SERIAL: (U) IIR
COUNTRY: (U) IRAN (IR); IRAQ (IQ); FRANCE (FR); PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA (CH); DEMOCRATIC PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF KOREA (KN); UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC (UR); REPUBLIC OF KOREA (KS)
SUBJ: (U) IR/KN'S INTERMEDIARY ROLE IN CH ARMS SUPPORT TO IR (U)
WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFO REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTEL.
DOI: (U) 830928
REQS: (U) (b)(3):10 USC 424

(b)(3):10 USC 424
(b)(3):50 USC 403-1(i)
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SUMMARY: (U) ACCORDING TO THE INCLOSURE 1 ARTICLE (TO FOLLOW), IRZ'S ACQUISITION OF ADVANCED FR FIGHTER-BOMBER AIRCRAFT IS STRENGTHENING IR'S TIES WITH KN, ITS MAJOR SUPPLIER OF ARMS THAT ARE INCREASINGLY ORIGINATING FROM CH. UNABLE TO PURCHASE MAJOR EQUIPMENT ITEMS SUCH AS AIRCRAFT FROM OTHER SOURCES, IR HAS TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF CH DESIRES TO COUNTER UR REGIONAL INFLUENCE BY USING A KN CONNECTION TO ACQUIRE SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNTS OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT. CH, IN NOT WANTING TO RISK ITS RELATIONS WITH OTHER ARAB WORLD FRIENDS WITH A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR IR, HAS BEEN CONTENT TO USE KN AS AN INTERMEDIARY IN THESE TRANSACTIONS. THE BENEFIT TO KN HAS BEEN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CRITICAL OIL AND HARD CURRENCY SOURCE, AND THE PROMOTION OF STRONGER TIES WITH BOTH NATIONS. THE ARTICLE'S AUTHOR, A JAPANESE JOURNALIST WHO TRAVELED TO IR THIS PAST SUMMER, DESCRIBES OVERALL IR MILITARY STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES, AND REPORTS HIS OBSERVATIONS OF A TEHRAN (IR CAPITAL CITY) THAT EVOKES LITTLE EVIDENCE OF THE PALPABLE EFFECTS OF WAR. FURTHER, HE REPORTS THAT A VAST IR INTERNATIONAL AGENT NETWORK MAY HAVE SUCCEEDED IN OBTAINING SUFFICIENT F14 AND F4 SPARE PARTS TO RETURN TO THEIR FLEET TO OPERATIONAL STATUS. HIS CONCLUSION IS THAT THESE EVENTS SPELL A CONTINUATION OF THE IR-IZ WAR.

TEXT: (U) SEE SUMMARY AND INCLOSURE 1 ARTICLE.

(b)(1), (c)

PROJ: (U) N/A
COLL: (U) NONE
INST: (U) (b)(3)(B) USC-424
PREP: (U)
APPR: (U)
EVAL: (U) NO
REL TO: NONE
ENCL: (U) N/A
DISSEMINATE: (U) N/A
WARNING: (U) NOT RECEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS
DECL: (U) N/A
NND

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