Tehran 24 July

The intelligence ministry claimed to have rounded up what it described as a “terrorist network… connected to the Zionist regime’s [ie, Israel’s] espionage organisation through terrorist centers located in Denmark and the Netherlands”.

Washington 23 July

Secretary of State Antony Blinken remarked that “we’re not talking about a nuclear agreement [with Iran]. We are very clearly making it known to them that they need to take actions to de-escalate, not escalate, the tensions that exist in our relationship across a whole variety of fronts. We’ll look to see if they do that”. He further asserted: “To the best of our judgment and that of many others, they have not pursued [weaponisation] work in a number of years. If they were to restart that part of the program, too, and these two things came together, then it would become an even more urgent problem. But we are working across a whole series of lines of effort to push back on them, to make sure we have a strong deterrent, to make sure we have the appropriate pressure, and then to see if we get back to an opportunity where we can work on a nuclear deal”.

Washington/Bahrain/Hormuz 21 July

The U.S. and Bahrain concluded a strategic dialogue with a joint statement in which they underscored “their commitment to freedom of navigation in international waters, noting especially the importance of ensuring safe passage for commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz and condemned acts that put free navigation in jeopardy”. They also expressed “their shared commitment to deterring and confronting threats to the Kingdom of Bahrain and enhancing regional peace and security”.