THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 26, 1983

*National Security
Decision Directive 114*

U.S. POLICY TOWARD THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR ~~(S)~~

I have reveiwed and approved the Terms of Reference to govern our
political and military consultations with our key Allies and the
Gulf Arab states. Political consultations should begin immedi-
ately followed by military consultations with those Allies and
regional states which express a willingness to cooperate with us
in planning measures necessary to deter or defend against attacks
on or interference with non-belligerent shipping or on critical
oil productions and transhipment facilities in the Persian Gulf.
~~(TS)~~

In our consultations we should assign the highest priority to
access arrangements which would facilitate the rapid deployment
of those forces necessary to defend the critical oil facilities
and transhipment points against air or sapper attacks. Specific
recommendations bearing on U.S. plans and force deployments
should be submitted for approval following the consultations.
~~(TS)~~

It is present United States policy to undertake whatever measures
may be necessary to keep the Strait of Hormuz open to interna-
tional shipping. Accordingly, U.S. military forces will attempt
to deter and, if that fails, to defeat any hostile efforts to
close the Strait to international shipping. Because of the real
and psychological impact of a curtailment in the flow of oil from
the Persian Gulf on the international economic system, we must
assure our readiness to deal promptly with actions aimed at
disrupting that traffic. The Secretary of Defense and Chairman,
Joint Chiefs of Staff, in coordination with the Secretary of
State, are requested to maintain a continuing review of tensions
in the area and to take appropriate measures to assure the
readiness of U.S. forces to respond expeditiously. ~~(TS)~~

Ronald Reagan