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ISRAELI ATTACK ON IRAQI NUCLEAR FACILITIES

Situation Report No. 1
June 8, 0500 EDT

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1. Israeli Clarifications: DCM Brown in Tel Aviv is meeting with Intelligence Chief General Sagi at this writing to obtain clarification requested by USC.

3. Press Treatment: Deputy Defense Minister Zippori told Brown that Israel will wait until asked about attack and then will downplay it. However, if Iraq makes an announcement, Begin will issue a statement. The Israelis plan to give no details on the equipment used in the attack. CBS in Tel Aviv has queried the Embassy about the attack, but was given no information. So far, there have been no press stories here or abroad.

3. Reactions: In response to instructions sent to selected posts June 7, Embassy Amman and Jidda have requested stronger U.S. reaction to Israeli raid for use with host governments. Amman reports a very "chilly" reception from the Foreign Minister to the news of the attack.

4. Report from Baghdad: According to USINT Baghdad, the Iraqi public is aware of an Israeli raid but local rumors have not yet alleged damage to nuclear facilities at Tuwaitha. Iraqi media has not mentioned the raid. According to the Italian Ambassador in Baghdad, there were some Iraqi casualties from the raid, but no French or Italians were hurt.

5. Late Item--Israeli Clarifications: DCM Brown in Tel Aviv reports the following from his meeting with Intelligence Chief General Sagi:

-- The debriefing was extremely frank. Sagi stressed the need to keep the information confidential.

-- The Israelis hit only the French facilities, and targetted the larger of the two French reactors, which Sagi described as "cold." This reactor was to be charged in September or October. The timing of the attack was determined by the Israeli desire to avoid the radiation problem which would have occurred once the reactor was charged.

-- The Israelis hit the dome and the reactor core pool. Israeli photography shows that the dome collapsed. Sagi

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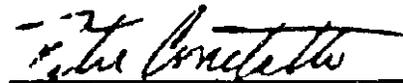
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estimates it will take three to four years to reconstruct it. Sagi said this would give the free world time to wake up to the Iraqi program and perhaps do something about it.

-- The Israelis used sixteen 2,000 lb. iron bombs in the attack. Their photography shows that all were on target. The attack lasted 90 to 95 seconds. The bombs were dropped from eight F-16's escorted by six F-15's. There was some Iraqi anti-aircraft fire in the Baghdad vicinity and perhaps one SA-7 was fired. On the return flight Iraqi aircraft from H-3 attempted to intercept the Israeli aircraft, but the effort was totally ineffective.

-- There were no French or Italian casualties and only two Iraqi workers are unaccounted for. The Israelis chose Sunday afternoon in order to avoid extensive casualties.


Peter Constable


Lane Becker
Senior Watch Officer

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