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Proposed Response to a Request from Prime Minister Begin
for an Assessment of the Damage Done to the Tuwaitha
Nuclear Research Center in Iraq (S)

The attack against the Iraqi nuclear research center on 30 September by two Phantom jets appears to have resulted in only minor damage. Activities at the center probably will not be significantly affected over the long term. (S)

Unconfirmed reports state that more than one building at the Tuwaitha research center was hit. We have been able to confirm damage at only one building--a storage structure adjacent to a large building that contains the new French-supplied reactors. Many holes are scattered along the length of the storage building, in a pattern that suggests a strafing approach from the southwest, a course aimed approximately at the reactor building. (S)

The contents of the damaged building(s) cannot be determined. It is possible that some equipment intended for installation in the new research facilities was damaged or destroyed by the attack. Some short-term delays in the completion of the new research laboratories may therefore ensue. (S)

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