MEMORANDUM FOR:  The Ambassador

FROM:  

SUBJECT: Probable Possession by Iraq of the Soviet SA-7 (STEKA-1) Hand-held Infrared Surface-to-Air Missile

Summary: below is an assessment from that Iraq probably has been supplied with the soviet infrared hand-held surface-to-air missile.

1. The portable version of SA-7 is known in Soviet terminology as STEKA-1. Because STEKA-1 is a small, hand-held infrared SAM, it is extremely difficult to detect unless it is fired successfully in combat. Live firing exercises could be conducted with little chance of detection. Its presence in Soviet arsenal was not known until it was observed by Israeli pilots in Egypt and fragments were recovered from Israeli aircraft. The missile is simple to operate and requires no specialized support equipment or telltale construction. STEKA-1 is confirmed in Egypt, North Vietnam and East Germany; it has been reported to be in Syria. Therefore, we consider its presence in Iraq as highly probable. SA-3, SA-7 and EBU-23/4 are considered a single integral air defense system. Iraq already has SA-3 but there are no reports that EBU-23/4 have been delivered. However, we believe it highly likely Iraq received or will receive the entire "Air Defense Package", i.e., SA-3, SA-7 and EBU-23/4.

2. SA-7 mounted on EBU-2 are known in Soviet terminology as STEKA-2. This system has thus far been deployed in limited numbers solely to Warsaw Pact countries. It is, therefore, not as likely that this version will be deployed in Iraq.

3. The U.S. counterpart to SA-7 is the Redeye.

SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

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