WESTMINSTER SECURITY

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UAE SITREP DOCUMENT

DAY 220, THE 207TH EDITION. YEMENI GOVERNMENT FORCES PUSH TOWARD BAB EL-MANDEB, WITH THE GIANTS BRIGADES REPORTING FIRST UNITS IN THE AREA AND AN ATTACK ON DHUBAB, WHILE THE HOUTHIS TAKE TURBAH ON THE TAIZ-ADEN ROAD. THE UAE HANDS 17 IRANIAN PRISONERS TO TEHRAN, A DAY AFTER A SENIOR IRANIAN WARNING. IRAN'S OIL MINISTER RESIGNS AND THE RIAL HITS A NEW LOW. TEHRAN SAYS THE US OFFER IS "MORE OR LESS IN LINE WITH THEIR PREVIOUS POSITIONS". NO NEW STRIKE IN THE STRAIT REPORTED; EXPLOSIONS NEAR A TANKER OFF YEMEN (AT SEA, NO DAMAGE, CAUSE UNCONFIRMED). BRENT ABOVE $102. NO CONFIRMED STRIKE ON UAE TERRITORY. MAXIMUM HELD, HIGH READINESS

Prepared for the CEO

Westminster Security Group Ltd

5 October 2026 (0900 GMT)

Subject: The Security Situation in Dubai, the UAE, and the Wider Middle East

Classification: STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

⚠️ **MAXIMUM ALERT:** THE GROUND WAR IN YEMEN IS MOVING TOWARD BAB EL-MANDEB, THE US DECISION ON IRAN IS STILL PENDING, AND OIL HAS RISEN ON THE RED SEA RISK. THE ALERT REMAINS AT MAXIMUM. Reuters reports that Yemeni government forces attacked Houthi positions in the Dhubab district, which overlooks Bab el-Mandeb, on Monday morning, and that the Giants Brigades say their first contingents have arrived in the area. The Houthis, for their part, have taken the town of Turbah on the supply road between Taiz and Aden (AP). On Sunday evening UKMTO reported multiple explosions near a tanker about 60 nautical miles south of Mokha; the crew is safe and no damage was reported. That was a vessel at sea in the southern Red Sea, cause unconfirmed, far from the UAE. No new strike in the Strait of Hormuz was reported in the period. No outcome has been announced from the 2 October Camp David meeting, and Tehran says the US proposals are "more or less in line with their previous positions". Brent traded above $102 in early Asian trading on Monday. There is NO CONFIRMED STRIKE on UAE territory, ports or infrastructure. Westminster Security MAINTAINS MAXIMUM ALERT, keeps both phases suspended, holds readiness at a high level, and advises clients to complete departures, protect energy and water resilience, and suspend all Strait transits.

⚖️ **MIXED SIGNALS:** A GESTURE TO THE UAE AND A QUIETER STRAIT; A HARDER LINE ELSEWHERE. On the easing side, the UAE has transferred 17 Iranian prisoners to Iran, which Tehran links to talks on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly and describes as a sign of "neighbourly relations"; no new tanker strike in the Strait was reported in the 24 hours to the cutoff; and Bloomberg reports at least three LNG cargoes leaving the Strait since late last week. On the harder side: Foreign Minister Araghchi says that if the US moves toward military solutions, "we are more prepared than before"; an Iranian army spokesman calls for longer-range missiles; Washington and Tehran are trading accusations over two Iranian UN delegates the US says were "kicked out"; the Yemen offensive is moving toward Bab el-Mandeb; and Iran's economy is under visible strain, with the oil minister's resignation and a new low for the rial. The UAE thread has eased slightly; the wider picture has not.

⚠️ **ASSESSMENT:** A MIXED DAY FOR THE UAE, A HARDER ONE FOR THE REGION. THE ALERT STAYS AT MAXIMUM. The prisoner transfer is the first concrete Iran-UAE step in some days and sits awkwardly against Velayati's warning of Saturday. It suggests that Tehran is keeping a working channel to Abu Dhabi open even as its public rhetoric hardens; it does not remove the airports threat or the risk to UAE-linked tonnage if fighting resumes. The main escalation path in this period is Bab el-Mandeb. If government forces reach the strait, the Houthis' response against Saudi Arabia and Red Sea shipping is the variable to watch, and oil prices have already moved. On the main front, signs of economic strain in Iran (a resignation at the oil ministry and a falling rial) add pressure but do not change Tehran's stated terms, and the US decision remains unannounced. There is NO CONFIRMED STRIKE on UAE territory. The posture remains MAXIMUM with high readiness.

1. SITUATION SUMMARY: DAY 220, A PUSH TOWARD BAB EL-MANDEB, A PRISONER TRANSFER, AND STRAIN IN TEHRAN

The Red Sea front dominated the period. Reuters reports that Yemeni government forces attacked Houthi positions in Dhubab, overlooking Bab el-Mandeb, on Monday morning, with the Giants Brigades reporting their first contingents in the area; Iran International, citing Reuters sources, reports that government forces have seized large parts of the district (to be verified). The Houthis have taken Turbah, on the road linking Taiz to Aden, which analysts say will constrain the government's ability to resupply its front lines (AP). The UN reports more than 800 people killed and about 145,000 displaced in the renewed fighting. On Sunday evening UKMTO reported multiple explosions near a tanker about 60 nautical miles south of Mokha, with the crew safe and no damage; no new strike in the Strait of Hormuz was reported in the period. In Tehran, the Foreign Ministry says the US proposals are "more or less in line with their previous positions", Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad has resigned, and the rial has fallen to a new low. No outcome has been announced from the Camp David meeting. For the UAE, Iran's judiciary says the UAE has transferred 17 Iranian prisoners to Iran, a step Tehran links to talks at the UN General Assembly. There is no confirmed strike on UAE territory, ports or infrastructure. Westminster Security MAINTAINS MAXIMUM ALERT with readiness at a high level, keeps both phases suspended, and advises clients to complete departures, protect energy and water resilience, and suspend all Strait transits.

Where Things Stand

Element	Status (as of 0900 GMT Monday 5 October)
Alert level	**MAXIMUM (held), high readiness.** Both phases suspended. US decision pending; Yemen offensive moving toward Bab el-Mandeb. Complete departures; high readiness; suspend all Strait transits.
US decision-making	**DECISION PENDING.** No outcome announced from the 2 October Camp David meeting. US says two Iranian UN delegates were "kicked out"; Araghchi says all "left as scheduled".
US force posture	**BUILD-UP CONTINUING.** Theodore Roosevelt strike group and Makin Island amphibious group en route. Bombers withdrawn from RAF Fairford; the UK Prime Minister has cited "strong indications" of an Iranian role in the incident there (Iran denies).
Diplomacy	**NO MOVEMENT.** Iran: US proposals "more or less in line with their previous positions"; a formal reply is being prepared. Qalibaf's seven conditions stand. Sequencing unresolved.
Iran's posture	**READY, UNDER STRAIN.** Araghchi: "we are more prepared than before". Army spokesman calls for longer-range missiles. Oil minister resigned; rial at a new low. Conditional threats against Gulf airports and US ships stand.
Strait incidents	**NO NEW STRIKE REPORTED.** No new Hormuz incident reported in the period. Red Sea: explosions near a tanker 60 nm south of Mokha (4 Oct), no damage, crew safe. At sea, cause unconfirmed, not UAE territory.
UAE and Iran	**PRISONERS TRANSFERRED.** UAE hands 17 Iranian prisoners (3

	women, 14 men) to Iran; Tehran cites UNGA talks. Follows Velayati's 3 October warning. flydubai co-pilot probe widens to Australia. No Iranian link established.
Saudi and Yemen front	**PUSH ON BAB EL-MANDEB.** Government attack on Dhubab; Giants Brigades report first units in the Bab el-Mandeb area. Houthis take Turbah. Aramco claim near Riyadh still unconfirmed by Saudi Arabia. Truce not agreed.
UAE territory	**NO CONFIRMED STRIKE.** No confirmed strike on UAE soil, ports or infrastructure. DXB, DWC and AUH operating with regional disruption; UAE-Israel flights suspended; Iranian airlines suspended.

WS Assessment: The day's movement is on the ground in Yemen and in the economics of the war, not at sea in the Strait or in Washington. The prisoner transfer is a small positive for the UAE, but it does not change the conditional threats against Gulf airports and shipping. Nothing has touched UAE territory. The alert stays at MAXIMUM with high readiness.

2. THE DIPLOMACY: NO MOVEMENT ON THE TERMS, AND A DISPUTE OVER DIPLOMATS

- **Tehran's reading of the US offer:** A Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Sunday that "Americans' propositions are more or less in line with their previous positions" and that Iran wants the focus on the security of the waterway (Fox News). This is the first official Iranian characterisation of the counterproposal we have seen; it is consistent with reports that Tehran regards the US terms as centred on the nuclear file. No formal Iranian reply had been reported by the cutoff.
- **Araghchi on readiness:** Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said that "if they move toward military solutions, we are more prepared than before", and that Iran's response to renewed confrontation would be stronger, while repeating that there is no military or sanctions-based solution. Qalibaf's statement of Sunday, that the Strait will not open until Iran's seven conditions are met, stands.
- **A dispute over diplomats:** The State Department says two members of Iran's UN delegation overstayed in New York after being ordered to leave; a US official told AFP: "They have now been kicked out of the U.S." Axios reports one left on Friday evening and the other on Saturday morning. Araghchi said: "All Iranian diplomats who attended UNGA, except one who departed earlier, left as scheduled," and called the US account a sign of "desperation and defeat".
- **The President's line:** We found no new statement from President Trump on Iran in the period. His most recent remarks, that the outcome will be "the easy way or the hard way" and that the war will end "very quickly", remain the latest public guide, and we continue to treat them as signals rather than as a timetable.

WS Assessment: The positions are unchanged and the atmosphere has soured over a minor procedural dispute. The working channel remains, but there is still no agreed order of steps. Hold posture until a sequence is agreed and implemented.

3. IRAN UNDER STRAIN, THE US DECISION PENDING, AND A QUIETER STRAIT

- **Iran's oil minister resigns:** President Pezeshkian has accepted the resignation of Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad, who cited personal reasons, and appointed Hamid Bovard, a former deputy minister and head of the National Iranian Oil Company, as caretaker minister. The change comes as the US blockade continues to choke Iran's oil exports. We do not read it as a policy shift.
- **The rial and the economy:** Fox News reports the rial at a new low of about 2.688 million to the dollar, from 2.632 million on Friday, and a central bank injection of $2 billion to support the currency; inflation is reported at more than 70 per cent (figures attributed and to be verified). President Pezeshkian says the government has adopted "a new arrangement to manage these special conditions".
- **Military messaging:** An Iranian army spokesman said "we must increase the range of our missiles", citing US forces positioned about 1,000 kilometres from Iran's coast (Fox News; we have not seen the original statement). The IRGC's warning of a response "more deadly" than in 2024 stands.
- **The Strait:** No new tanker strike in or near the Strait of Hormuz was reported in the 24 hours to the cutoff, after at least four since 1 October. Bloomberg reports that at least three LNG cargoes have left the Strait since late last week. CENTCOM's most recent published blockade figure remains 125 vessels redirected (30 September); we found no newer CENTCOM release. A quieter day is not a reopening.
- **The UK angle, clarified:** Last edition described any Iranian link to the RAF Fairford incident as unconfirmed. Prime Minister Andy Burnham said on 1 October that there are "strong indications that Iran played a part"; Iran's foreign minister rejected the claim. The US has withdrawn its bombers from the base.

WS Assessment: Pressure on Iran is rising through the blockade and the economy, and Washington's decision is still pending. The absence of a new Strait strike is welcome but proves nothing on its own. Clients should treat the Strait as closed to their vessels and hold readiness.

4. THE UAE: A PRISONER TRANSFER, THE FLYDUBAI INVESTIGATION, AND NO STRIKE

- **No confirmed strike on UAE territory:** There is no confirmed damaging strike on UAE territory, ports or infrastructure, and none since the Barakah strike of 17 May 2026. We found no NCEMA alert in the period. The only maritime incident reported in the period was in the southern Red Sea, off Yemen.
- **Seventeen prisoners transferred:** Iran's judiciary says the UAE has transferred 17 Iranian prisoners (three women and 14 men) to Iran. Iranian state media first reported on Saturday evening that the UAE would release Iranian prisoners following diplomatic and security efforts, and Foreign Ministry spokesman Baqaei links the step to talks during the UN General Assembly. An Iranian deputy justice minister described it as a demonstration of "neighbourly relations". We found no UAE statement by the cutoff.
- **Reading the gesture:** The transfer came the day after Ali Akbar Velayati warned the UAE that "imported security has an expiration date". The two together suggest a working channel between Tehran and Abu Dhabi that runs alongside the hostile public rhetoric. It is a modest de-escalatory signal for the UAE, not a change in the conditional threats against Gulf airports and UAE-linked shipping.
- **The flydubai investigation:** Australian counter-terrorism authorities are reported to be examining the FZ1073 co-pilot, Hamam al-Hammami, who studied in Melbourne about a decade ago, including possible links to extremist material (Fox News, Times of Israel). Israeli media report, citing his interrogation, that he intended to crash the aircraft into Ben Gurion Airport; that account is unverified. Prime Minister Netanyahu has ordered a review of security arrangements for foreign civilian flights to Israel. Abu Dhabi leads the investigation, and no Iranian link has been established.
- **Aviation:** DXB, DWC and AUH are operating. Foreign carrier suspensions to Dubai run from 24 October to October 2027 depending on the airline (Gulf News). flydubai's Israel flights and the UAE's suspension of Iranian airlines remain in place. Confirm dates directly with each carrier.

WS Assessment: The UAE has not been struck, and the prisoner transfer is the first constructive Iran-UAE step in several days. It sits alongside, not in place of, Iran's warnings. Hold high readiness.

5. SHIPPING, OIL AND THE REGIONAL PICTURE

- **Oil:** Brent traded at about $102.31 in early Asian trading on Monday, up from Friday's settlement of $99.74, with Murban at about $110, as the Houthi claim against Aramco and the Red Sea fighting added to the risk premium (Gulf News). Analysts cite tanker shortages, insurance costs and VLCC freight rates.
- **A push toward Bab el-Mandeb:** Reuters reports that Yemeni government forces attacked Houthi positions in the Dhubab district, which overlooks Bab el-Mandeb, on Monday morning, and that the Giants Brigades say their first contingents have arrived in the area. Iran International, citing Reuters sources, reports that government forces have seized large parts of Dhubab; that is unconfirmed. Saudi military leadership has pledged "full operational support" to the government forces (AP).
- **Houthi gains near Taiz:** The Houthis have taken Turbah, on the supply route linking Taiz to Aden, which analysts say will "likely severely constrain" the ability of government-aligned forces to reinforce and resupply front-line positions (AP; the date of capture is to be verified). Fox News reports Houthi claims to have taken the residence of the Presidential Leadership Council chairman; that claim is unverified. The UN reports more than 800 killed and about 145,000 displaced.
- **Explosions near a tanker off Yemen:** On Sunday evening UKMTO reported that the security officer of a tanker about 60 nautical miles south of Mokha observed explosions near the vessel. There was no damage, the crew is safe and no environmental impact was reported. No group has claimed responsibility and the weapon is unconfirmed. This was shipping at sea in the southern Red Sea, cause unconfirmed, and not connected to UAE territory.
- **The Aramco claim:** Saudi authorities and Aramco have still not confirmed an attack on the facility south of Riyadh where fire and smoke were seen on Saturday evening, and the coalition continues to describe the Houthi claim as "misleading". The cause of the fire remains unconfirmed. The proposed Saudi-Houthi truce has not been agreed, and the Makkah defence pact committee is due to meet in Riyadh this week.

WS Assessment: Bab el-Mandeb is becoming a contested battlefield, and the Red Sea route that carries Saudi crude around Hormuz is more exposed than at any point in this phase. UAE-linked operators should continue to suspend all Strait transits and review Red Sea exposure pending a confirmed reopening with verified safe passage.

6. DUBAI AND THE UAE

Operational Picture

- **A pending decision, a contested Red Sea, and no confirmed strike on UAE territory.** The US decision on Iran is still pending, government forces are pushing toward Bab el-Mandeb, and the UAE has transferred 17 prisoners to Iran days after a senior Iranian warning. There is no confirmed damaging strike on UAE territory, ports or infrastructure. The Iran-UAE thaw is strained but not broken, and the airports threat and the risk of a US escalation keep the danger elevated.
- **COMPLETE DEPARTURES NOW: THE WINDOW MAY BE NARROWING.** DXB, DWC and AUH are operating, with disruption on regional routes and several foreign carriers suspended to late October or longer. Complete any deferred non-essential departure on scheduled commercial flights without delay, and confirm bookings directly with the carrier.
- **HOLD READINESS AT A HIGH LEVEL: THE AIRPORTS THREAT.** Essential personnel should maintain shelter-in-place and evacuation readiness at a high level. A US decision to resume strikes would test Iran's threats against Gulf airports and US ships. Review shelter locations and NCEMA guidance, keep go-bags current, plan for disruption at UAE airports, and be prepared to shelter promptly on any alert. The UAE hosts US forces at Al Dhafra.
- **PROTECT ENERGY AND WATER RESILIENCE.** Brent is above $102 and Murban near $110, and refined products remain tight. Keep water, fuel and generator contingencies ready; the Fujairah route continues to provide a degree of insulation.
- **Shipping: SUSPEND ALL STRAIT TRANSITS.** No new Strait strike was reported in the period, but at least four tankers have been hit since 1 October and UAE-linked tankers remain on Iran's non-compliance list. Suspend all transits through the Strait, hold vessels clear of the Strait and the waters off Oman and the UAE, review Red Sea and Bab el-Mandeb routing as fighting reaches the strait, and treat UAE-linked tonnage as at elevated risk until a confirmed reopening with verified safe passage is in place.
- **Compliance and aviation security.** Continue to screen counterparties against the 1 October Treasury designations, which include three UAE-based entities, and consult qualified counsel; this is not legal advice. Note the widening flydubai investigation and Israel's review of foreign flight security, and review travel arrangements for staff on affected routes.

Return Guidance: MAXIMUM Held, High Readiness, a Contested Red Sea

Westminster Security maintains MAXIMUM alert, with both Phase 1 (essential) and Phase 2 (non-essential) returns suspended and readiness at a high level. The US decision on Iran is pending, Iran's terms are unchanged, Yemeni government forces are pushing toward Bab el-Mandeb, and the UAE has transferred 17 prisoners to Iran. Clients should complete departures now, hold high readiness, suspend all Strait transits, protect energy and water resilience, note the airports threat, and plan for protracted disruption.

- **All returns, SUSPENDED:** Halt all inbound travel to the UAE until a durable, verified de-escalation and a confirmed reopening are in place; a prisoner transfer and a quieter day at sea are not a settlement.
- **Non-essential personnel, COMPLETE DEPARTURES NOW:** Use the open airports to finish any deferred departures without delay, on scheduled commercial flights, allowing for carrier suspensions; do not wait for the outcome of US deliberations.
- **Essential personnel, high readiness:** Maintain shelter-in-place and evacuation readiness at a high level, review shelter locations, keep documentation and go-bags current, and monitor any US decision on renewed strikes, Iran's warned retaliation, Iranian action against UAE-linked shipping, the fighting for Bab el-Mandeb and Houthi strikes on Saudi Arabia, and any strike toward UAE territory or airports.
- **Business and compliance clients:** Review exposure given the widened US sanctions, including the three UAE-based designations, and the US restrictions on Iranian airlines, and consult qualified counsel. This is not legal advice.

- **De-escalation path (MAXIMUM to HIGH):** An agreed sequence, the lifting of the US blockade, the Strait reopened with verified safe passage, a confirmed ceasefire, and a durable de-escalation across all fronts would allow the alert to come down. None of these is in place; Westminster Security is ready to lower the alert to HIGH promptly once they are.
- **Further escalation, the central risk:** A US decision to resume strikes on Iran, Iran's warned retaliation against US ships and Gulf airports, Iranian action against UAE-linked vessels, a Houthi escalation against Saudi energy sites or Red Sea shipping as Bab el-Mandeb is contested, US strikes in Yemen, a collapse of the mediation, or a strike on UAE territory or airports would deepen the emergency; Westminster Security will issue immediate updates.
- **Standing posture:** MAXIMUM, high readiness. A US decision pending, Iran's terms unchanged and its economy under strain, a contested Red Sea, a modest Iran-UAE gesture alongside hostile rhetoric, and the Iran-UAE thaw under strain. Protect people first, complete departures now, hold high readiness, suspend all Strait transits, protect energy and water resilience, and note the airports threat.

7. WESTMINSTER SECURITY'S RECOMMENDATIONS

- **MAXIMUM ALERT HELD, HIGH READINESS. A contested Red Sea, a decision pending.** Yemeni government forces attacked Houthi positions in Dhubab, overlooking Bab el-Mandeb, on 5 October; the Houthis have taken Turbah. No outcome has been announced from the Camp David meeting. No new Strait strike was reported in the period. There is no confirmed strike on UAE territory.
- **WATCH FOR THE DECISION AND THE REPLY, NOT THE RHETORIC.** The outcome of the US deliberations and the content of Iran's reply to the counterproposal remain the indicators that matter. Tehran's description of the US offer as unchanged suggests no early breakthrough.
- **READ THE PRISONER TRANSFER FOR WHAT IT IS.** The UAE's transfer of 17 Iranian prisoners shows a working channel between Abu Dhabi and Tehran. It is a welcome signal, but it does not change Iran's conditional threats; hold high readiness for the airports threat.
- **TREAT BAB EL-MANDEB AS A CONTESTED CHOKEPOINT.** Fighting is reaching the strait, and explosions were reported near a tanker off Yemen on Sunday. Review exposure on the Red Sea and Bab el-Mandeb routes and continue to use the Fujairah route.
- **KEEP UAE-LINKED VESSELS OUT OF THE STRAIT.** A quieter day does not make the Strait safe. Keep UAE-linked vessels clear and review routing through the Gulf of Oman.
- **Monitor for:** (1) any announced US decision on renewed strikes on Iran; (2) Iran's formal reply to the US counterproposal; (3) Iran's warned retaliation against US ships and Gulf airports; (4) Iranian action against UAE-linked shipping; (5) the fighting for Bab el-Mandeb, Houthi strikes on Saudi Arabia or Red Sea shipping, and any US strikes in Yemen; (6) further Iran-UAE steps, positive or hostile; (7) any strike on UAE territory.
- **A decision pending. Emergency updates to follow.** Westminster Security will issue immediate updates on any US decision to resume strikes, any agreement or collapse of the talks, any reopening of the Strait, any threat to or strike on UAE territory, airports or UAE-linked shipping, any confirmed strike on Gulf energy infrastructure, or any major development, and will lower the alert to HIGH only once a durable de-escalation and a confirmed reopening are in place.
- **This is the two hundred and seventh edition.** Day 220 of the war.

8. KEY POINTS

- **A PUSH TOWARD BAB EL-MANDEB.** Yemeni government forces attacked Houthi positions in Dhubab on 5 October, and the Giants Brigades report first units in the Bab el-Mandeb area (Reuters). The Houthis have taken Turbah on the Taiz-Aden road. Explosions near a tanker 60 nm south of Mokha on 4 October; no damage, crew safe, cause unconfirmed.
- **THE UAE TRANSFERS 17 IRANIAN PRISONERS.** Iran's judiciary confirms the transfer, which Tehran links to talks at the UN General Assembly. A modest positive signal, a day after Velayati's warning; it does not change the conditional threats.
- **NO MOVEMENT ON THE TERMS.** Tehran says the US proposals are "more or less in line with their previous positions". Araghchi: "we are more prepared than before". The US says two Iranian UN delegates were "kicked out"; Iran denies it. No US decision announced.
- **IRAN UNDER STRAIN.** Oil Minister Paknejad has resigned and Hamid Bovard is caretaker; the rial is at a new low. No new strike in the Strait was reported in the period; Brent is above $102 and Murban near $110.
- **THE UK LINK CLARIFIED.** The UK Prime Minister has cited "strong indications" of an Iranian role in the RAF Fairford incident; Iran denies it. The flydubai investigation has widened to Australia; no Iranian link has been established.
- **MAXIMUM HELD, HIGH READINESS. NO CONFIRMED STRIKE ON UAE TERRITORY. TWO HUNDRED AND SEVENTH EDITION. DAY 220.** A US decision pending, Iran's terms unchanged, a contested Red Sea, and a modest Iran-UAE gesture alongside hostile rhetoric; no UAE territory has been struck. Both phases remain suspended; complete departures now, hold high readiness, suspend all Strait transits, protect energy and water resilience, note the airports threat, and plan for protracted disruption. Westminster Security will lower the alert to HIGH only once a durable de-escalation and a confirmed reopening are in place.

Prepared 5th October 2026. Information current as of 09:00 GMT.

THE RED SEA IS NOW A CONTESTED BATTLEFIELD. YEMENI GOVERNMENT FORCES ARE PUSHING TOWARD BAB EL-MANDEB, THE HOUTHIS HAVE TAKEN TURBAH, AND OIL HAS RISEN ON THE RISK. IN WASHINGTON THE DECISION ON IRAN IS STILL PENDING; IN TEHRAN THE TERMS ARE UNCHANGED AND THE ECONOMY IS UNDER STRAIN.

THE UAE HAS TRANSFERRED 17 IRANIAN PRISONERS TO IRAN, A MODEST SIGNAL ALONGSIDE IRAN'S WARNINGS. NO NEW STRIKE IN THE STRAIT WAS REPORTED; EXPLOSIONS NEAR A TANKER OFF YEMEN CAUSED NO DAMAGE. THERE IS NO CONFIRMED STRIKE ON UAE TERRITORY. MAXIMUM ALERT HELD, HIGH READINESS. COMPLETE DEPARTURES NOW, HOLD HIGH READINESS, SUSPEND ALL STRAIT TRANSITS, PROTECT ENERGY AND WATER RESILIENCE.

WATCH FOR THE DECISION AND THE REPLY, NOT THE RHETORIC; READ THE PRISONER TRANSFER FOR WHAT IT IS; TREAT BAB EL-MANDEB AS A CONTESTED CHOKEPOINT; AND KEEP UAE-LINKED VESSELS OUT OF THE STRAIT. PROTECT PEOPLE FIRST; EMERGENCY UPDATES TO FOLLOW. TWO HUNDRED AND SEVENTH EDITION. DAY 220.