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C 16806

Country: Iran/Trucial Sheiks

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SUBJECT: Rumored Massing of Troops in Southern Iran

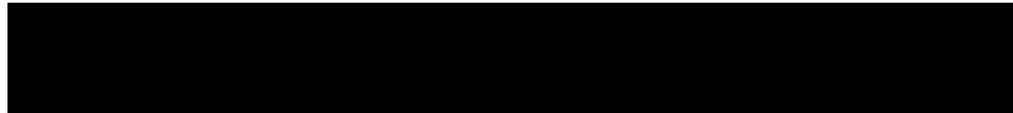
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Date of Information: 5 May 53

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"Nothing has been printed about it, but it is rumored in Dhahran that Premier Mossadeg is quietly massing troops in southern Iran for an invasion of three small Persian Gulf islands belonging to the Trucial sheiks. For more than a century these sheiks, one-time pirates, have been bound to Britain by treaties making their territory virtually British protectorates. Mossadeg's apparent motive is to divert attention from his disastrous domestic policies."

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