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Kurds

NEAR EAST - AFRICA

4. Iran Increases Clandestine Support of Kurds in Iraq

Iran appears to have increased its clandestine support of the Kurdish rebels in Iraq.

Iranian intelligence has for some time been conducting a closely held operation to supply the Kurds with ammunition, small arms, and communication equipment. The Iranians have recently arranged transportation from Tehran to the Iraqi border for several shipments of bazookas, as well as additional small arms purchased in Europe.

The Shah does not want to give Kurdish separatism too much encouragement. He evidently feels, however, that the Kurds need additional support now in order to keep the Iraqi Government preoccupied. There have been indications that the Iraqi Army plans one more drive against the Kurds before winter rains set in.

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3. Developments in Laos

A recent build-up of Communist strength in Xieng Khouang Province may presage new military initiatives against right-wing and neutralist forces positioned there.

Sources in villages bordering Route 7--the recently reopened supply artery into Laos from North Vietnam--have

reported the movement of several large truck convoys toward Ban Ban from Nong Het. The convoys were said to be transporting large numbers of troops and substantial quantities of food and fuel. Following the arrival of these convoys, Ban Ban and neighboring villages reportedly were "crowded" with enemy troops.

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