SUBJECT: IRAQ'S BW MISSION PLANNING

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WARNING: INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.

DATE: 1992

COUNTRY: IRAQ

SUBJ: IRAQI BW MISSION PLANNING

SUMMARY: In the fall of 1990, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein ordered that plans be drawn up for the airborne delivery of a biological warfare (BW) agent. The plan called for three MIG-21's, carrying only conventional high-explosive ordnance to stage an air raid. If this initial mission was successful, then a second mission of three MIG-21's was to be flown with an SU-22 BW dispersal aircraft following them at a significantly lower altitude. The first mission was shot down over the Persian Gulf. However, no efforts were made to find another method to deliver the BW agent.
THE PLAN CALLED FOR A TEST MISSION OF THREE MiG-21's TO
CONDUCT AN AIR RAID USING CONVENTIONAL HIGH EXPLOSIVE
ORDNANCE. IF THESE AIRCRAFT WERE ABLE TO PENETRATE AIR
DEFENSES AND SUCCESSFULLY BOMB THEN A SECOND MISSION WAS TO
TAKE OFF WITHIN A FEW DAYS OF THE FIRST, USING THE SAME FLIGHT PATH
AND APPROACHES. THE SECOND MISSION, ALSO COMPOSED OF THREE MiG-21's
CARRYING CONVENTIONAL ORDNANCE, WAS TO SERVE AS A DECoy FOR A SINGLE
Su-22 AIRCRAFT FOLLOWING THE SAME ROUTE BUT FLYING BETWEEN 50 AND 100
METERS ALTITUDE. OPTIMAL DELIVERY ALTITUDE FOR THE Wb AGENT WAS
JUDGED TO BE 30 METERS AT A SPEED OF 100 KILOMETERS AN HOUR.
WHILE WIND AND WEATHER CONDITIONS WOULD BE CRITICAL TO THE
EFFECTIVENESS OF A Wb MISSION, FOR SECURITY REASONS THERE WAS NO
INVENTION TO INVOLVE AIR FORCE METEOROLOGISTS IN MISSION PLANNING.

Shortly after hostilities began,
the three MiG test mission took off from Tallil airfield, near an
Arab city. All three aircraft were shot down early in the mission,
and as a result plans to launch the Su-22 armed with a biological
agent and flying under cover of a second, decoy mission were
canceled.

End of Message