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(b)(3):10
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SERIAL: DIADIN 22-9A

BODY

SUBJ: CHINA-IRAN: ARMS UPDATE. (U)

DOI: 20 JAN 88 (AS OF 1950 EST)

TEXT: 1. (b)(1),1.4 (c) CHINESE ARMS SHIPMENTS ARE (b)(1),1.4 (c)

ARRIVING IN IRAN.

2. (b)(1),1.4 (c) CHINESE MERCHANT
SHIP IS EN ROUTE TO THE MIDDLE EAST; TEHRAN MAY HAVE RECENTLY
RECEIVED F-7 FIGHTERS; AND CHINESE ARMS MERCHANTS ARE NEGOTIATING
NEW DEALS WITH IRAN.

3. (b)(1),1.4 (c) CHINESE FREIGHTER (b)(1),1.4 (c) WAS
RECENTLY UNLOADING (b)(1),1.4 (c) ARTILLERY AND (b)(1),1.4 (c) PIECES ONTO
FLATBED TRUCKS. (b)(1),1.4 (c)

4. (b)(1),1.4 (c) IN OTHER ARMS-RELATED DEVELOPMENTS, THE IRANIAN

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PAGE:0079

REVOLUTIONARY GUARD CORPS (IRGC) RECENTLY CLAIMED IT WAS BUILDING ITS OWN WARPLANES, POSSIBLY THE CHINESE-PRODUCED F-7/FISHBIRD. THE IRGC MAINTAINS THAT IT WILL DISPLAY AND FLY THIS NEW PLANE IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH.

5. ~~(S)~~ COMMENT: ALL INDICATORS POINT TO AN INCREASING ARMS RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHINA AND IRAN IN 1988. THE ~~(S)~~ VOLUME OF WEAPONS, INCLUDING SILKWORM MISSILES THAT HAVE LEFT CHINA BOUND FOR THE MIDDLE EAST ~~(b)(1),1.4 (c)~~ INDICATES BEIJING REMAINS COMMITTED TO HONORING EXISTING CONTRACTS. IF THE SILKWORMS ARE DELIVERED IN PAKISTAN FOR TRANSSHIPMENT TO IRAN OR ARE DELIVERED DIRECTLY TO IRAN, THAT FACT WOULD ARGUE AGAINST ALL EARLIER REPORTS OF AN ARMS SUSPENSION ON DELIVERIES TO IRAN. MEANWHILE, BEIJING CONTINUES TO NEGOTIATE NEW ARMS CONTRACTS.

6. ~~(S)~~ ~~(b)(1),1.4 (c)~~ THE IRANIANS ARE ~~(b)(1),1.4 (c)~~ TO BE ASSEMBLING F-7 FIGHTERS FROM CHINA RATHER THAN BUILDING THEIR OWN. CHINA HAS TRAINED IRANIAN PILOTS ON THE F-7 AND MAY BE TRAINING ENGINEERS AND TECHNICIANS. ~~(b)(1),1.4 (c)~~

ADMIN

PREP: ~~(b)(3):10 USC 424~~

DECL: ~~OADR~~

END OF MESSAGE

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