

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 969000  
By MB Date 04/09/02

Federation of Arab Businessmen

Def 15 IRAQ-USSR

Department of State

TELEGRAM

① XR Def 6-2 USSR  
XR Pol 33 PERSIAN GULF



~~SECRET~~ 507

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43  
ACTION: INR-08

INFO: OCT-01 EUR-20 NEA-13 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-02 L-04 NSAE-00  
NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-12 AF-12 RSR-01  
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R 061300Z JAN 71  
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3131  
SECDEF  
INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
CINCSTRIKE  
COMIDEASTFOR

~~SECRET~~ TEHRAN 76

SUBJECT: SOVIET TASK FORCE VISITS PORT FACILITIES  
SOVIETS CONSTRUCTING IN IRAQ

REF: (A) COMIDEASTFOR MESSAGE 021350Z NOTAL:  
(B) TEHRAN 5534 (SECTION B —  
\*PARA 2)

1. ACCORDING TO IRANIAN NAVY (IIN) SOVIET TASK FORCE  
(SUBMARINE, LST AND MINE SWEEPER) WHICH ENTERED GULF  
END OF DECEMBER (REF A) PROCEEDED JAN 5 TO UMM QASR (IRAQ PORT  
WHERE SOVIETS DEVELOPING NAVAL FACILITIES) (REF B).  
ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORT, TASK FORCE COMMANDED BY  
SOVIET ADMIRAL KARONADONOV AND VISIT TO UMM QASR MAY  
BE CONNECTED WITH PORT COMMISSIONING CEREMONIES THERE.

2. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT NO RPT NO RUSSIAN NAVAL  
VESSEL VISITED PERSIAN GULF FROM 1905 (WHEN ADMIRAL  
TOGO DESTROYED RUSSIAN IMPERIAL FLEET IN BATTLE OF JAPAN SEA) UNTIL  
1968. HOWEVER, CURRENT VISIT BY SOVIET VESSELS IS, BY OUR COUNT,

TEHRAN 76  
1/6/71

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SIXTH TO OCCUR SINCE MID- 1968 (SEVENTH, IF WE INCLUDE VISIT TO BANDAR ABBAS IN DECEMBER 1970 BY SOV RESEARCH VESSEL CARRYING HELICOPTER, VISIT WHICH WE HAVE JUST LEARNED OF FROM IIN). IT DEMONSTRATES ONCE AGAIN SOVIET DETERMINATION TO INCREASE ITS NAVAL PRESENCE IN VITALLY IMPORTANT PERSIAN GULF ON WHICH JAPAN AND EUROPE NATO DEPEND SO VERY HEAVILY FOR THEIR ENERGY REQUIREMENTS. IT ALSO IS FURTHER PROOF OF SOVIET DECISION (WHICH WE HAVE REPORTED FOR SOME MONTHS) TO DEVELOP NAVAL FACILITY AT UMM QASR, NOMINALLY FOR IRAQ BUT ALSO FOR SOVIET NAVY IN ORDER TO SUPPORT A STEADILY EXPANDING SOVIET

PRESENCE NOT ONLY IN INDIAN OCEAN AND ARABIAN SEA,

BUT ALSO IN GULF.

3. SUCH A SOVIET NAVAL PRESENCE IN GULF COULD, OF COURSE, BE VERY IMPORTANT POLITICALLY AND PSYCHOLOGICALLY TO RADICAL ARAB STATES (PARTICULARLY IRAQ, SOUTHERN YEMEN AND SYRIA) WHEN THEY LAUNCH THEIR MAJOR "NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT" OFFENSIVES AGAINST MODERATE ARAB GULF STATES. QUALIFIED OBSERVERS HERE BELIEVE THIS OFFENSIVE WILL CERTAINLY OCCUR SOMETIME IN 1972, FOLLOWING WITHDRAWAL OF MOST OF BRITAIN'S PRESENT MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT IN GULF, SO SOVIET EFFORTS TO COMPLETE AND COMMISSION UMM QASR ARE UNDERSTANDABLE.

GP-3.

MACARTHUR.

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