C05225148

~~SECRET~~ 4.3

[redacted]

Foreign Intelligence Information Report

DIRECTORATE OF OPERATIONS

E.O. 13526, section 3.3(b)(1)

E.O. 13526, section 3.3(b)(1)

COUNTRY Iran

SUBJECT [redacted]

DATE DISTR. 24 JUN 1976

NO. PAGES 2

REFERENCES [redacted]

DATE OF INFO. December 1975

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE [redacted]

E.O. 13526, section 3.3(b)(1)

1. One of the areas currently under investigation as a possible nuclear reactor site in Iran is a 25 to 50 square mile (65 to 130 square kilometer) region northwest of Abadan near the Karun River. Some of the geophysical explorations which were scheduled to be conducted there in late 1975 to help in determining the safety of that area as a reactor site were postponed because of numerous problems that arose. Equipment that was needed to carry out the explorations arrived several weeks late, and shortly after it got there the rainy season began. Unusually heavy rains fell, which resulted in flooding, and this precluded any further activity. Engineers and scientists who had come from other countries, after waiting several weeks for the flood waters to recede, finally gave up and went home. As of early May 1976 the water still had not receded sufficiently for the work to be resumed.

2. The Iranian firm which has the prime contract with the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) for conducting all site studies for nuclear plants in the country is Tehran-Berkeley, a company whose four partners received their PhD's from the University of California at Berkeley. Some of the subcontracts let by the company have gone to foreign consultants and engineers.

3. Foreign personnel who were in Iran in late 1975 to participate in the Karun site studies stayed in Khorramshahr, a short distance from Abadan. These included scientists, engineers and consultants from the US, UK and France. The French group, from CGE, were handling all seismic studies which involved the use of explosives. Since explosives are not allowed to be brought into Iran it was necessary for the CGE people to get the materials they needed from the Iranian government. The Iranian Army was called in to inventory all the explosives that were brought in and out of the test area.

4. The UK engineers were from Wimpeys -- a large UK engineering firm. They were involved primarily in studies of hydraulic conductivity or permeability. They were making measurements in drill holes for hydraulic paramaters.

5. Also in Khorramshahr were a number of Iranians, including personnel from Tehran-Berkeley, who were receiving training from a US company in geotechnical procedures.

6. There are a number of obvious advantages to the Karun site, especially if the geophysical explorations prove to be favorable: it is away from

Withheld from public disclosure as provided for in 50 U.S.C. 403(g) section 6, the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949.

~~WARNING NOTICE-SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED~~

~~SECRET~~

Classified [redacted]. Exempt from general declassification schedule of E.O. 11652. Exemption category 5B(2). Impossible to determine date of automatic declassification.

THE DISSEMINATION AND USE OF THIS FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION IN THIS REPORT IS CONTROLLED BY DCID 1/7.

R-1
08-M-0621

DECLASSIFIED UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE INTERAGENCY SECURITY CLASSIFICATION APPEALS PANEL.
E.O. 13526, SECTION 5.3(b)(3)
ISCAP No. 2009-054, document 1

populated areas; wildlife in the area are probably minimal; it is near a good source of water (the Karun River); the land is not valued for anything else -- it is not agricultural land; there are good dense materials at relatively shallow depths, which should serve as suitable foundation material (clays and silts with minor sand); and there are very dense materials down about 30 feet (9.144 meters) -- which, for construction purposes, is regarded as very favorable. The major disadvantage would seem to be the danger of flooding in the area -- although Iranians who are familiar with the region said this was a rare occurrence; they called it a "10 year flood." Even if the flooding occurred more often than once every 10 years it seems probable that technology exists to solve the problem.

7. One question which remains unanswered is the basic intent of the Iranians with regard to determining a suitable site: do they intend to take the type of measurements that would be taken in the US to assure the establishment of a safe site; or would they be content with something less than that? One gets the feeling that there are some political considerations involved, but they may not be important. As an example, a firm called Pandam Engineers was appointed by the government to work on the site studies. This was a group of Iranian engineers who had very little technical know-how. They had a representative who sat in an office and made life miserable for others involved in the site study who were trying to do serious work. One got the impression that someone in Pandam may have been related to Mohammed Reza Shah Pahlevi. Further speculation was that Tehran-Berkeley might have been brought in to supply the technical expertise that Pandam lacked.

8. [redacted]

E.O. 13526, section 3.3(b)(1)

9. Nuclear installations already in process in Iran are described as being beset with one trouble after another. The difficulties are believed to be the result of poor design or poor operation.

- end -

C05225149

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 4.3

[redacted]

Foreign Intelligence Information Report

DIRECTORATE OF OPERATIONS

E.O. 13526, section 3.3(b)(1)

COUNTRY Iran

SUBJECT [redacted]

[redacted]

DATE DISTR. 5 JAN 1977

NO. PAGES 2

REFERENCES (2354) [redacted]

DATE OF INFO. December 1976

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

~~E.O. 13526, section 3.3~~(b)(1)

SOURCE [redacted]

1. The Iranian National Geographic Organization (INGO) has requested international bids for an extensive hydrographic survey to be done along the southeastern coastline of Iran. The request, dated 3 December 1976, from Lieutenant General M. Sadeghien, Technical Assistant of the Ministry of War and Chief of the National Geographic Organization of Iran, indicates the survey generally to be in the Persian Gulf, with a hydrographic survey and side scan sonar readings in specific areas of the Strait of Hurmoz and the Oman Sea.

2. The striking thing about a series of non-scale maps provided by INGO was the four specific areas (each approximately four kilometers square, centered around the specified city) delineated for detailed survey. It was learned coincidentally through discussions with both Iranian and other international engineers familiar with the specified areas and with present Iranian governmental policies that the four areas selected for detailed hydrographic studies encompass the locations which have been projected for construction of Iranian nuclear energy facilities.

3. The specific areas outlined for detailed studies (1:10,000 scale mapping) were the coastal areas in and around Gvatar (25 09N/61 31E); Chah Bahar (25 18N/60 37E); Jask (25 38N/57 46E); and Asaluyeh (27 28N/52 37E), with more generalized mapping (1:20,000 and 1:50,000 scales) in the surrounding coastal areas.

4. The bid request sets out the parameters and specifications for prospective bidders. Among the more specific requirements put forward are:

   a. the initial establishment and extension of ground control points, with satellite triangulation preferable,

   b. collection of sea bottom samples from the specified areas,

5 4 3 2 1

Withheld from public disclosure as provided for in 50 U.S.C. 403(g) section 6, the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949.

5 4 3 2 1

WARNING NOTICE--SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classified by [redacted]. Exempt from general declassification schedule of E.O. 11652. Exemption category 5B(2). Impossible to determine date of automatic declassification.

D/C 1

THE DISSEMINATION AND USE OF THIS FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION IN THIS REPORT IS CONTROLLED BY DCID 1/7.

R-1
08-M-0618

c. ocean current measurement,

d. the training of 25 Iranian technicians during the survey, and

e. direction of all survey operations from Iranian waters and ports.

5. Correspondence accompanying the bid request additionally specified that successful bidders must submit their tenders to the National Geographic Organization by 20 December 1976. The overall project must be completed within three years of the date of contract, or a forfeiture of a 10 percent banking guarantee of the overall contract price would result. Payment to the successful bidder will involve an advance payment of 25 percent of the total value of the transaction, approved by the Bank Markazi of Iran, with the remainder payable per agreed upon terms.

- end -