White House

Classified (Not really)

August 5, 2019

Memo to: Secretary of State

Secretary of Defense

Attorney General

Secretary of Homeland Security

Director of National Intelligence

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

Presidential Decision Directive 74: Regional Threat from Iran

After a full interagency review conducted based on the parameters of PRD 37 and an NSC meeting on July 30, 2019, the president has decided the following:

* The US will call for a Middle Eastern Summit to resolve the Syrian Civil War. The Summit should be sponsored by the United Nations and include all major players in the region, including Iran.
* The US is prepared to accept the continued leadership of Bashar al-Assad in Syria in exchange for Syrian agreement to allow humanitarian groups to operate unhindered within Syria; and for Syrian agreement to refrain from attacks on Kurdish enclaves
* The US will continue to study the potential for Kurdish independence
* The US supports UN monitoring of any negotiated cease fire
* The US will also take the following actions in the region
  + All US naval forces currently in or near the Strait of Hormuz, Persian Gulf, and Indian Ocean will remain on station
  + The US will begin negotiating with countries whose maritime fleets use these waterways to reflag their ships, placing them under American protection
  + If Iran uses military force against reflagged shipping, US commanders in the region have permission to defend that shipping with military force
* The US and Israel will begin discussing actions Israel might take to defend itself from Iran
* The US will begin discussing the tightening of sanctions against Iran with its European Union allies
* If the IRGC attacks US allies in Syria, the US supports diplomatic and military options led by US regional allies, rather than the US
* Russian activities in support of Iran and Syria will be tolerated as long as Russia does not expand its direct military role in Syria.