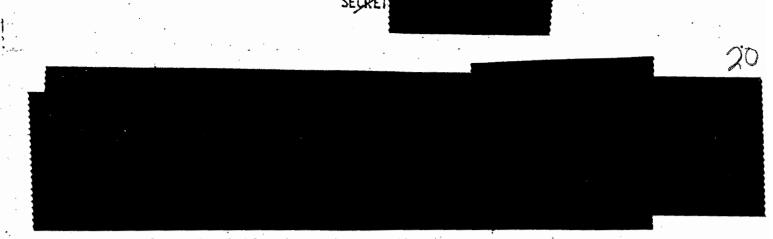
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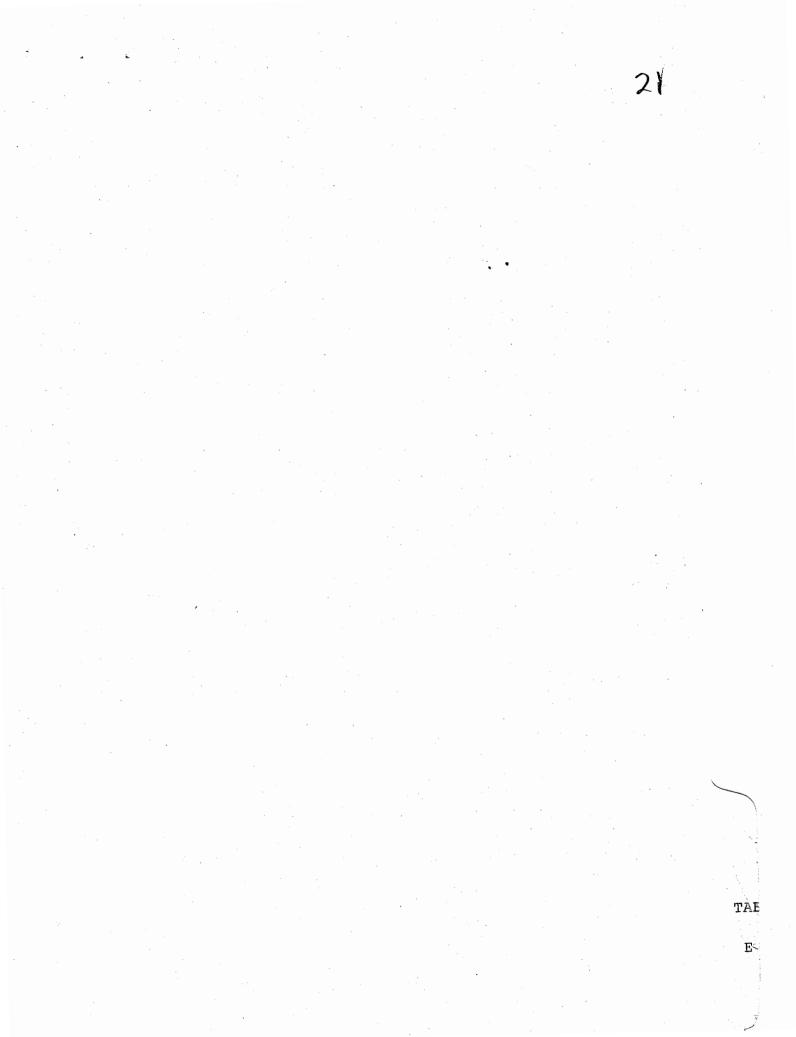
#### Impact of the Escalation Scenarios on Oil

The potential for oil price increases would be limited so long as Saudi Arabia can use its oil producing capacity to continue supporting the current oil price. It would take the unlikely event of major disruption to Saudi oil exports to substantially change this picture. Two types of Iranian actions could reduce Gulf oil exports to the point that free world oil supplies would be significantly disrupted. These circumstances are:



-- Sustained and successful Iranian attacks against tanker traffic in the Straits and the Gulf.

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27659	SUMMARY	2	10/19/1983	<b>B</b> 1
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Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]

B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]

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B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]

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ID Document Type Document Description	No of pages	Doc Date	Restric- tions
27661 MEMO IACK N MERRITT TO DEPUTY ASISTANT TO T	1 'HF	4/10/1984	B1

JACK N MERRITT TO DEPUTY ASISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]

B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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27662 POINTS ATTACHMENT TO 27661 (PAGES MARKED AS 7-	4	ND	<b>B</b> 1

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Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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2766	3 PROFILE SHEET 8490440 (SAME INFORMATION 27660, BUT DIFFERENT ACTION OFFICERS)	1	4/5/1984	B1

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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ЯF National Security Council 1/04 The White House System # 9044 Package # follow-on P6:17 84 APR 9 **SEQUENCE TO** DISPOSITION HAS SEEN R Dep. Exec. Sec'y **Bob Kimmitt** 3 A John Poindexter **Tom Shull** Wilma Hall **Bud McFarlane Bob Kimmitt** 1984 0 **NSC Secretariat** ۸D **Situation Room** I = Information (A = Action) R = Retain N = No further Action D = Dispatch Baker Deaver Other J VP Meese cc:

#### COMMENTS

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	tion Name UTIVE SECRETARIAT, NSC: COUNTRY FILE		<i>Withdrawer</i> LOJ 9/25/2006			
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ID	Document Type Document Description	No of pages	Doc Date	Restric- tions		
27664	MEMO	1	4/9/1984	B1		
	POINDEXTER TO MURPHY, HOWE, ARMITAGE AND MOREAU					

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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Box Number 36		39	
ID Document Type Document Description	No of pages	Doc Date	Restric- tions
27665 TALKING POINTS ATTACHMENT FOR 27664	8	ND	B1

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]

B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]

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B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]

B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]

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	ction Name CUTIVE SECRETARIAT, NSC: COUNTRY FILE		Withdrawer LOJ 9/25/2006			
	Folder N-IRAQ WAR (3/19/1984-4/16/1984) [TOO LATE TO FII	LE]	<i>FOIA</i> F1718 BATTLE			
<i>Box 1</i> 36	Number		39			
ID	Document Type Document Description	No of pages	Doc Date	Restric- tions		
2766	6 MEMO DUR TO POINDEXTER DE TAI KING POINTS	1	4/9/1984	B1		

DUR TO POINDEXTER, RE TALKING POINTS

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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File F IRAN	Folder F-IRAQ WAR (3/19/1984-4/16/1984) [TOO LATE TO FIL	.E]	<i>FOIA</i> F1718 BATTLE	
<i>Box N</i> 36	lumber		39	
ID	Document Type Document Description	No of pages	Doc Date	Restric- tions
27667	7 MEMO POINDEXTER TO MURPHY, HOWE, ARMITAGE, MOREAU	1	4/6/1984	B1

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

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TAB A

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File Folder IRAN-IRAQ WAR (3/19/1984-4/16/1984) [TOO LATE TO FILE]		.E]	<i>FOIA</i> F1718 BATTLE		
<i>Box N</i> 36	Jumber		39		
ID	Document Type Document Description	No of pages	Doc Date	Restric- tions	
27668	3 TALKING POINTS ATTACHMENT TO 27667 (DIFFERENT TEXT THAN 27665)	8	ND	B1	

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

- B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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ID	Document Type Document Description	No of pages	Doc Date	Restric- tions	
27669	9 MEMO DUR TO POINDEXTER, RE TALKING POINTS	1	4/5/1984	B1	

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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Collection Name EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT, NSC: COUNTRY FILE			Withdrawer LOJ 9/25/2006		
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27670	0 TALKING POINTS	1	ND	<b>B</b> 1	
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Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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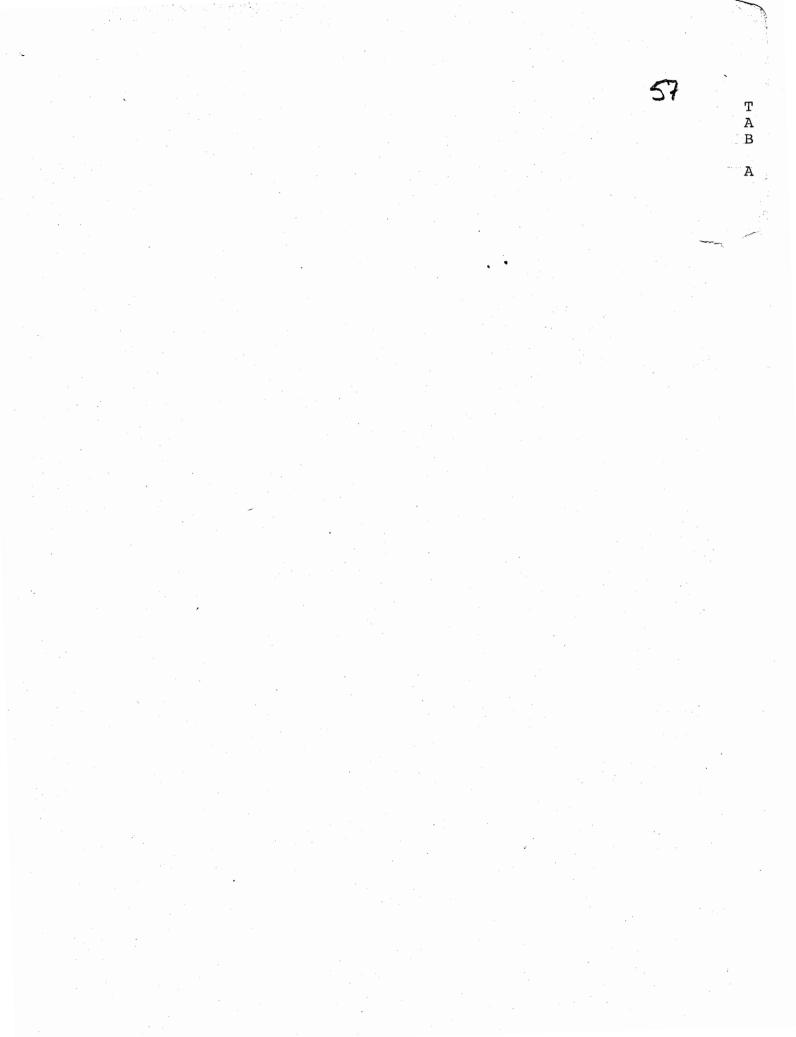
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ID	Document Type Document Description	No of pages	Doc Date	Restric- tions		
2767	1 MEMO	1	4/25/1984	B1		

DUR TO MCFARLANE, RE FOLLOW-ON ACTIVITY

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT, NSC: COUNTRY FILE					
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27672 MEMO	1	4/16/1984	B1		
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