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4.3

Foreign Intelligence Information Report

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

COUNTRY Iran

SUBJECT

DATE DISTR.

5 JAN 1977

NO. PAGES

2

REFERENCES (2354)

DATE OF INFO. December 1976

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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

SOURCE

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 Hormoz 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 Qatar (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,

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WARNING NOTICE-SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

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E.O. 13526, SECTION 5.3(b)(3)

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- 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.

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