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FILE No.
DOSSIER

National
Defence

Défense nationale

Special IR 05/86 - IRAN/IRAQ:
Iranian Offensive Begins - Success
Doubtful.

FILE No.
DOSSIER

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SCHEDULE AUTHORITY YEAR(S)	PÉRIODE DE CONSERVATION
1	1990-1999
2	2000-2009
3	2010-2019
4	2020-2029
5	2030-2039
6	2040-2049
7	2050-2059
8	2060-2069
9	2070-2079
10	2080-2089
11	2090-2099
12	2100-2109
13	2110-2119
14	2120-2129
15	2130-2139
16	2140-2149
17	2150-2159
18	2160-2169
19	2170-2179
20	2180-2189
21	2190-2199
22	2200-2209
23	2210-2219
24	2220-2229
25	2230-2239
26	2240-2249
27	2250-2259
28	2260-2269
29	2270-2279
30	2280-2289
31	2290-2299
32	2300-2309
33	2310-2319
34	2320-2329
35	2330-2339
36	2340-2349
37	2350-2359
38	2360-2369
39	2370-2379
40	2380-2389
41	2390-2399
42	2400-2409
43	2410-2419
44	2420-2429
45	2430-2439
46	2440-2449
47	2450-2459
48	2460-2469
49	2470-2479
50	2480-2489
51	2490-2499
52	2500-2509
53	2510-2519
54	2520-2529
55	2530-2539
56	2540-2549
57	2550-2559
58	2560-2569
59	2570-2579
60	2580-2589
61	2590-2599
62	2600-2609
63	2610-2619
64	2620-2629
65	2630-2639
66	2640-2649
67	2650-2659
68	2660-2669
69	2670-2679
70	2680-2689
71	2690-2699
72	2700-2709
73	2710-2719
74	2720-2729
75	2730-2739
76	2740-2749
77	2750-2759
78	2760-2769
79	2770-2779
80	2780-2789
81	2790-2799
82	2800-2809
83	2810-2819
84	2820-2829
85	2830-2839
86	2840-2849
87	2850-2859
88	2860-2869
89	2870-2879
90	2880-2889
91	2890-2899
92	2900-2909
93	2910-2919
94	2920-2929
95	2930-2939
96	2940-2949
97	2950-2959
98	2960-2969
99	2970-2979
100	2980-2989
101	2990-2999
102	3000-3009
103	3010-3019
104	3020-3029
105	3030-3039
106	3040-3049
107	3050-3059
108	3060-3069
109	3070-3079
110	3080-3089
111	3090-3099
112	3100-3109
113	3110-3119
114	3120-3129
115	3130-3139
116	3140-3149
117	3150-3159
118	3160-3169
119	3170-3179
120	3180-3189
121	3190-3199
122	3200-3209
123	3210-3219
124	3220-3229
125	3230-3239
126	3240-3249
127	3250-3259
128	3260-3269
129	3270-3279
130	3280-3289
131	3290-3299
132	3300-3309
133	3310-3319
134	3320-3329

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Government of Canada Gouvernement du Canada
Intelligence Comité
Advisory Consultatif de
Committee Renseignements

SPECIAL
INTELLIGENCE
REPORT

BULLETIN DE
SPÉCIAL DE
RENSEIGNEMENTS

NO.: 05/86

DATE: 11/02/86

21 1986
IRAN/IRAQ: Iranian Offensive Begins - Success Doubtful

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- 1 -

IRAN/IRAQ: Iranian Offensive Begins - Success Doubtful

Summary

1. On 9 February 1986 Iranian forces commenced large scale offensive operations in the Southern sector of the front. It appears that Iraqi forces can contain the Iranian offensive. Casualties can be expected to number in the tens of thousands before the offensive is over. The use of chemical weapons by Iraq is highly probable should Iran make significant gains. Should Iraq administer an overwhelming defeat the possibility of a major Iraqi counter-offensive, although unlikely, cannot be ruled out.

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IRAN/IRAQ: Iranian Offensive Begins - Success Doubtful

2. On the evening of 9 February Iran launched its VAL FAJR VIII offensive on a wide front in the southern area. It appears that Iraqi forces have been able to contain Iranian penetrations. Although they probably achieved local tactical surprise, there is no confirmation that Iran has captured the port of Al Faud at the mouth of the Shatt Al Arab as claimed.
(SECRET)

3. The Iranians have been building up their ground forces on the southern front since early November 1985. This build-up has been monitored by Iraq and a large number of combat sorties were flown to disrupt Iranian concentrations in the Hawizah Marsh area.
(SECRET/WNINTEL)

4. The offensive was probably planned to coincide with the seventh anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, 12 February 1986 and launched to take advantage of the poor weather which reduced the ability of the Iraqi air force to carry out combat sorties. Even though a large number of Iranian regular formations have been committed, the attack in the extreme south may be a diversion for a larger thrust to the north in the Hawizah Marsh area.
(SECRET/WNINTEL)

5. Iraq believes its current ground force deployment and armour and air superiority will provide the necessary flexibility and force to deal with the Iranian offensive. It is too early to ascertain the number of casualties but based on the area and resources committed they can be expected to number in the tens of thousands before the offensive is over. Chemical warfare by Iraq is highly

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- 3 -

probable should Iran make significant gains. Unlike previous offensives, some Iranian units have been trained and equipped to defend themselves against chemical attacks. Should Iraq administer an overwhelming defeat the possibility of a major Iraqi counter-offensive although unlikely, cannot be ruled out. Hussein would like a major victory on the ground by defeating an Iranian offensive and by regaining lost Iraqi territory, such as the Majnoon Islands. This, he believes, would boost the sagging home and front-line morale.

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