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DAY 252, THE 215TH EDITION: THE WEEK TO 6 NOVEMBER. THE US CARRIES OUT LIMITED STRIKES ON QESHM ISLAND ON THE EVE OF THE MIDTERMS; PRESIDENT TRUMP SAYS A DECISION ON FURTHER ACTION WILL COME "SOON". AN IRGC ADVISER NAMES THE UAE AND BAHRAIN AS FACING A WIDER RESPONSE IF THEY HOST US ATTACKS. A QATARI TWO-DAY FRAMEWORK IS UNDER DISCUSSION. ATTACKS ON SHIPPING CONTINUE OFF MUSANDAM AND QATAR (AT SEA, NOT STRIKES ON UAE TERRITORY). BRENT NEAR $100 AFTER A WEEKLY FALL OF ABOUT 12 PER CENT. NO CONFIRMED STRIKE ON UAE TERRITORY. MAXIMUM HELD, HIGH READINESS

Prepared for the CEO

Westminster Security Group Ltd

6 November 2026 (0900 GMT). Weekly edition: 30 October (0900 GMT) to 6 November (0900 GMT)

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

Classification: STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

⚠️ **MAXIMUM ALERT:** THE DECISION POINT HAS ARRIVED, AND THE UAE HAS BEEN NAMED. THE ALERT REMAINS AT MAXIMUM. On the night of 2 to 3 November US aircraft carried out limited strikes on Qeshm Island, which US officials described as defensive, after a missile was fired at a US aircraft in the Strait. After meeting his national security team on 5 November, President Trump said: "Now we will make a decision … You'll know soon enough." Axios reports that CENTCOM is finalising preparations to resume major combat operations but has not received a new directive. On 4 November Hamidreza Moghadamfar, an adviser to the IRGC commander-in-chief, said Iran would broaden its response beyond US bases if Gulf states let Washington attack from their territory, naming the UAE and Bahrain (Reuters via Arab News); on 5 November an IRGC Aerospace Force adviser said any country that helps America attack Iran "can be a legitimate target". At sea, attacks continued off Musandam and north of Qatar; none was a strike on UAE territory. 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 any remaining departures now, protect energy, water and communications resilience, and suspend all Strait transits.

⚖️ **MIXED SIGNALS:** A CONCRETE FRAMEWORK ON THE TABLE, AND FORCES READY TO RESUME. On the easing side: Qatar is discussing with Iran and the White House a draft calling for confidence-building steps over two days (Axios); Vice President Vance said on 3 November that he and the President "both feel pretty good about the prospects for potentially coming to a negotiated settlement" (AP); Iran has reportedly passed a nuclear proposal through Qatar; Foreign Minister Araghchi spoke to counterparts in Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the UAE, Oman and Egypt on 5 November; and the UAE's foreign minister urged de-escalation in his call with Araghchi. On the harder side: the Qeshm strikes; President Trump's statement that he "would rather not destroy the rest of the country if possible, but maybe I will have to"; Rezaei's statement in Moscow that neither the Strait will open nor talks take place until Iran's seven conditions are met; IRGC warnings naming the

UAE and Bahrain; and continued attacks on shipping, including a dhow attack off Oman that killed an Indian sailor. Both tracks are live; neither has resolved.

⚠️ **ASSESSMENT:** THE UAE IS NOW NAMED IN IRANIAN WARNINGS. THE ALERT STAYS AT MAXIMUM. Three points bear on the UAE. First, an IRGC figure has named the UAE, with Bahrain, as facing a wider Iranian response if US attacks are launched from its territory; the warning is conditional, but it removes ambiguity about where retaliation could fall. Second, the US decision is now explicitly pending, with forces reported ready and the next carrier group due in the region from mid-November; reporting that officials see 9 November as favourable for operations should be treated as reporting, not a date. Third, the Qatari two-day framework is the most concrete sequence offered so far, and the UAE is actively engaged in the diplomacy. The posture remains MAXIMUM with high readiness until a sequence is agreed and implemented. There is NO CONFIRMED STRIKE on UAE territory.

1. SITUATION SUMMARY: DAY 252, THE WEEK IN REVIEW, 30 OCTOBER TO 6 NOVEMBER

Over the seven days to 09:00 GMT on 6 November, the US carried out its first strikes on Iranian territory in this phase to be confirmed by US officials, and the decision on wider action moved to the President's desk. US officials told AP, CNN and NBC that US aircraft struck an IRGC surface-to-air missile system on Qeshm Island on the night of 2 to 3 November, after a missile was fired at a US aircraft over the Strait; CENTCOM has made no public statement. The US midterm elections were held on 3 November, and Democrats won control of both the House and the Senate (The National). On 5 November President Trump met his national security team and said a decision on whether to "go further" would come soon; Axios reports he is weighing renewed strikes, continued economic pressure, or a deal.

Diplomacy continued through Qatar. Iranian negotiators left Doha on 1 November, and Qatar is now discussing a draft two-day sequence with both sides; Iran's security chief, Mohsen Rezaei, met President Putin in Moscow on 5 November. IRGC figures warned that Gulf states hosting US attacks would face a wider response, naming the UAE and Bahrain. At sea, the Qatari LNG carrier Al Mayeda was struck in the Gulf on 30 October, an Indian sailor was killed in an attack on a dhow off Oman, and the JMIC recorded four attacks off Musandam between 1 and 3 November. Brent fell to $94.62 on 4 November and was near $100 on 6 November. There is no confirmed strike on UAE territory, ports or infrastructure. Westminster Security MAINTAINS MAXIMUM ALERT with readiness at a high level.

Where Things Stand

Element	Status (as of 0900 GMT Friday 6 November; week from 30 October)
Alert level	**MAXIMUM (held), high readiness.** Both phases suspended. US decision pending; the UAE named in IRGC warnings. Complete remaining departures now; suspend all Strait transits.
US decision-making	**DECISION PENDING.** Trump (5 Nov): "Now we will make a decision … You'll know soon enough." Axios: three options (strikes, economic pressure, a deal). Democrats won both chambers on 3 Nov.
US force posture	**READY; NO NEW DIRECTIVE (REPORTED).** Limited strikes on Qeshm (2 to 3 Nov), described as defensive. CENTCOM finalising preparations (Axios). Theodore Roosevelt group not in region before mid-November. Blockade: 144 vessels redirected (1 Nov).
Diplomacy	**TWO-DAY FRAMEWORK DISCUSSED.** Qatari draft: day one, blockade lifted, some funds released, IAEA invited; day two, Strait reopens, then nuclear talks. Vance "pretty good" about a settlement. Rezaei: no opening or talks until seven conditions met.
Iran's posture	**GULF STATES WARNED.** Moghadamfar (4 Nov): wider response if Gulf states host US attacks, naming the UAE and Bahrain. IRGC adviser (5 Nov): states that help a US attack "can be a legitimate

	target". Ghalibaf: "the ball is in America's court".
Strait and Gulf incidents	**ATTACKS CONTINUE.** Al Mayeda (Qatar LNG) struck in the Gulf (30 Oct). Dhow Al Jusufi hit near Limah, Oman, 1 killed (3 Nov). JMIC: 4 attacks off Musandam (1 to 3 Nov). Tanker hit 50nm N of Qatar (4 Nov). Iranian mine claims unverified. None on UAE territory.
UAE	**NO STRIKE; NAMED IN WARNINGS.** Gargash (1 Nov): UAE hopes for a breakthrough but is "braced for the worst". Sheikh Abdullah urges de-escalation in call with Araghchi (5 Nov). Spill leak stopped at source. Etihad Riyadh and Dammam cancelled to 19 Nov.
Saudi and Yemen front	**ATTACKS CONTINUE.** Coalition intercepts drones near Riyadh (2 Nov), a missile towards Medina and a drone over the Eastern Region (5 Nov). Houthis claim Dammam airport strikes (unconfirmed). Turkey ratifies Mecca defence pact (5 Nov). Truce not agreed.
UAE territory	**NO CONFIRMED STRIKE.** No confirmed strike on UAE soil, ports or infrastructure since 17 May. DXB, DWC and AUH operating; British Airways resumed Dubai flights (3 Nov); Iranian airlines suspended.

WS Assessment: The week moved the main front from preparation to a pending decision, and it brought the UAE into Iranian warnings by name. A concrete diplomatic sequence is also on the table. Nothing has touched UAE territory. The alert stays at MAXIMUM with high readiness.

2. THE DIPLOMACY: A TWO-DAY FRAMEWORK, A PENDING US DECISION, AND IRAN'S SEVEN CONDITIONS

- **The US decision:** After meeting his national security team on 5 November, President Trump said: "Now we will make a decision. Do we want to go further?" He added: "I would rather not destroy the rest of the country if possible, but maybe I will have to. You'll know soon enough" (Axios). Axios reports the options as new strikes, continued economic pressure, or a deal including significant concessions. Vice President Vance said on 3 November that he and the President "both feel pretty good about the prospects for potentially coming to a negotiated settlement" (AP).
- **The Qatari framework:** Axios, citing regional sources, reports a Qatari draft under which, on day one, the US would lift its naval blockade and release some of Iran's frozen funds while Iran invites IAEA inspectors to bombed nuclear sites; on day two the Strait would reopen, after which nuclear talks would resume on Iran's stockpile of highly enriched uranium. Foreign Minister Araghchi first described a two-day plan on 31 October. Iranian negotiators left Doha on 1 November; an official said the departure was not due to difficulties (Reuters). Fox News reports that Iran has sent a nuclear proposal through Qatar.
- **Iran's position:** In Moscow on 5 November, Mohsen Rezaei said: "until the Americans fulfill our seven conditions, neither the Strait of Hormuz will be opened nor will there be any negotiations" (Axios). Parliament Speaker Ghalibaf said "the ball is in America's court to prevent war" and that Iran is at its highest level of defensive readiness. Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei said on 4 November that hopes of a shift in US policy after the midterms were mistaken.
- **The regional track:** Araghchi spoke on 5 November to counterparts in Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the UAE, Oman and Egypt (Axios). Turkey's parliament ratified the Mecca Joint Defence Agreement with Saudi Arabia and Pakistan on 5 November by 279 votes to 119 (AP via Al Jazeera). The Wall Street Journal reported on 2 November that some Arab states have warned Tehran they could retaliate if their infrastructure is hit.
- **Israel:** After the 27 October election, Prime Minister Netanyahu's bloc holds 53 of the 61 seats needed for a majority, and President Herzog has begun consultations (Fox News).

WS Assessment: A concrete, short sequence is now under discussion with both sides, and the US decision is explicitly pending. The two outcomes are now close together in time. Hold posture until a sequence is agreed and implemented.

3. THE STRAIT, SHIPPING AND OIL: STRIKES ON QESHM, ATTACKS OFF MUSANDAM AND QATAR, BRENT NEAR $100

- **Strikes on Qeshm:** US officials say US aircraft struck an IRGC surface-to-air missile launch system on Qeshm Island on the night of 2 to 3 November after a missile was fired at a US aircraft over the Strait; residents of Qeshm, Hengam and Bandar Abbas reported explosions (AP, Euronews). The strikes were not publicly announced, and CENTCOM has made no statement. The IRGC claims to have downed several US MQM-170 drones over Qeshm during the week; these claims are unverified.
- **Attacks on shipping:** The Qatari LNG carrier Al Mayeda was struck by “unidentified objects” in the Gulf on the evening of 30 October; Nakilat reports no injuries and no environmental impact, and the UAE condemned the attack “in the strongest terms”. Overnight into 3 November the Indian-flagged dhow Al Jusufi was hit by “an unidentified aerial object” near Limah, Oman; one Indian sailor was killed and 13 crew were rescued by the Omani Coast Guard. The JMIC recorded four attacks off Musandam between 1 and 3 November. At 23:20 GMT on 4 November a tanker was struck by two projectiles about 50 nautical miles north of Madinat ash-Shamal, Qatar (UKMTO). All were at sea, with the cause unconfirmed, and none was a strike on UAE territory.
- **Disputed mine claims:** On 5 November the IRGC and Iran’s army said several tankers and a tug caught fire after hitting mines on routes Iran calls unauthorised, east and south of the Strait. We found no CENTCOM response and no independent confirmation; the claims are presented as unverified.
- **The US position at sea:** CENTCOM data as of 1 November show 144 vessels redirected under the blockade (Gulf News). Admiral Cooper said on 30 October that US forces have escorted more than 3,000 commercial vessels through the Strait (Critical Threats). Gulf News reports very low commodity traffic through the Strait at the start of the week.
- **Oil:** Brent fell nearly 7 per cent on 2 November and more than 8 per cent on 4 November, closing at $94.62, its lowest since 31 August. It recovered to $99.94 at 05:03 GMT on 6 November, about 12 per cent lower on the week (The National). UAE retail fuel prices fell from 1 November, with Super 98 at Dh4.16 a litre.

WS Assessment: The Strait remains contested, attacks continue on both sides of Musandam, and US officials have confirmed strikes on Iranian territory. Keep all vessels clear of the Strait, the Musandam approaches, the central Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, including the Fujairah and Khor Fakkan approaches.

4. THE UAE: NAMED IN IRANIAN WARNINGS, ACTIVE IN THE DIPLOMACY, 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 public alert in the period.
- **Iranian warnings naming the UAE:** At a rally in Bandar Abbas on 4 November, Hamidreza Moghadamfar, an adviser to the IRGC commander-in-chief, said Iran would broaden its response beyond US bases if Gulf states allowed attacks from their territory, naming the UAE and Bahrain, and referred to a “new doctrine and new technology” (Reuters via Arab News). On 5 November Ali Reza Balali, an adviser to the IRGC Aerospace Force commander, said that “in the event of a new aggression” any country that helps America attack Iran can be a legitimate target (as reported by Al Jazeera). Both statements are conditional.
- **The UAE’s position:** At the IISS Manama Dialogue on 1 November, Dr Anwar Gargash said: “We’re hoping that there is a diplomatic breakthrough,” that another round is not in the region’s interest, and that the UAE is “braced for the worst” (AFP via Gulf News). On 5 November Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed stressed de-escalation and diplomacy in a call with Foreign Minister Araghchi (WAM via The National).
- **The oil spill:** The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment said on 30 October that the leak from Gem No 2 had been “stopped at its source”, that no new leak has been detected, and that pollution intensity had shown a “noticeable decline” (Khaleej Times). Clean-up continues; check emirate announcements before using beaches on the northern coast.
- **Aviation:** DXB, DWC and AUH are operating. British Airways resumed Dubai flights on 3 November. Etihad has extended Abu Dhabi to Riyadh and Dammam cancellations to 19 November; Emirates, flydubai and Air Arabia Saudi services are subject to cancellation and delay (Gulf News, 6 November). Iranian airline flights to the UAE remain suspended. Confirm schedules directly with carriers.

WS Assessment: The UAE has not been struck. But Iranian warnings now name it, conditionally, and the US decision is pending. The UAE’s active diplomacy is a stabilising factor. Hold high readiness, and treat any US decision to resume combat as an immediate trigger for shelter readiness.

5. SAUDI ARABIA, YEMEN AND THE WIDER REGION

- **Attacks on Saudi Arabia:** The coalition intercepted two drones in the Riyadh area on 2 November, a Houthi drone over southern Saudi Arabia on 3 November, and on 5 November destroyed a Houthi missile fired towards Medina and a drone over the Eastern Region; warnings sounded in Yanbu and Sharurah. Kuwait condemned the targeting of Medina. No casualties were reported in these interceptions.
- **Houthi claims, unconfirmed:** The Houthis claim drone strikes on Dammam's King Fahd airport (2 and 5 November), a radar in Jizan, Abha airport and Khamis Mushait air base. Saudi Arabia has not confirmed any of them.
- **Yemen:** Critical Threats reports that a Houthi ballistic missile struck a government camp in Dhalea on 4 November, killing at least 11 soldiers, and that government forces with Saudi air support advanced in al-Jawf. Houthi-affiliated media report coalition air strikes on Hodeidah. The Saudi-Houthi truce has not been agreed.
- **Wider region:** Turkey says a soldier was killed on 31 October by fire its military assessed came from the Iranian side (announced 5 November). Iraq's foreign minister said on 5 November: "The war has not stopped. It has not ended." India reports that the Al Jusufi sailor is the 15th Indian seafarer killed in attacks around the Strait.

WS Assessment: The Saudi front continues at a steady tempo, now reaching the Medina region, and Turkey has formalised its defence pact with Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. UAE-linked operators should continue to avoid routings through Saudi airports.

6. DUBAI AND THE UAE

Operational Picture

- **A US decision pending; the UAE named; no confirmed strike on UAE territory.** The US has struck Qeshm, the President says a decision is coming soon, and IRGC figures have named the UAE as facing a wider response if attacks are launched from its territory. There is no confirmed damaging strike on UAE territory, ports or infrastructure.
- **COMPLETE ANY REMAINING DEPARTURES NOW.** The 3 November threshold has passed and the decision is pending. DXB, DWC and AUH are operating. Complete any deferred non-essential departure on scheduled commercial flights without delay, avoiding Saudi routings.
- **HOLD READINESS AT A HIGH LEVEL.** Essential personnel should hold shelter-in-place and evacuation readiness at a high level, review shelter locations and NCEMA guidance, keep go-bags and documents current, and be ready to shelter promptly on any alert. The UAE hosts US forces at Al Dhafra.
- **PROTECT ENERGY, WATER AND COMMUNICATIONS RESILIENCE.** Iranian warnings refer to Gulf infrastructure and to a “new doctrine and new technology”. Keep stored drinking water, fuel and generator contingencies ready, and review backup communications for critical operations.
- **Shipping: SUSPEND ALL STRAIT TRANSITS.** Attacks continue off Musandam and in the central Gulf, and a sailor has been killed off Oman. Hold vessels clear of the Strait, the Musandam approaches, the central Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, including the Fujairah and Khor Fakkan approaches, and report any incident to UKMTO.
- **Compliance and travel security.** Avoid non-essential travel through Saudi airports. Screen counterparties against current US designations and consult qualified counsel; this is not legal advice.

Return Guidance: MAXIMUM Held, High Readiness, US Decision Pending

Westminster Security maintains MAXIMUM alert, with both Phase 1 (essential) and Phase 2 (non-essential) returns suspended and readiness at a high level. This week the US struck Qeshm, the President said a decision on further action would come soon, and IRGC figures named the UAE and Bahrain in their warnings, while a Qatari two-day framework is under discussion. Clients should complete any remaining departures now, hold high readiness, suspend all Strait transits, and protect energy, water and communications resilience.

- **All returns, SUSPENDED:** Halt all inbound travel to the UAE until a durable, verified de-escalation and a confirmed reopening are in place.
- **Non-essential personnel, COMPLETE DEPARTURES NOW:** Use the open airports to finish deferred departures without delay, on scheduled commercial flights, avoiding Saudi routings.
- **Essential personnel, high readiness:** Maintain shelter-in-place and evacuation readiness, keep documentation and go-bags current, prepare for communications and utility disruption, and monitor the US decision, the Qatari framework, Iranian warnings to Gulf states and any strike toward UAE territory.
- **Business and compliance clients:** Review continuity plans for loss of power, water or communications, and consult qualified counsel on sanctions exposure. This is not legal advice.
- **De-escalation path (MAXIMUM to HIGH):** An agreed and implemented 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. 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 resumption of major US or US-Israeli combat, Iranian action against Gulf states hosting US forces, attacks on Gulf energy sites, ports, airports or communications, further attacks off the UAE’s coasts, or a strike on UAE territory would deepen the emergency; Westminster Security will issue immediate updates.

7. WESTMINSTER SECURITY'S RECOMMENDATIONS

- **MAXIMUM ALERT HELD, HIGH READINESS.** The US decision is pending and Iranian warnings name the UAE. There is no confirmed strike on UAE territory.
- **ACT ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT A DECISION COULD COME AT SHORT NOTICE.** Complete departures and contingency checks now. Plan on capabilities and verified facts rather than reported dates.
- **WATCH THE QATARI FRAMEWORK, BUT DO NOT PLAN ON IT.** An agreed and implemented two-day sequence would change the picture quickly. Proposals and statements do not.
- **PREPARE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE DISRUPTION.** Keep stored water, fuel and backup communications ready, given warnings that refer to Gulf infrastructure.
- **AVOID SAUDI AIRPORTS AND ALL STRAIT TRANSITS.** Houthi fire at Saudi cities continues, and attacks on shipping continue on both sides of Musandam.
- **Monitor for:** (1) any US order to resume major combat; (2) agreement on, or collapse of, the Qatari framework; (3) Iranian action against Gulf states hosting US forces, including the UAE; (4) further incidents off the UAE's coasts; (5) attacks on Saudi airports and energy sites; (6) the arrival of the third US carrier group; (7) any strike on UAE territory.
- **Emergency updates to follow.** Westminster Security will issue immediate updates on any US decision to resume combat, any agreement or collapse of the talks, any incident off the UAE's coasts, or any threat to or strike on UAE territory, airports or UAE-linked shipping.
- **This is the two hundred and fifteenth edition, a weekly edition.** Day 252 of the war.

8. KEY POINTS

- **STRIKES ON QESHM; A DECISION PENDING.** US officials: limited, defensive strikes on an IRGC missile system on Qeshm (2 to 3 November). Trump (5 November): “You’ll know soon enough.” Axios: CENTCOM finalising preparations, no new directive.
- **THE UAE NAMED IN IRANIAN WARNINGS.** IRGC adviser Moghadamfar (4 November): a wider response if Gulf states host US attacks, naming the UAE and Bahrain. Conditional, but explicit.
- **A TWO-DAY FRAMEWORK.** Qatari draft: blockade lifted and IAEA invited on day one; Strait reopened and nuclear talks on day two. Iran: no opening or talks until its seven conditions are met.
- **ATTACKS AT SEA CONTINUE.** Al Mayeda struck in the Gulf; an Indian sailor killed off Oman; four attacks off Musandam; a tanker hit north of Qatar. None on UAE territory.
- **SAUDI FRONT AND OIL.** Interceptions near Riyadh, Medina and the Eastern Region; unconfirmed Houthi airport claims. Brent near $100 on 6 November, about 12 per cent lower on the week.
- **MAXIMUM HELD, HIGH READINESS. NO CONFIRMED STRIKE ON UAE TERRITORY. TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTEENTH EDITION. DAY 252.** Both phases remain suspended. Complete any remaining departures now, hold high readiness, suspend all Strait transits, and protect energy, water and communications resilience. The alert comes down to HIGH only once a durable de-escalation and a confirmed reopening are in place.

Prepared 6th November 2026. Information current as of 09:00 GMT. Period covered: 09:00 GMT 30 October to 09:00 GMT 6 November 2026.

THE WEEK TO 6 NOVEMBER BROUGHT US STRIKES ON QESHM ISLAND, CONFIRMED BY US OFFICIALS, AND LEFT THE DECISION ON WIDER ACTION PENDING. A QATARI TWO-DAY FRAMEWORK IS UNDER DISCUSSION WITH BOTH SIDES.

IRGC FIGURES HAVE NAMED THE UAE AND BAHRAIN AS FACING A WIDER RESPONSE IF US ATTACKS ARE LAUNCHED FROM THEIR TERRITORY. ATTACKS ON SHIPPING CONTINUE OFF MUSANDAM AND QATAR: AT SEA, NOT STRIKES ON UAE TERRITORY. THERE IS NO CONFIRMED STRIKE ON UAE TERRITORY. MAXIMUM ALERT HELD, HIGH READINESS.

COMPLETE ANY REMAINING DEPARTURES NOW, SUSPEND ALL STRAIT TRANSITS, AND PROTECT ENERGY, WATER AND COMMUNICATIONS RESILIENCE. PROTECT PEOPLE FIRST; EMERGENCY UPDATES TO FOLLOW. TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTEENTH EDITION. DAY 252.