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DAY 185 – THE STRAIT'S HAZARD REASSERTS: A SUPERTANKER STRUCK TWO SEA MINES AND CAUGHT FIRE IN THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ, UNDERSCORING THAT THE WATERWAY REMAINS MINED AND DANGEROUS EVEN AS THE IRAN-OMAN CORRIDOR TALKS (WITH A DEMINING COMPONENT) CONTINUE; OIL REBOUNDS ABOVE $90, AND PEZESHKIAN HEADS TO THE SCO SUMMIT FOR TALKS WITH PUTIN. THE IMPASSE PERSISTS – NO STRIKE ON UAE TERRITORY – MAXIMUM HELD

Prepared for the CEO

Westminster Security Group Ltd

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

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MIXED SIGNALS: THE STRAIT'S HAZARD REASSERTS – A SUPERTANKER STRIKES MINES – AS THE IMPASSE PERSISTS. The Strait's hazard has reasserted itself, even as the diplomatic momentum continues in the background. A supertanker struck two sea mines and caught fire in the Strait of Hormuz – a stark reminder that the waterway remains mined and dangerous, and that the demining component of the Iran-Oman corridor framework is essential before any safe reopening. The incident, and renewed concerns over shipping security, pushed oil back above $90 a barrel, reversing the recent decline. President Pezeshkian is heading to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Bishkek for talks with President Putin, deepening Iran's ties with Russia and China at a moment of pressure. The impasse persists: no ceasefire has been confirmed, the blockade has not been lifted, and direct talks have not resumed, with Iran insisting the Strait stays closed until the US lifts its blockade. The direct US-Iran strike pause holds, and there is NO STRIKE ON UAE TERRITORY. The mine strike underscores that, until the corridor is implemented and safe passage verified, the Strait remains lethal.

⚠ **MAXIMUM ALERT:** THE ALERT REMAINS AT MAXIMUM. A supertanker has struck mines and caught fire in the Strait of Hormuz, underscoring that the waterway remains mined and lethal; the impasse persists, with the US naval blockade still in force, no ceasefire confirmed, and direct talks not resumed. The direct sanctions on Iran stand, the ballistic missile launches toward the UAE have not been repeated but the threat persists, oil has rebounded above $90 a barrel, and the regional fronts remain active. Iran's standing threat to retaliate against Gulf energy infrastructure if attacked continues to apply. There is NO STRIKE ON UAE TERRITORY, PORTS OR INFRASTRUCTURE. Westminster Security MAINTAINS MAXIMUM ALERT, keeps both phases suspended and readiness heightened, and continues to advise clients to complete departures, hold readiness, and suspend all Strait transits – the mine strike is a concrete reminder of why.

⚠ **ASSESSMENT:** THE MINE STRIKE IS A REALITY CHECK – THE STRAIT IS STILL LETHAL. The supertanker mine strike is a sharp reality check on the recent optimism: whatever the diplomatic progress, the Strait remains physically mined and dangerous, and until the demining component of the corridor framework is implemented and safe passage verified, transit is hazardous regardless of

any agreement on paper. It also reversed the oil decline, pushing Brent back above $90 – a reminder that the risk premium persists. The diplomatic trajectory has not reversed – the corridor talks continue, the mediation is active, and Iran is engaging – but the mine strike underlines the gap between an agreed framework and a safe, implemented reopening, and the impasse over the US blockade remains unbroken. Pezeshkian's pivot to the SCO and talks with Putin, meanwhile, is a reminder that Iran is hedging strategically toward Russia and China. For UAE clients, the posture is unchanged, and the mine strike reinforces it: MAXIMUM, heightened readiness, complete departures, and – above all – suspend all Strait transits, because the Strait is demonstrably still mined and lethal. There is no strike on UAE territory.

1. SITUATION SUMMARY: DAY 185 – THE HAZARD REASSERTS, THE IMPASSE HOLDS

The Strait's physical hazard has reasserted itself, even as the diplomatic momentum continues in the background and the impasse over the US blockade holds. A supertanker struck two sea mines and caught fire in the Strait of Hormuz – a stark reminder that the waterway remains mined and dangerous, and that the demining component of the Iran-Oman corridor framework is essential before any safe reopening; the incident may further discourage shipping and raise war-risk premiums. The incident, and renewed concerns over shipping security, pushed oil back above $90 a barrel, reversing the decline of recent days, although Gulf oil exports have reportedly recovered to around 15 to 16 million barrels a day through the various routes, still below pre-war levels. President Pezeshkian is heading to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, where he is expected to hold talks with President Putin on the sidelines, alongside President Xi and Prime Minister Modi – deepening Iran's ties with Russia and China at a moment of military and economic pressure. The impasse persists: Iran maintains the Strait stays closed and that any vessel passing does so in coordination with Iran, the understanding with Oman will not be implemented until the US lifts its blockade, and no ceasefire has been confirmed and no direct talks resumed. There has been no strike on UAE territory, and the direct US-Iran strike pause holds. Westminster Security holds the alert at MAXIMUM with readiness heightened, while standing ready to lower it to HIGH promptly once the blockade is lifted, a de-escalation confirmed, and safe passage verified.

Where Things Stand

Element	Status (as of 0900 GMT Monday 31 August)
Alert level	**MAXIMUM (held), readiness heightened.** Both phases suspended. The Strait is demonstrably still mined and lethal. Suspend all Strait transits.
Mine strike	**SUPERTANKER STRUCK MINES.** A supertanker hit two sea mines and caught fire in the Strait – the hazard reasserts. On shipping, in the Strait; not UAE territory.
Oil	**REBOUNDS ABOVE $90.** The mine strike and shipping-security concerns reversed the recent decline. Risk premium persists.
The blockade	**NOT LIFTED – THE OBSTACLE.** The US has not lifted its blockade; Iran will not implement the corridor until it does. The impasse persists.
Diplomacy	Corridor talks and mediation continue in the background; the trajectory has not reversed. But nothing is confirmed and the Strait is not reopened.
Iran-Russia	Pezeshkian heads to the SCO summit for talks with Putin (alongside Xi, Modi) – hedging toward Russia and China under pressure.
UAE territory	**NO STRIKE; NO ACTION.** No repeat of the missiles; no strike on UAE soil, ports or infrastructure; no Iranian action against Gulf interests. Airports open.
Direct strikes	**PAUSE HOLDS.** No confirmed resumption of direct US-Iran strikes; the pause holds.

WS Assessment: The supertanker mine strike is the reality check of the day – the Strait remains physically mined and lethal, and oil has rebounded above $90 – even as the diplomatic trajectory

continues in the background and the impasse over the US blockade holds. The alert stays at MAXIMUM with readiness heightened, and the mine strike concretely reinforces the core guidance: suspend all Strait transits until the corridor is implemented, demining completed, and safe passage verified.

2. A SUPERTANKER STRIKES MINES IN THE STRAIT – THE HAZARD REASSERTS

- **The incident:** A supertanker struck two sea mines and caught fire in the Strait of Hormuz, according to reports – a serious maritime incident that underscores the continued physical danger of the waterway, which has been mined during the war and remains hazardous to shipping.
- **On shipping, in the Strait – not UAE territory:** The incident was an attack on, or striking of, a vessel in the Strait, not a strike on UAE territory or on shipping in UAE waters; it is a maritime hazard in the contested waterway, consistent with the pattern of danger to shipping, and distinct from any threat to the UAE's land, ports or infrastructure.
- **The demining component underscored:** The mine strike underscores why the demining component of the Iran-Oman corridor framework is essential: the two sides have agreed to a joint project to clear the Strait of mines, and until that is implemented, the waterway remains dangerous even if a corridor is agreed on paper – a safe reopening requires physical clearance, not just a framework.
- **A deterrent to shipping:** The incident may further discourage shipping companies from using the waterway, particularly if insurers increase war-risk premiums or vessels begin avoiding routes considered unsafe – reinforcing the effective closure of the Strait and the danger of any transit.
- **The competing-claims backdrop:** The incident comes as Iran maintains the Strait remains closed and that any vessel passing does so in coordination with Iran, while the US insists the Strait is an international waterway transited with US assistance; the mine strike is a reminder that, whoever controls the waterway, it remains physically perilous.

WS Assessment: The supertanker mine strike is a sharp, concrete reminder that the Strait remains physically mined and lethal, and that a safe reopening requires the demining component of the corridor framework to be implemented and verified – not merely agreed. For UAE-linked operators, it strongly reinforces the standing advice to suspend all Strait transits until safe passage is verified.

3. OIL REBOUNDS ABOVE $90; THE IMPASSE PERSISTS

- **Oil back above $90:** Oil prices rebounded above $90 a barrel, with Brent crude rising on Monday as the mine strike and renewed concerns over shipping security increased fears over energy supplies – reversing the decline of recent days that had followed the corridor talks, and restoring part of the war-risk premium.
- **Exports partially recovered but below normal:** Gulf oil exports have reportedly recovered to around 15 to 16 million barrels a day through the various routes, but remain below pre-war levels; the partial recovery reflects the contested, escorted flows through the waterway, not a normalised Strait, which remains closed to most tanker traffic.
- **The impasse unbroken:** The impasse over the US blockade remains unbroken: Iran maintains the understanding with Oman will not be implemented until the US lifts its naval blockade and fulfils its other commitments, no ceasefire has been confirmed, and direct US-Iran talks have not resumed, with Iran insisting it is negotiating only with Oman.
- **Reopening not automatic:** Iranian officials have stressed that the understanding with Oman does not, in itself, mean the Strait will reopen, that its implementation would require a separate decision by Iran's senior leadership, and that reopening remains subject to preconditions concerning the US – a reminder that the framework is a step, not a reopening.
- **The trajectory intact but unrealised:** The diplomatic trajectory has not reversed – the corridor talks and the mediation continue – but it remains unrealised: the mine strike, the oil rebound, and the persistence of the impasse underline the gap between an agreed framework and a safe, implemented reopening.

WS Assessment: The oil rebound and the persistence of the impasse confirm that the encouraging trajectory has not yet translated into a reopening or a de-escalation; the decisive step, the US lifting its blockade, remains untaken. Clients should hold their posture and await confirmation, while noting that the mine strike has, if anything, widened the gap between framework and safe reopening.

4. PEZESHKIAN PIVOTS TO RUSSIA – THE SCO SUMMIT; US MILITARY CAUTION

- **Pezeshkian to the SCO:** President Pezeshkian is heading to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, where he is expected to hold bilateral talks with President Putin on the sidelines; the summit brings together major leaders including President Xi and Prime Minister Modi.
- **Deepening Russia and China ties:** The summit comes at an important moment for Tehran as it faces renewed military and economic pressure; Iran, which joined the SCO in 2023, is using the platform to deepen its ties with Russia and China – a strategic hedge that complements its engagement with the Gulf mediators, and that follows the recently reported Iran-Russia nuclear cooperation.
- **A strategic hedge:** Iran's deepening alignment with Russia and China is a reminder that, even as it negotiates over the Strait, Tehran is strengthening its strategic position with major powers opposed to US pressure – a hedge that could harden Iran's bargaining position and complicate the US campaign.
- **US military caution:** On the US side, there are reports of the US military cautioning the Defense Secretary over the Iran war – a sign of internal pressure and hesitation about the war's continuation and its costs, consistent with earlier questions about the toll of the conflict on the US military.
- **Pressure on both sides:** The parallel dynamics – Iran hedging toward Russia and China, and internal US caution about the war – are pressures that could, over time, push both sides toward a settlement, even as the immediate impasse over the blockade holds and the mine strike underlines the continuing danger.

WS Assessment: Pezeshkian's pivot to the SCO and talks with Putin underline Iran's strategic hedging toward Russia and China under pressure, which could stiffen its bargaining position; the reported US military caution reflects the internal pressures on Washington. Both are structural factors shaping the diplomacy, but neither has yet broken the impasse over the blockade.

5. SHIPPING, THE BLOCKADE AND THE REGIONAL PICTURE

- **The Strait mined and lethal:** The supertanker mine strike underscores that the Strait remains physically mined and lethal; the corridor framework includes a demining component, but until it is implemented and verified, transit is hazardous regardless of any agreement, and the incident may further deter shipping.
- **The blockade the decisive obstacle:** The US naval blockade remains in full force and the decisive obstacle to implementing the corridor; its lifting is a core Iranian condition and a necessary element of any durable de-escalation, and it has not been eased.
- **Oil rebounds:** Oil has rebounded above $90 on the mine strike and shipping-security concerns, reversing the recent decline; Gulf exports have partially recovered to around 15 to 16 million barrels a day but remain below pre-war levels, reflecting the contested, escorted flows rather than a normalised Strait.
- **Regional fronts active:** The Houthi campaign against Saudi shipping in the Red Sea continues, and the Lebanon front remains active; Israel remains active in Lebanon and Syria – the fronts Iran now insists must all be resolved for a settlement, a reminder the war continues.
- **UAE approaches:** There is no strike on UAE territory or on shipping in UAE waters; vessels remain anchored off the UAE's east coast at Khor Fakkan, with some 6,000 sailors reported stranded across the Gulf. UAE-linked operators should continue to treat the Strait as closed, mined and hostile until safe passage is verified.

WS Assessment: The maritime picture remains one of a closed, mined and lethal Strait under a blockade in force, with the mine strike a fresh reminder of the danger and oil rebounding. For UAE-linked operators, all Strait transits should remain suspended until the corridor is implemented, demining completed, and safe passage verified.

6. DUBAI AND THE UAE

Operational Picture

- **The Strait's hazard reasserts – but no strike on UAE territory.** The supertanker mine strike underscores that the Strait remains mined and lethal, and oil has rebounded above $90; the impasse persists. But the diplomatic trajectory has not reversed, and the pressure on the UAE remains eased with the US holding back on secondary sanctions. There has been no repeat of the missiles, no Iranian action against Gulf interests, and no strike on UAE territory, ports or infrastructure.
- **USE THE PAUSE – COMPLETE OUTSTANDING DEPARTURES.** With the direct US-Iran strike pause holding and airports open, complete any deferred non-essential departure on scheduled commercial flights. The trajectory has improved but nothing is confirmed and the Strait remains dangerous; completing departures while the pause holds remains prudent.
- **HOLD READINESS AT A HEIGHTENED LEVEL – AWAIT CONFIRMATION, NOT REPORTS.** Essential personnel should maintain shelter-in-place and evacuation readiness at a heightened level; no de-escalation is yet confirmed, and clients should await verified confirmation rather than acting on unverified reports. Review shelter locations and NCEMA guidance, and be prepared to shelter promptly on any alert.
- **Review Iran-related sanctions exposure – the third-party risk remains receded.** The US continues to hold back on secondary sanctions, keeping the immediate third-party risk to UAE businesses receded; but the direct sanctions on Iran and the standing threat remain. Review exposure through exchange houses, trade finance, shipping and re-export; consult qualified counsel. This is not legal advice.
- **Shipping: SUSPEND ALL STRAIT TRANSITS – THE STRAIT IS DEMONSTRABLY STILL MINED.** A supertanker has struck mines and caught fire in the Strait; the waterway is demonstrably still mined and lethal, the blockade is in force, and the corridor is not implemented. Suspend all transits, hold vessels clear of the Strait and the Bab al-Mandeb, and treat the Strait as hostile until the corridor is implemented, demining completed, and safe passage verified.
- **Utility and shelter measures should remain in place, with attention to water and energy.** Keep water, fuel and generator contingencies ready; UAE strategic water reserves are reported at roughly two days at current consumption, and Iran's standing threats make resilience a priority until de-escalation is confirmed. Follow official UAE and NCEMA guidance.

Return Guidance: MAXIMUM Held – Heightened Readiness, the Hazard Reasserting, Nothing Confirmed

Westminster Security maintains MAXIMUM alert, with both Phase 1 (essential) and Phase 2 (non-essential) returns suspended and readiness heightened. The Strait's hazard has reasserted itself with the mine strike, oil has rebounded, and the impasse persists; the diplomatic trajectory continues but nothing is confirmed, the blockade stands, and direct talks have not resumed. Clients should complete departures, hold readiness, suspend all Strait transits, and await a verified de-escalation rather than acting on reports.

- **All returns – SUSPENDED:** Halt all inbound travel to the UAE until a durable, verified de-escalation is confirmed; a mined Strait and an unbroken impasse are not a settlement.
- **Non-essential personnel – COMPLETE DEPARTURES:** Use the pause and open airports to finish any deferred departures now, on scheduled commercial flights.
- **Essential personnel – heightened readiness:** Maintain shelter-in-place and evacuation readiness at a heightened level, review shelter locations, keep documentation and go-bags current, and monitor whether the blockade is lifted, direct talks resume, a ceasefire is confirmed, and any strike on UAE territory.
- **Business/compliance clients:** The immediate third-party sanctions risk remains receded with the US holding back on secondary sanctions, but review exposure given the direct sanctions and the standing threat; consult qualified counsel. This is not legal advice.

- **Maritime/energy clients – SUSPEND ALL STRAIT TRANSITS:** The Strait is demonstrably still mined – a supertanker has struck mines – the blockade is in force, and the corridor is not implemented. Suspend all transits across the Strait and the Red Sea, and review protective measures for energy, power and desalination assets. Do not transit until demining is completed and safe passage verified.
- **De-escalation path (MAXIMUM → HIGH):** The lifting of the US blockade, a confirmed de-escalation or ceasefire, the implementation of the corridor with demining completed, a genuine reopening of the Strait with verified safe passage, and a de-escalation of the missile and economic threats would allow the alert to come down. The trajectory is positive and there is a June precedent for the blockade being lifted within minutes of a completed deal; Westminster Security is ready to lower the alert to HIGH promptly once these conditions are confirmed.
- **Further escalation – still possible:** The momentum could still reverse: a collapse of the mediation, an escalation from the mine strike, an Iranian action against Gulf interests, a strike on UAE territory, or a resumption of direct US strikes would deepen the emergency; Westminster Security will issue immediate updates.
- **Standing posture:** MAXIMUM, heightened readiness – the Strait's hazard reasserting, the impasse unbroken, nothing confirmed; protect people first, complete departures, hold readiness, suspend all Strait transits, and await a verified de-escalation.

7. WESTMINSTER SECURITY'S RECOMMENDATIONS

- **MAXIMUM ALERT HELD – the Strait's hazard reasserts, the impasse persists.** A supertanker struck two sea mines and caught fire in the Strait of Hormuz, underscoring that the waterway remains mined and lethal; oil has rebounded above $90. The impasse persists – the US has not lifted its blockade, no ceasefire is confirmed, and direct talks have not resumed. Pezeshkian heads to the SCO for talks with Putin. There is no strike on UAE territory.
- **SUSPEND ALL STRAIT TRANSITS – THE STRAIT IS DEMONSTRABLY STILL MINED.** The mine strike is a concrete reminder that the Strait is mined and lethal. Suspend all transits until the corridor is implemented, demining completed, and safe passage verified – do not rely on the framework alone.
- **THE DECISIVE STEP REMAINS THE US LIFTING THE BLOCKADE – WATCH FOR IT.** The corridor cannot be implemented until the US lifts its blockade, and direct talks have not resumed. Watch for whether Washington moves; there is a June precedent for the blockade being lifted fast once a deal is struck.
- **AWAIT A VERIFIED DE-ESCALATION, NOT REPORTS.** The diplomatic trajectory continues but nothing is confirmed, and the mine strike underlines the gap between framework and safe reopening. Watch for confirmation from credible, primary sources, and note this war's pattern of collapsed breakthroughs.
- **HOLD READINESS; COMPLETE DEPARTURES.** No de-escalation is yet confirmed. Complete deferred non-essential departures on scheduled flights, and keep shelter and evacuation readiness current.
- **Monitor for:** (1) any escalation from the mine strike; (2) whether the US lifts the blockade and direct talks resume; (3) whether a ceasefire is confirmed; (4) any strike on UAE territory or Iranian action against Gulf interests; (5) the outcome of the Pezeshkian-Putin talks and whether the direct pause holds.
- **The hazard reasserts, the impasse persists – updates to follow.** Westminster Security will issue immediate updates on any escalation, lifting of the blockade, confirmed ceasefire, strike on UAE territory, or major development, and will lower the alert to HIGH promptly once a de-escalation is confirmed and safe passage verified.
- **This is the one hundred and seventy-second edition.** Day 185 of the war.

8. KEY POINTS

- **A SUPERTANKER STRIKES MINES IN THE STRAIT – THE HAZARD REASSERTS.** A supertanker struck two sea mines and caught fire in the Strait of Hormuz, a stark reminder that the waterway remains mined and lethal, and that the demining component of the Iran-Oman corridor framework is essential before any safe reopening. It was an incident on shipping, in the Strait – not a strike on UAE territory. It may further discourage shipping and raise war-risk premiums.
- **OIL REBOUNDS ABOVE $90; THE IMPASSE PERSISTS.** The mine strike and shipping-security concerns pushed oil back above $90, reversing the recent decline. The impasse over the US blockade remains unbroken: Iran will not implement the corridor until the US lifts its blockade, no ceasefire is confirmed, and direct talks have not resumed. Gulf exports have partially recovered to ~15–16 million barrels a day but remain below pre-war levels.
- **PEZESHKIAN PIVOTS TO RUSSIA – THE SCO SUMMIT.** President Pezeshkian is heading to the SCO summit in Bishkek for talks with President Putin, alongside Xi and Modi, deepening Iran's ties with Russia and China at a moment of pressure – a strategic hedge that complements its engagement with the Gulf mediators. On the US side, the military has reportedly cautioned the Defense Secretary over the war, a sign of internal pressure.
- **THE DIPLOMATIC TRAJECTORY HAS NOT REVERSED – BUT IS UNREALISED.** The corridor talks and the mediation continue, and the trajectory toward an eventual settlement has not reversed; but it remains unrealised, and the mine strike underlines the gap between an agreed framework and a safe, implemented reopening. Iranian officials stress the understanding does not, in itself, mean the Strait will reopen; that requires the blockade lifted and demining completed.
- **THE PRESSURE ON THE UAE REMAINS EASED – NO STRIKE ON UAE TERRITORY.** The US holding back on secondary sanctions keeps the pressure on the UAE eased. There has been no repeat of the missiles, no Iranian action against Gulf interests, and no strike on UAE land, ports or infrastructure. The direct US-Iran strike pause holds. But the Strait is demonstrably still mined and lethal, and nothing is confirmed; suspend all Strait transits.
- **MAXIMUM HELD, HAZARD REASSERTING – NO STRIKE ON UAE TERRITORY. ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SECOND EDITION. DAY 185.** The Strait's hazard has reasserted with the mine strike, oil has rebounded, and the impasse persists – but no UAE territory has been struck. Both phases remain suspended; complete departures, hold readiness, suspend all Strait transits, review sanctions exposure, and await a verified de-escalation rather than acting on reports. Westminster Security stands ready to lower the alert to HIGH promptly once a de-escalation is confirmed, demining completed, and safe passage verified.

Prepared 31st August 2026 – Information current as of 09:00 GMT

THE STRAIT'S HAZARD HAS REASSERTED ITSELF – A SUPERTANKER STRUCK TWO SEA MINES AND CAUGHT FIRE IN THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ, UNDERSCORING THAT THE WATERWAY REMAINS MINED AND LETHAL AND THAT THE DEMINING COMPONENT OF THE IRAN-OMAN CORRIDOR FRAMEWORK IS ESSENTIAL BEFORE ANY SAFE REOPENING. OIL HAS REBOUNDED ABOVE $90, AND THE IMPASSE OVER THE US BLOCKADE REMAINS UNBROKEN.

THE DIPLOMATIC TRAJECTORY HAS NOT REVERSED – THE CORRIDOR TALKS AND MEDIATION CONTINUE, AND PEZESHKIAN HEADS TO THE SCO SUMMIT FOR TALKS WITH PUTIN – BUT NOTHING IS CONFIRMED, THE BLOCKADE STANDS, AND THE STRAIT IS NOT REOPENED. THE KINETIC THREAT TO THE UAE HAS PLATEAUED (NO NEW MISSILES, NO STRIKE ON UAE TERRITORY), AND THE DIRECT US-IRAN STRIKE PAUSE HOLDS. MAXIMUM ALERT HELD, READINESS HEIGHTENED – COMPLETE DEPARTURES, SUSPEND ALL STRAIT TRANSITS, HOLD READINESS.

THE MINE STRIKE IS A REALITY CHECK – THE STRAIT IS DEMONSTRABLY STILL MINED AND LETHAL; SUSPEND ALL STRAIT TRANSITS UNTIL DEMINING IS COMPLETED AND SAFE PASSAGE VERIFIED. AWAIT A VERIFIED DE-ESCALATION, NOT REPORTS; THE DECISIVE STEP REMAINS THE US LIFTING THE BLOCKADE. PROTECT PEOPLE FIRST; UPDATES TO FOLLOW. ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SECOND EDITION. DAY 185.