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Description of document: **FBI Monograph: Threat Assessment of Pro-Khomeini Shiite Activities in the U.S., 24-February-1984**

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Date/date range of document: Information dated January 1984

Source of document: Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Record Information/Dissemination Section  
170 Marcel Drive  
Winchester, VA 22602-4843

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September 19, 2008

Subject: THREAT ASSESSMENT OF PRO-KHOMEINI SHIITE ACTIVITIES IN THE U.S. FBI MONOGRAPH

FOIPA No. 1109734- 000

The enclosed documents were reviewed under the Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA), Title 5, United States Code, Section 552/552a. Deletions have been made to protect information which is exempt from disclosure, with the appropriate exemptions noted on the page next to the excision. In addition, a deleted page information sheet was inserted in the file to indicate where pages were withheld entirely. The exemptions used to withhold information are marked below and explained on the enclosed Form OPCA-16a:

Section 552

Section 552a

- Exemption selection grid including (b)(1), (b)(2), (b)(3), (b)(4), (b)(5), (b)(6), (b)(7)(A-F), (b)(8), (b)(9), (d)(5), (j)(2), (k)(1-7)

47 page(s) were reviewed and 47 page(s) are being released.

- Document(s) were located which originated with, or contained information concerning other Government agency(ies) [OGA]. This information has been: referred to the OGA for review and direct response to you. referred to the OGA for consultation. The FBI will correspond with you regarding this information when the consultation is finished.

You have the right to appeal any denials in this release. Appeals should be directed in writing to the Director, Office of Information and Privacy, U.S. Department of Justice, 1425 New York Ave., NW, Suite 11050, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001 within sixty days from the date of this letter. The envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Appeal" or "Information Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

The enclosed material is from the main investigative file(s) in which the subject(s) of your request was the focus of the investigation. Our search located additional references, in files relating to other individuals, or matters, which may or may not be about your subject(s). Our experience has shown, when ident, references usually contain information similar to the information processed in the main file(s). Because of our significant backlog, we have given priority to processing only the main investigative file(s).

If you want the references, you must submit a separate request for them in writing, and they will be reviewed at a later date, as time and resources permit.

See additional information which follows.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Hardy", with a stylized flourish at the end.

David M. Hardy  
Section Chief  
Record/Information  
Dissemination Section  
Records Management Division

Enclosure(s)

The enclosed material is responsive to your FOIA request to FBI Headquarters.

## EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

### SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute(A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information ( A ) could be reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, ( B ) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, ( C ) could be reasonably expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, ( D ) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, ( E ) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or ( F ) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

### SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

# Memorandum

DATE: 05-16-2008  
CLASSIFIED BY 60322/UCLRP/PLJ/SDB  
REASON: 1.4 (C)  
DECLASSIFY ON: 05-16-2038



- Exec AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Exec AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Exec AD LES \_\_\_\_\_
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Ident. \_\_\_\_\_
- Insp. \_\_\_\_\_
- Intell. \_\_\_\_\_
- Lab. \_\_\_\_\_
- Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_
- Off. Cong. & Public Affs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Rec. Mgnt. \_\_\_\_\_
- Tech. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Training \_\_\_\_\_
- Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

~~SECRET~~

(U) To: [Redacted] *see*

From: [Redacted] *SN DE*

Date [2/24/84]

*DE-172 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12*

(U) *b6 b7C*

Subject: ~~THREAT ASSESSMENT OF PRO-KHOMEINI SHIITE ACTIVITIES IN UNITED STATES - TERRORIST RESEARCH AND ANALYTICAL CENTER (TRAC), OPERATIONAL MATTER~~

[Redacted]

*Terrorist Research and Analytical Center*

PURPOSE: To submit attached summary, "Threat Assessment of Pro-Khomeini Activities In The United States." (U)

RECOMMENDATION: (U) That this summary be approved for dissemination to the intelligence community. (U)

APPROVED:

Director _____	Adm. Servs. _____	Laboratory _____
Exec. AD-Adm. _____	Crim. Inv. _____	Legal Coun. _____
Exec. AD-Inv. _____	Ident. _____	Off. of Cong. & Public Affs. _____
Exec. AD-LES _____	Inspection _____	Rec. Mgnt. _____
	Intell. _____	Tech. Servs. _____
		Training _____

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DETAILS: Attached summary was prepared in response to the increased activity of pro-Khomeini Shiite terrorist groups against United States interest in the Middle East and the threat of such activity occurring in the United States. TRAC has undertaken this project to determine the threat potential to the continental United States. (U)

This project has been coordinated by [Redacted] Intelligence Research Specialist, TRAC, Terrorism section, Criminal Investigative Division. (U)

All information herein is classified "~~SECRET~~" in its entirety unless noted otherwise. (U)

Enclosure

- 1 - [Redacted]
- 1 - [Redacted]
- 1 - [Redacted]
- 1 - [Redacted]
- 1 - [Redacted]
- 1 - [Redacted]

LEC:dg (6)

FOIPA 2500 39  
CLASSIFIED BY: 9145/bcc/jgt  
DECLASSIFY ON: OADR

11/15/84

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CLASSIFIED BY G-3  
DECLASSIFY ON: OADR

DE-172

(U) [17 MAR 8 1984]

57 JUL 30 1984 (U)

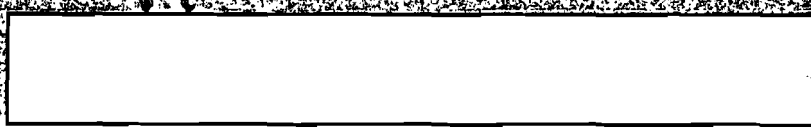
XEROX JUN 25 1984 (U)

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*15/84*

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DECLASSIFIED BY 60322/LRP/PLJ/SDB  
ON 05-22-2008

(U) ~~SECURITY PRECAUTIONS~~ (S)

- [ Warning Notice ] Intelligence Sources and Methods Involved (S) (U)
- [ National Security Information ] Unauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sanctions (S) (U)
- [ Nofor ] Not Releasable to Foreign Nationals (U)
- [ Nocontract (NC) ] Not releasable to Contractors or Contractor/Consultants (S) (U)
- [ Orcon (OC) ] Dissemination and Extraction of Information Controlled by Originator (S)

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b7C

~~FOI PA 250039~~  
 CLASSIFIED BY: ~~9145/BCE/gtt~~  
 DECLASSIFY ON: ~~OADB~~  
 11/15/84

Prepared by:  
 Terrorist Research and Analytical Center  
 [Redacted]  
 (Intelligence Research Specialist) (S)

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 OTHERWISE~~

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DATE: 05-22-2008  
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DATE: 05-22-2008  
CLASSIFIED BY 60322/LRP/PLJ/SDB  
REASON: 1.4 (C)  
DECLASSIFY ON: 05-22-2033

~~SECRET/NOFORN~~

THREAT ASSESSMENT  
OF PRO-KHOMEINI SHIITE  
ACTIVITIES IN THE  
UNITED STATES

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT  
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

[Date of Information: January 1984]

~~(S)~~ (U)

This communication is classified "~~Secret/NoFORN~~" in its entirety,  
unless otherwise indicated.

~~SECRET/NOFORN~~  
CLASSIFIED BY G-3  
DECLASSIFY ON: OADR

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INTRODUCTION

~~(S)~~ (U)

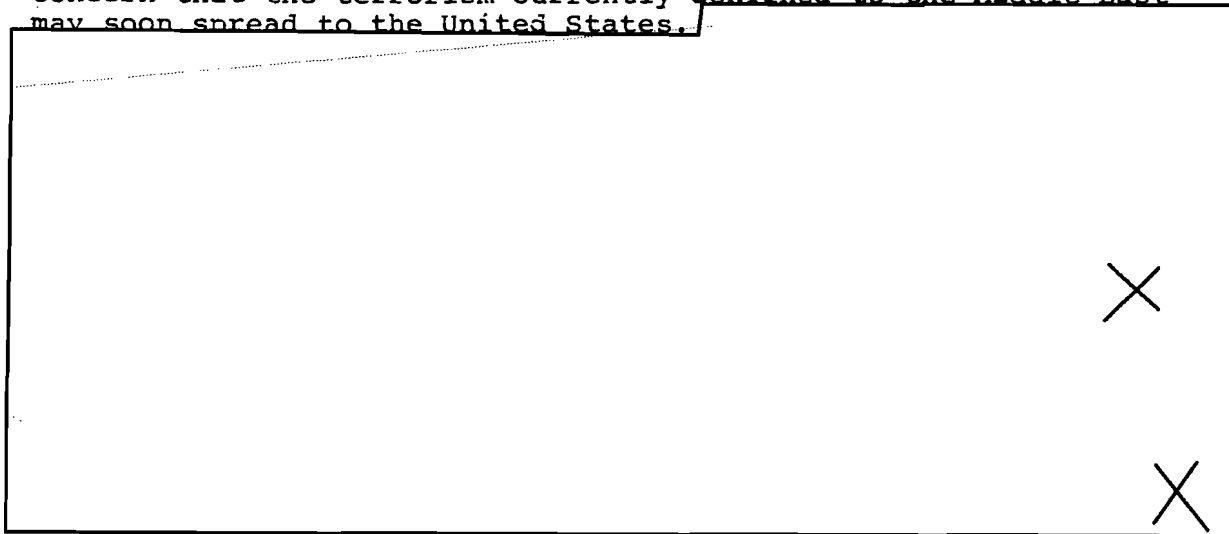
Within the past year, terrorist acts have been committed in the Middle East against diplomatic establishments and military bases of the United States and several of its allies. These actions, the purpose of which is to rid the area of the Multinational Forces, have resulted in extensive damage and in numerous deaths and injuries. Beirut, Lebanon, has been the principal site of much of this activity, although other Middle East states have not escaped the actions of the terrorists. ~~(S)~~ (U)

The group that generally has claimed credit for these acts is a fanatic fundamentalist sect of the ~~Islamic Shiite~~ religion, whose leader is Ayatollah Khomeini of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This group, Islamic Jihad, is one of several factions of the religion that consider themselves to be in a holy war. Although not all Shiites adhere to this philosophy, those who do, believe that no sacrifice is too great in furtherance of their cause. ~~(S)~~ (U)

The United States is one of several nations viewed as an enemy by the fanatic Shiites in their struggle, and there is a concern that the terrorism currently confined to the Middle East may soon spread to the United States.

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I.

THE SHIITE RELIGION

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The major terrorist problem currently confronting the United States in the Middle East is based in a deep religious fanaticism found in the fundamentalist sect of the Islamic Shiite faith. The spiritual leader of the world's Shiites, the Ayatollah Ruhollah/Khomeini, who is also the temporal leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, serves as the manifestation both of this religious fervor and secular power. Fanatic fundamentalist Shiites are in a state of holy war against those in opposition to their philosophy, which includes the United States. As such, they believe that salvation can be obtained through martyrdom. Centuries ago, during the Crusades, this was accomplished by attacks with knives; today the same is gained by use of explosives-laden trucks. ~~(S)~~ (U)

The Shiite Moslems represent the Iranian, or Persian, variation of the Islamic religion. The beginnings of Islam can conservatively be traced to the prophet Mohammed in the sixth and seventh centuries A. D. His teachings unified the majority of the Arab world and caused the Koran (the words of Mohammed) to be held as law in both civil and religious matters. An important aspect of Islam is that there is no discernable distinction between church and state. Interpretation of the religion is used to legitimize the state. ~~(S)~~ (U)

Following the death of Mohammed in A.D. 632, there resulted a succession of struggles in the faith. A schism, which continues into the present, occurred between two religious leaders, Ali and Abu Bakr. The followers of Ali, the Shiites, appear to adhere more closely to the actual teachings of the Koran as law. The other group, the Sunnites, who possibly are the followers of Abu Bakr, appear to be more liberal and realistic. The Shiite sect differs from the Sunnite sect in matters of law and ceremony. They have, moreover, rejected most of the oral traditions of Islam and believe in the coming of a Messiah. The Sunnite sect is considered the orthodox branch of Islam. ~~(S)~~ (U)

The Sunnites are the majority Islamic sect, comprising 85 per cent of all Arabs. Most of the Moslems in Turkey, the Far East, Afghanistan, and Africa, are Sunnite. The Shiites, by comparison, are centered in Iran (formerly Persia) where approximately 90 per cent of the population (1979 estimate) belong to the sect. Other important Shiite communities exist in Iraq, Yemen, Pakistan, and Oman. ~~(S)~~ (U)

(U) [AP-4/2/78] ~~(S)~~

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The Sunnites, historically, have held positions of leadership in the Middle East and have dominated the wealth. The rise to power of Khomeini in 1979, however, began to change this. Khomeini has sought to move Shiites into leadership roles in the states of the Persian Gulf by any means, including violence. This Islamic Revolution, therefore, is an attempt to spread the Shiite interpretation of Islam through political destabilization of other Arab states. ~~(S)~~ (U)

The fundamental concept of the Shiite philosophy emphasizes strict obedience to the religious leader, that is, Khomeini. His followers are faithful to his views and perform and act accordingly. This fundamentalist zeal, when combined with an intense Persian/Iranian nationalism, has given rise to several fanatic factions, to whom no sacrifice is too great. As Khomeini has justified the use of violence to further the Revolution through his strict interpretation of the religion and/or the Koran, the religion (or its interpretation) becomes the justification for any act. And, to be sure, Khomeini's interpretation is unquestioned. Thus, it is not the religion itself but the interpretation of religious teachings, as viewed by the spiritual/temporal leader, which is the driving force behind the Islamic Revolution and its consequences. ~~(S)~~ (U)

As part of his effort to expand and consolidate the Islamic Revolution, Khomeini has provided aid to dissident groups in neighboring Gulf states and has trained agents for attacks against exiled regime opponents. Tehran's subversive acts are most likely used to protect Iran's own revolution and to foster the emergence of Islamic fundamentalist regimes sympathetic to Iranian interests. They are also designed to reduce superpower influence in the Middle East. (NC, OC) ~~(S)~~ (U) [Permission for use granted] ~~(S)~~ (U)

(S)

~~(S)~~ [REDACTED] ~~(S)~~ (U) [REDACTED] 12/81, 80, 82. [2-3-84] ~~(S)~~ (U) In its commitment to spreading the Islamic Revolution, the Khomeini Government has been heavily involved in training and equipping Islamic fundamentalist groups for the subversion of several Gulf countries, such as Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Iraq. Available information indicates that Iran has run, at least since 1981, special paramilitary/terrorist training camps under the direction of the Revolutionary Guards. (NC, OC) ~~(S)~~ (U)

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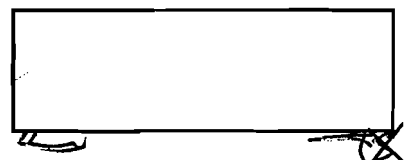
[1810] ~~(S)~~ (U)

Not all Shiites are fanatic to the point of self-sacrifice. Indeed, there are Shiites who accept Khomeini as a religious leader, and even as a political leader, but who are not involved in the terrorism. Thus, there exists within the Shiite philosophy a range of followers encompassing, on one extreme, those who treat their belief solely as a faith and, on the other extreme, those who willingly martyr themselves to enforce and expand the teachings of Khomeini. ~~(S)~~ (U)

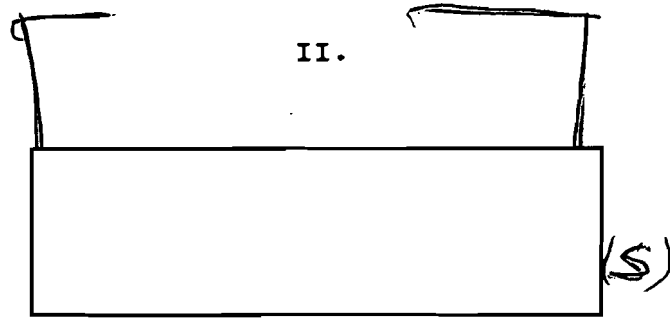
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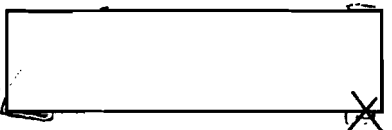


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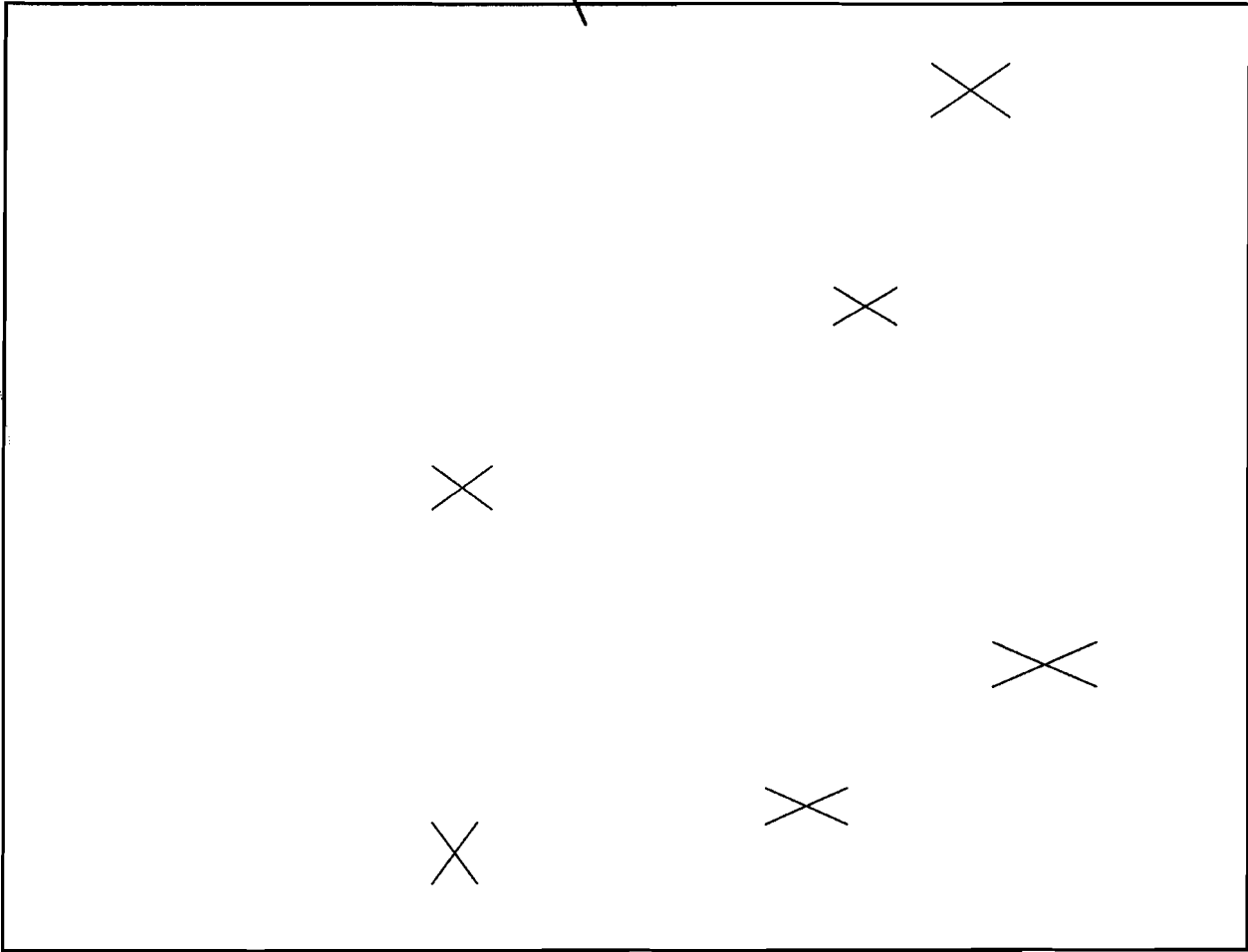
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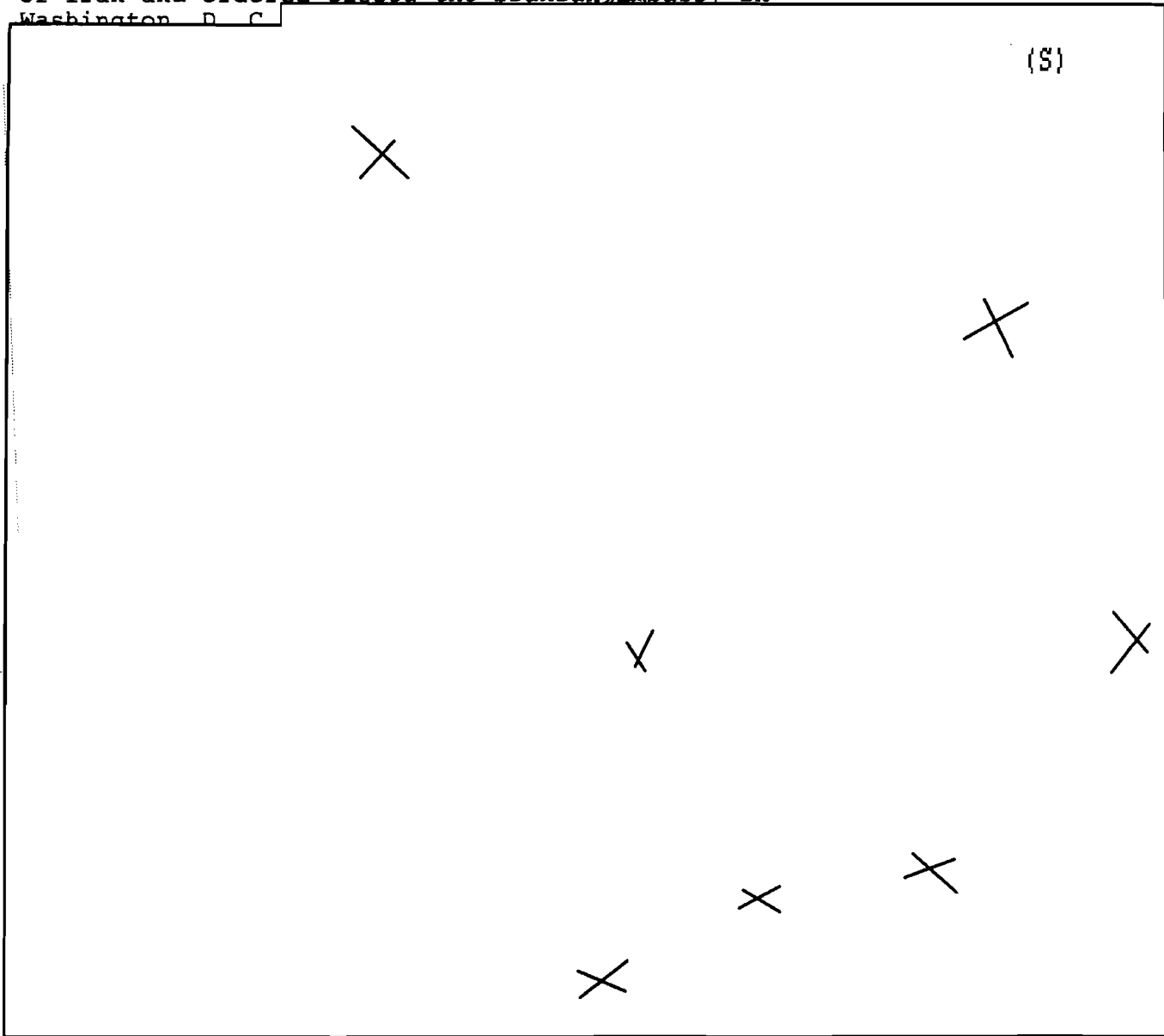


Following the seizure of the United States Embassy in Tehran, Iran, by militant Shiites in November 1979, the United States severed diplomatic relations with the Government of Iran and ordered closed the Iranian Embassy in Washington, D. C.

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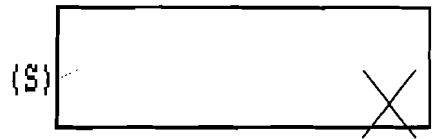
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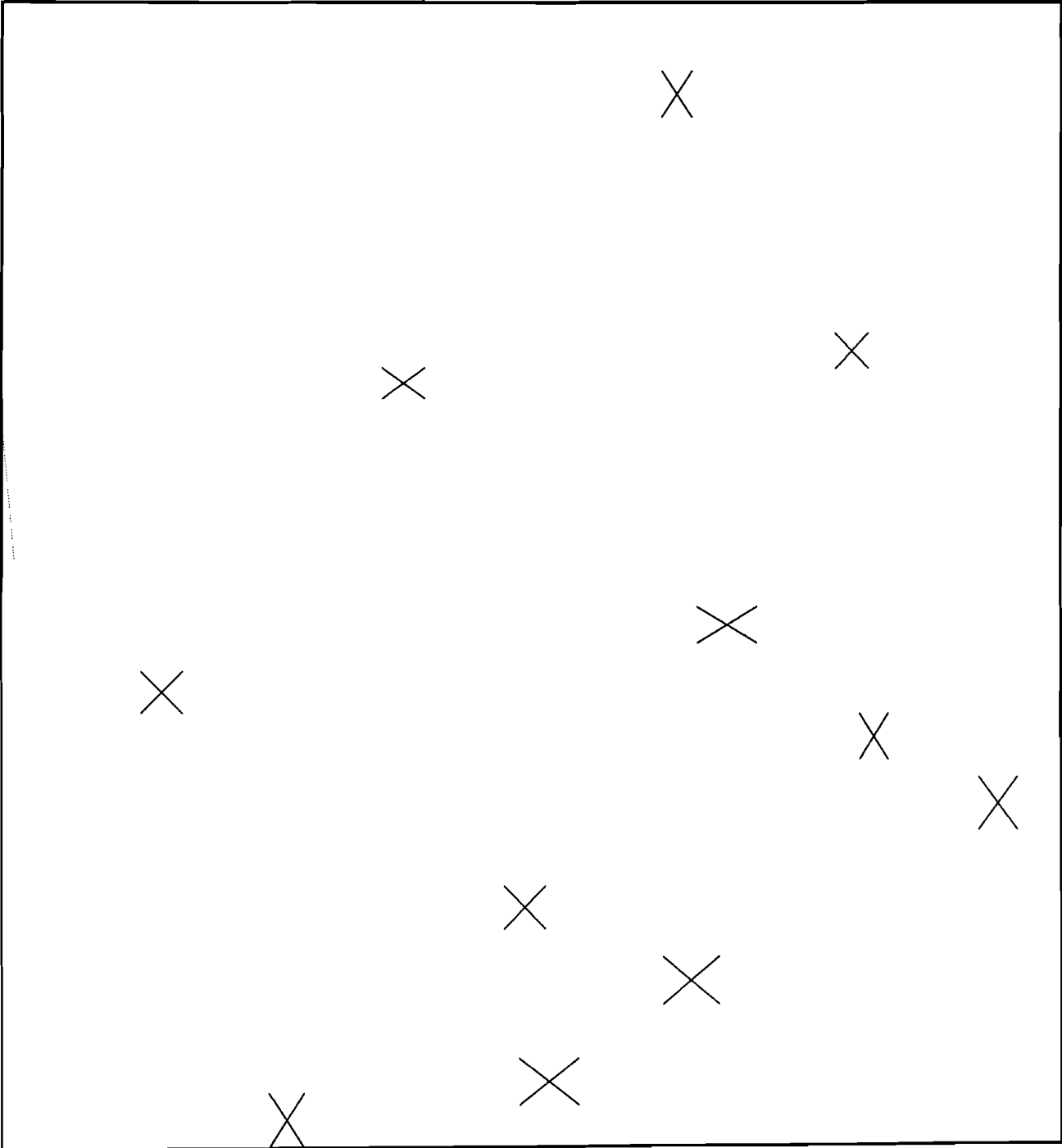
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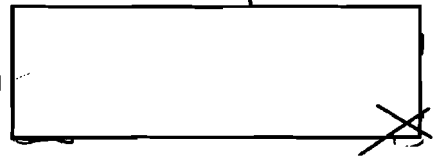
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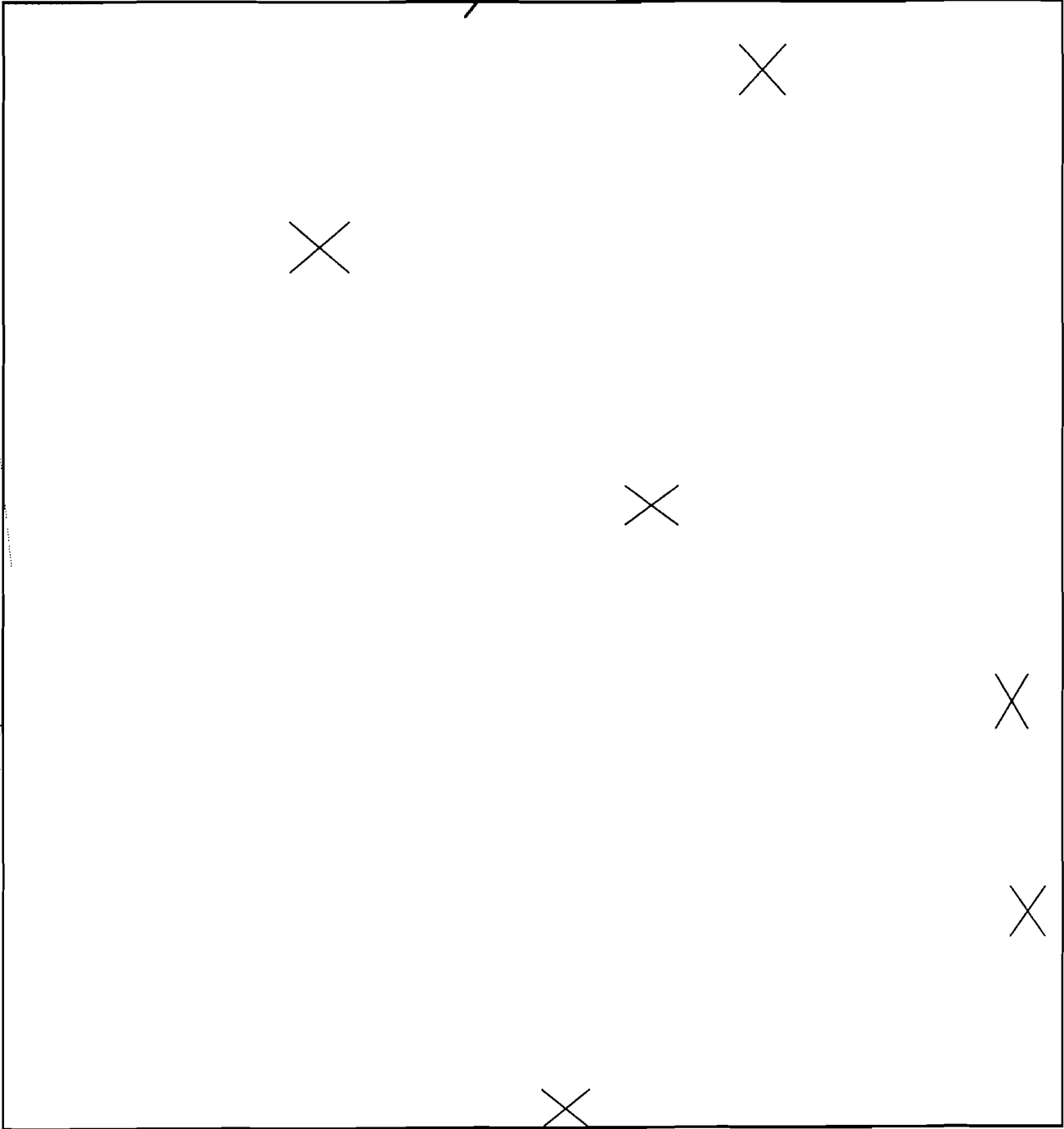
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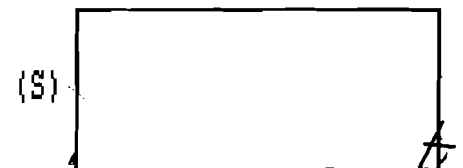
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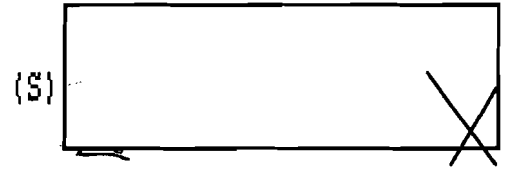
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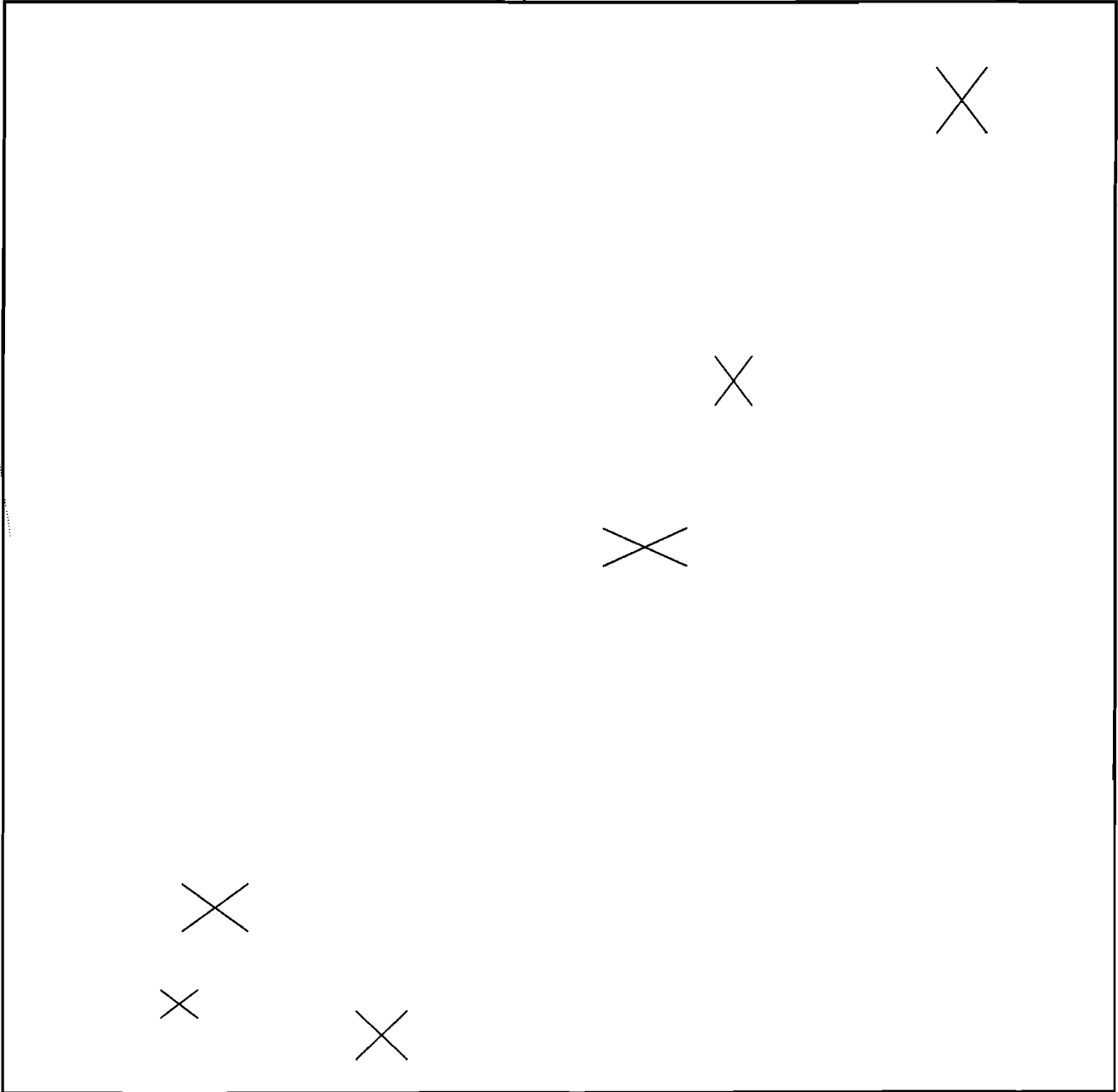
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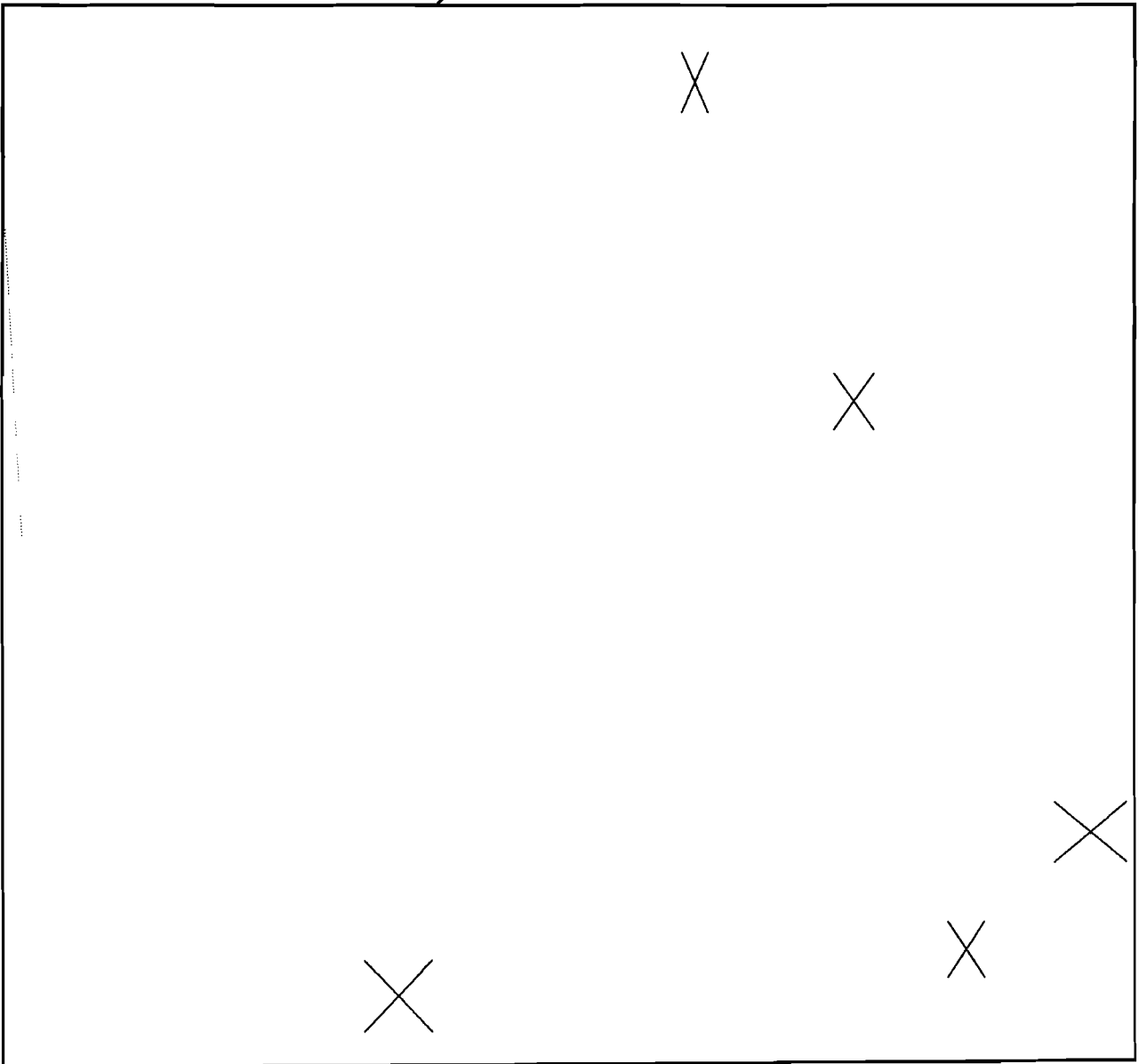


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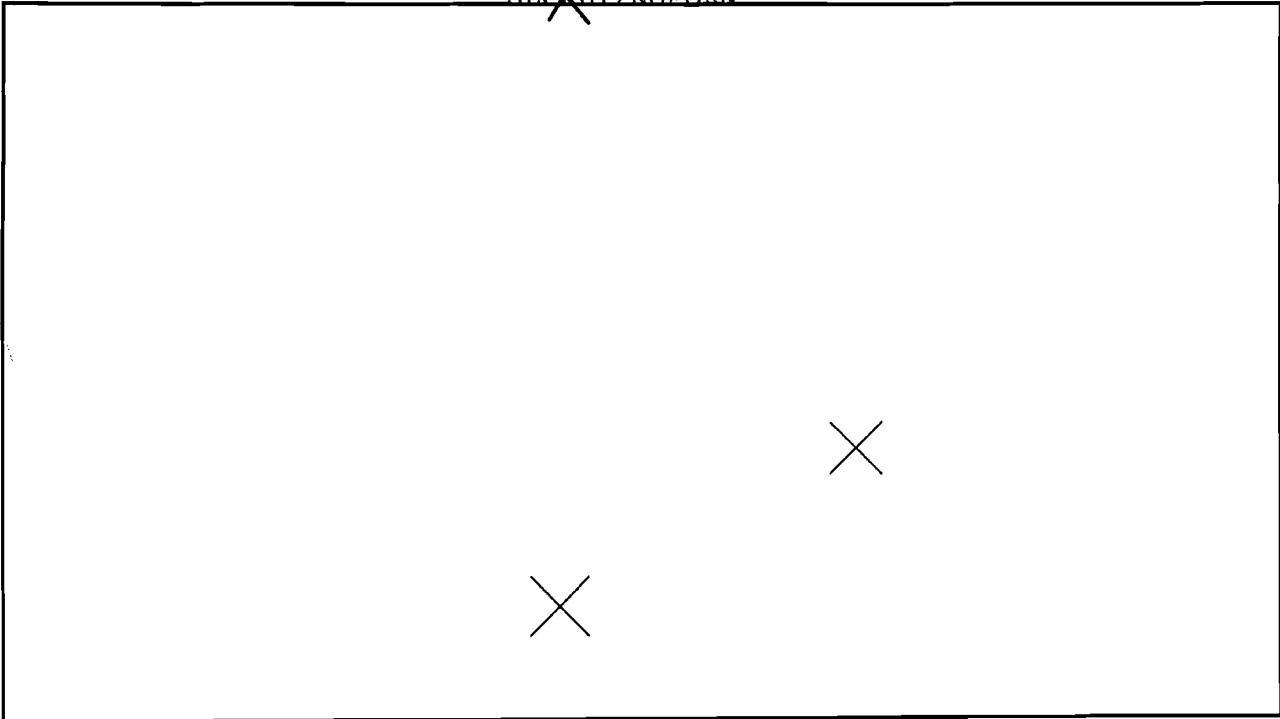
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IV.  
IRANIAN SHIITE THREATS ~~(S)~~ (U)

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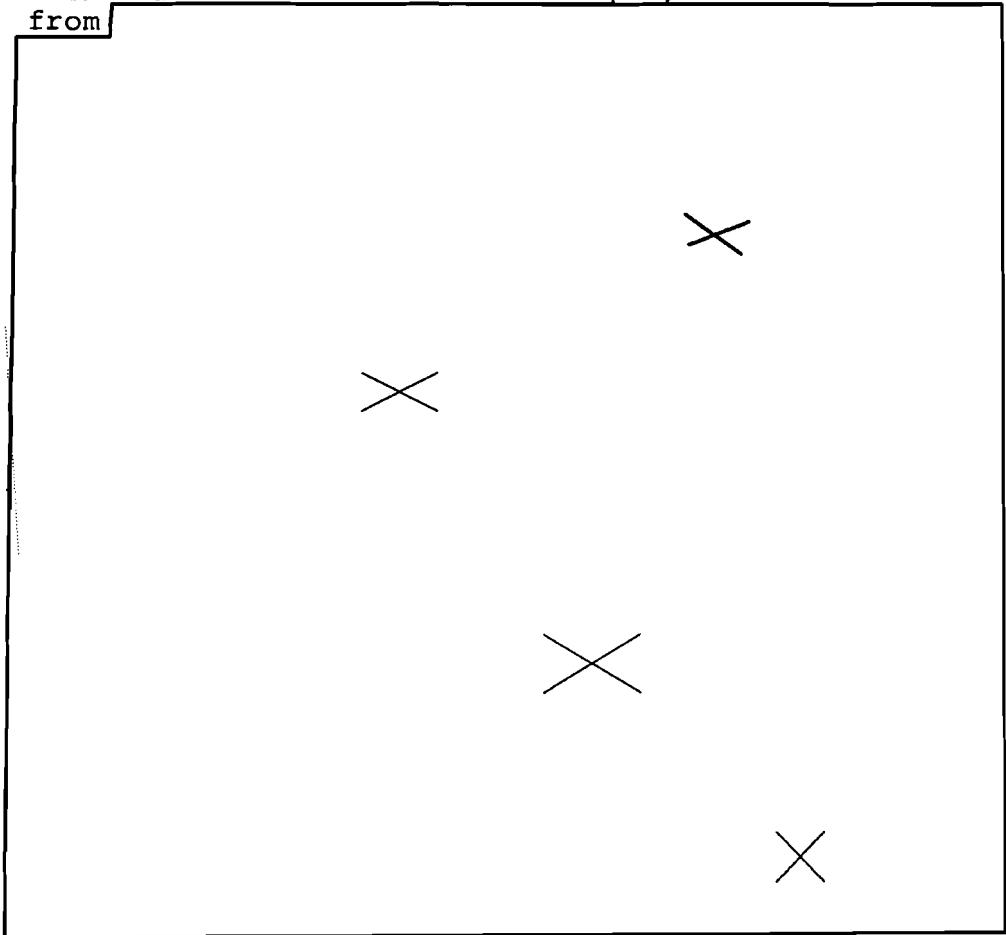
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(S)  ~~(S)~~

Although there have not yet been terrorist attacks by Shiite fundamentalists in the United States, there have been numerous allegations relative to such activity. Increased security measures have been put into effect at numerous United States Government offices and buildings as a result, and priority investigations have attempted to determine the validity of the information and/or to interdict any threats. To date, none of the intelligence has been substantiated. Included among these allegations are: ~~(S)~~ (U)

- information obtained on January 4, 1983  
from


(S)



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(S) 

(S) - information obtained [redacted] regarding an anonymous telephone call [redacted]

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warning of possible kamikaze-style attacks against famous "houses" in the United States, to include the White House and other unspecified targets. There were also reports of terrorists carrying bombs aboard American flag oceanliners;

~~(S)~~ (U)

- information from a source of unknown reliability who reported [redacted]

b7D

[redacted] ~~(S)~~ (U)

(S)

[redacted] (U)

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- information from [redacted]

[redacted]

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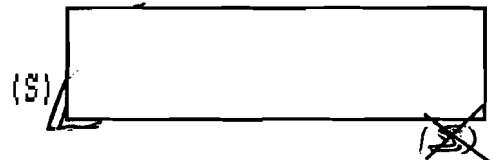
~~(S)~~ (U)

- information obtained on December 30, 1983 reporting that bombs would explode before mid-January 1984, at the United Nations Building, Pan Am Building, World Trade Center, and/or the Federal Building, in New York City;

~~(S)~~ (U)

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- information obtained on December 30, 1983, from a source of unknown reliability that

[redacted]

No

time frame was indicated; ~~(S)~~ (U)

b7D

- information obtained from an anonymous source

[redacted]

[redacted]

~~(S)~~ (U)

b7D

- information, which has not been substantiated, advising on January 4, 1984 of rumors of a plot for a kamikaze-style mission against United States installations (NFI). Reportedly, the pilot is Lebanese and is associated with

[redacted]

group supported

(S)

by Khomeini; ~~(S)~~ (U)

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- information from a source of unknown reliability, who reported

[redacted]

[redacted] ~~(S)~~ (U)

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- information obtained on January 18, 1984 that package bombs have been prepared to explode when in the possession of United States Postal Service employees; ~~(S)~~ (U)

- information obtained from an anonymous telephone call on January 19, 1984 that

[redacted]

~~(S)~~ (U)

(S)


[redacted]

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b7D

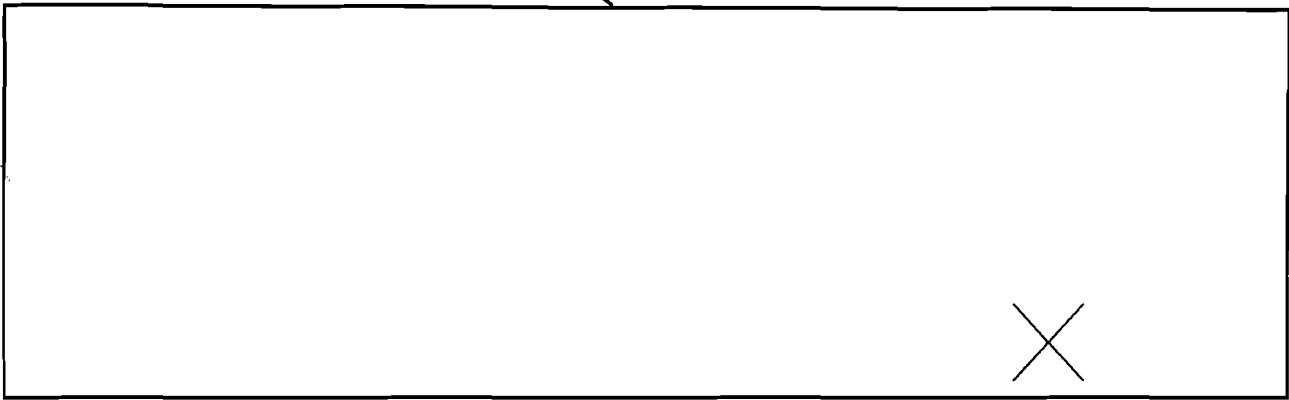
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b1

(S) 

~~SECRET/NOFORN~~

(S)




b1

~~SECRET/NOFORN~~

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(S) 

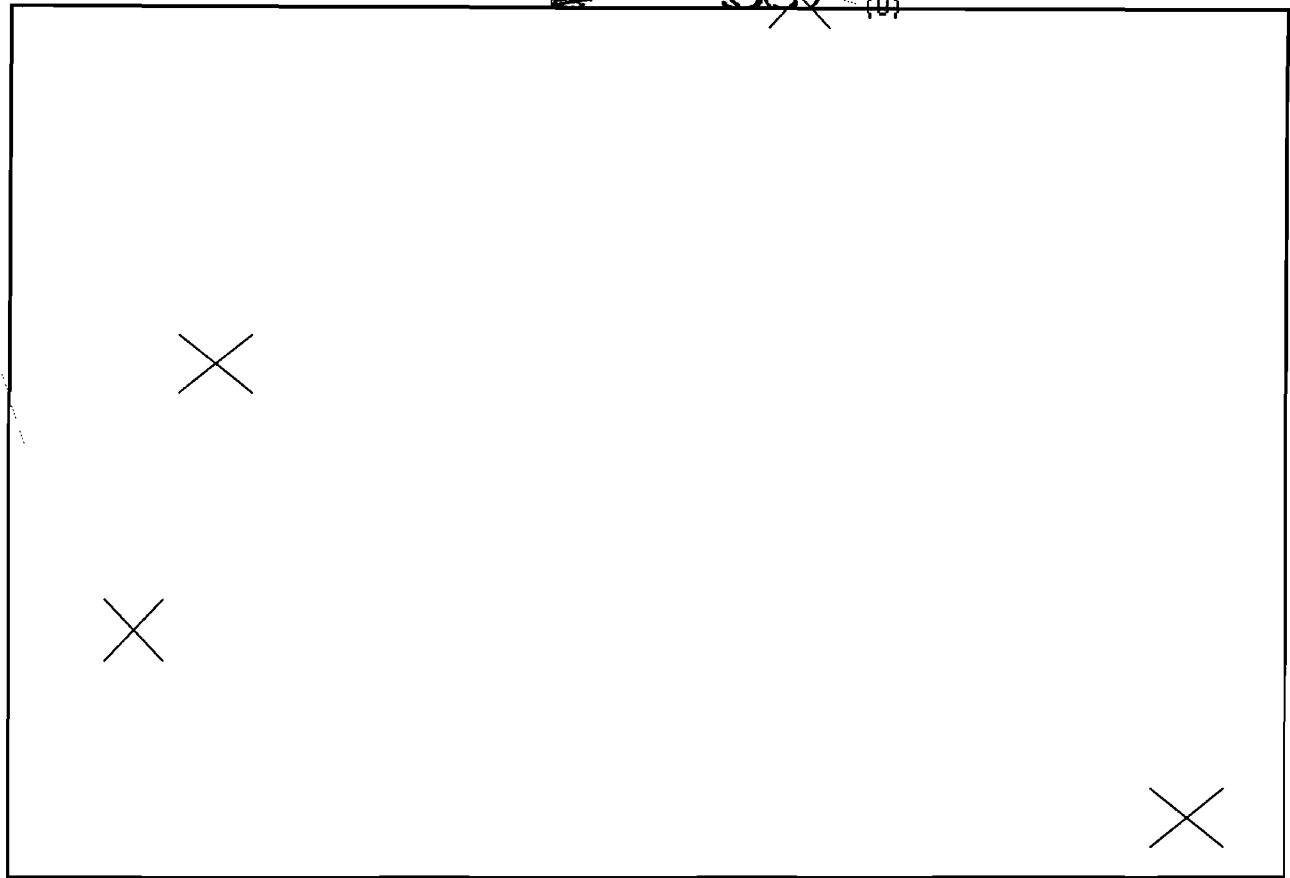
~~SECRET/NOFORN~~

~~CONCLUSION~~

~~(S)~~

(U)

(S)



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~~SECRET/NOFORN~~