

covering SECRET



From the Secretary of the Cabinet

Mr Colles

The Prime Minister
will wish to see
the attached note
by the Chairman
of the JIC.

RA

1/2 Yes, this
is where
we can do
about (3)

28. iii save
work.
out.

Pine Muntis

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CABINET OFFICE
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 28 JUL 83
FILING INSTRUCTIONS
 FILE No. _____

29/7

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

RA

cc Mr Goodall
Mr Wright (FCO)
DGI

*Thank you
mb.*

JIC ASSESSMENTS

1. I think I should draw your attention to two assessments issued by the JIC today.

Armenian Terrorism

2. Warnings about the increased danger from Armenian terrorists were of course issued as soon as Bedros was convicted on 23 July. The JIC assessment, however, is intended to emphasise that there is a real threat of attack on British targets by a terrorist organisation which has shewn itself to be, on the whole, more ruthless and more effective than any other - except perhaps the PIRA.

The Threat to Shipping in the Persian Gulf

3. After considerable discussion we have reached the uncomfortable conclusions that:

- (a) the danger of Iraqi attacks on international shipping in the Gulf has increased;
- (b) there is some danger that Iran might take military action against individual targets in other Gulf States (to certain of which the UK has given informal defence assurances); *which?*
- (c) Iran might seek to threaten shipping in the Straits of Hormuz - although it could not effectively close the Straits; and the United States have already implicitly recognised the threat by their statement yesterday that they would act to preserve the freedom of navigation in the Gulf.

*Bahrain
Oman
Qatar
UAE*

4. You may wish to send a copy of this to Mr Coles.

Anthony Duff
ANTONY DUFF

28 July 1983.



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28 JUL 1983

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