

Editorial

On the subject of Khomeiniac mines

The object of the U.S. military mission in the theater of operations associated with the Persian Gulf, ought to be to break the will of the Khomeiniac dictatorship of Iran insofar as this can be accomplished by rendering impotent those classes of actions which the United States and our relevant allies and other partners have prohibited that regime to undertake. This action, should be intended to restore the strategic credibility of the United States, by resolutely and effectively turning one of the most vital strategic flanks of the combined forces of the United States and its allies as a whole. The success of the mission in the theater of operations associated with the Persian Gulf is therefore an integral and vital part of the general strategic mission of the United States.

Rules of engagement, therefore, must be interpreted for practice according to the requirements of that mission.

The Khomeini regime's deployment of naval mines as a supplement or surrogate for other means should not be tolerated as a ruse by which the mission's object might be frustrated. Under present circumstances, the detected presence of naval mines in waters used by neutral shipping warrants automatic hot-pursuit military action against relevant military bases and capabilities of the Khomeini regime. Any other warlike Iranian action against neutrals, such as the recent bombardment of a Norwegian tanker and the firing at and stopping of a Yugoslav cargo vessel, should warrant immediate hot-pursuit response.

Officials of the Khomeini regime have repeatedly avowed publicly that naval-mine warfare is a state policy of that regime in the waters of the relevant theater of operations. They have adopted any errant naval mine in those waters, to the effect that, were a naval mine deployed by forces not placed by agencies under the direct control of that regime, the existence of the mine would be as if that regime had deployed it. These repeated declarations by that regime remove all reason to require commanders to report the confirmed name, rank, and serial number of such a mine before taking appropriate forms of

hot-pursuit action immediately against relevant capabilities of the Khomeini regime.

The same rule should apply to terrorist acts and other lethal forms of covert operations. The Khomeini regime has adopted such actions publicly, and repeatedly, as its current policy. If such an action were taken by agencies not under the direct control of that regime, the action would be the same in effect as if that regime had directed it. Decisive application of lethal military force against every one of the known and expected manifestations of the Khomeini regime's all too well known practice of employing violent insanity as a deliberate means of state policy—this ought to be the underlying principle of the American and allied military deployment in the Persian Gulf today.

The State Department must be kept out of this.

The traditional methods of crisis management must be kept out, as must any off-the-wall notion that we ought to reason out some sort of a "consensus" with the ayatollahs. Woe to that nation which shall reach a "consensus" with this band of demented mullahs. The only language they understand is that of the application of compelling force.

The instant you stop applying this compelling force, the demented mullahs, instantly, stop understanding.

For instance, it was noticed that after the U.S. naval deployment was completed with the arrival of the *USS Guadalcanal*, the Iranian "Supreme Defense Council" announced that it has "no objections" to the U.S. convoys, and that they themselves are committed to protecting free navigation in the Gulf. The Council's spokesman, Dr. Kharazi, after this well behaved declaration, slyly added, "The question is, if there is calm in the Persian Gulf, why should the United States not withdraw its naval forces?"

The answer of course, is simple: If there is calm in the Gulf, its presence proves that the American naval deployment is having its effect. Remove this deployment, and the turmoil and violence will return instantly—unless the Khomeini regime is first wiped out.