



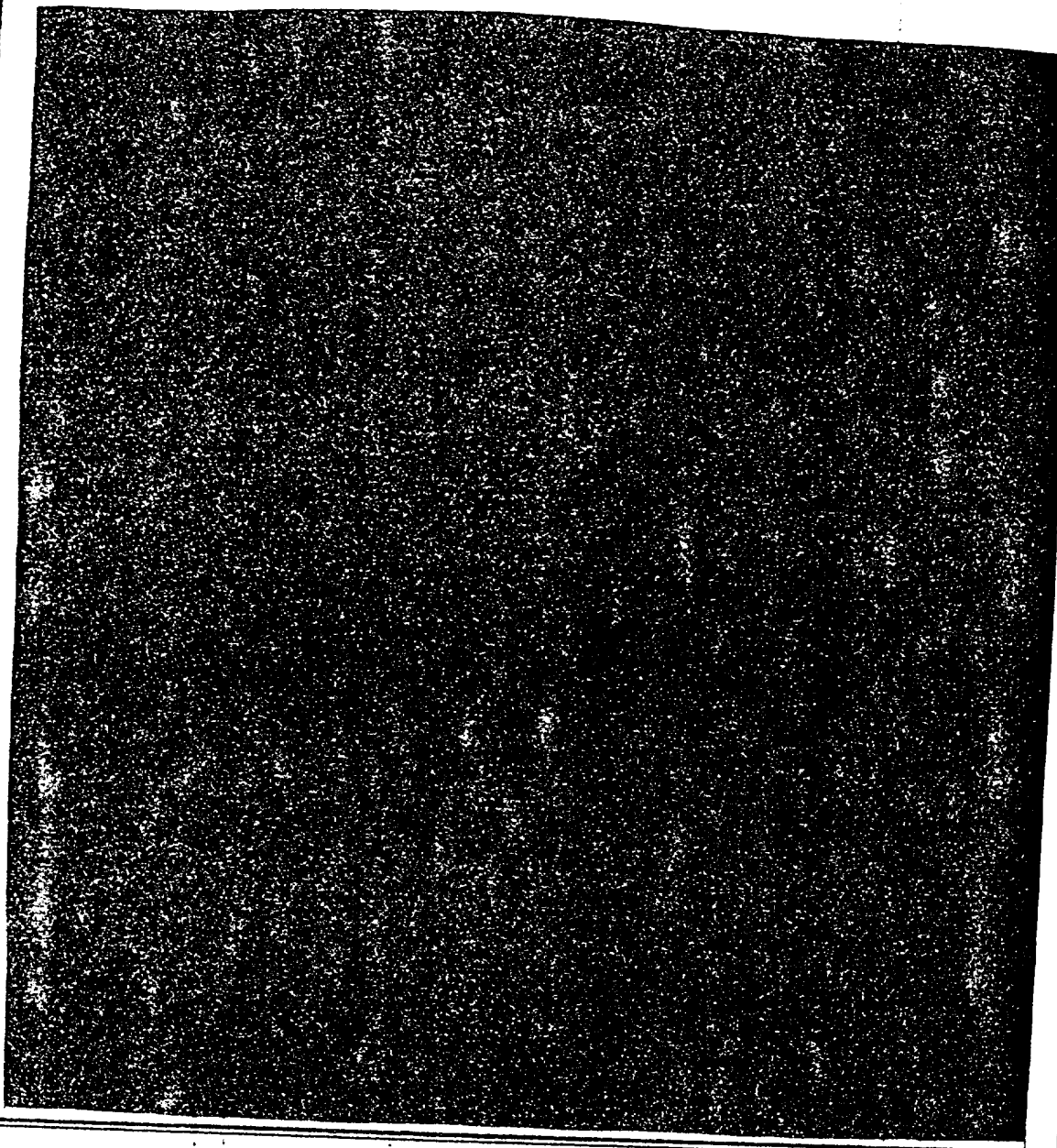
DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

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SPOT COMMENTARY

8 February 1991
1500 EST

IRAQ-KUWAIT: SITUATION REPORT #551



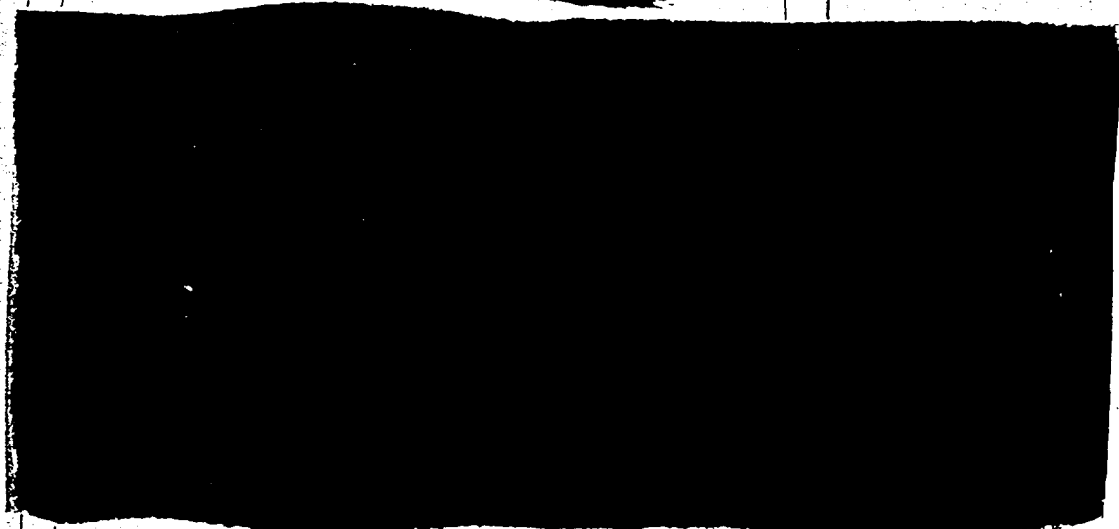
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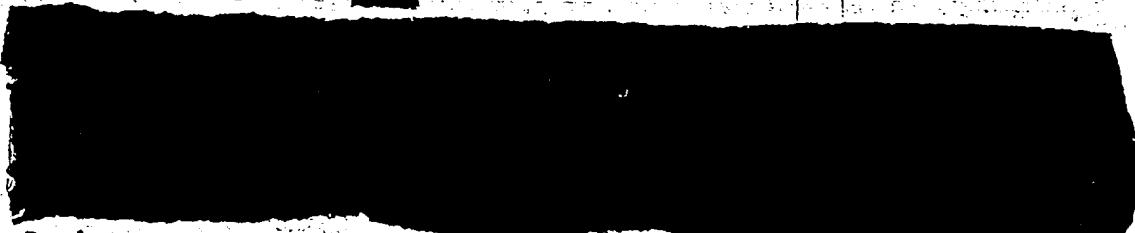
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Netherlands: Patriots to Israel

The Dutch Foreign Ministry announced today that a Patriot missile battery will be sent to Israel. Israeli officials had previously stated they would accept the Patriots if they were put under the operational control of Israeli Defense Forces. The battery's eight launchers and 40 missiles initially will be accompanied by 25 Dutch military personnel to provide logistic support.



Soviet Institute Volunteers Toxicologists for Gulf

The N.V. Slivcovskiy First Aid Institute in Moscow has written to the Red Cross offering a team of physicians-toxicologists for duty in Saudi Arabia, according to the US Defense Attache in Moscow. The letter claims that the institute's toxicology center has twenty years experience treating patients with "massive damage by highly toxic substances."

Comment: Other Soviet organizations also have offered their services to coalition forces, but it remains unclear whether they are acting independently or with government approval.

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Economic Developments

Oil Slick Update

Press reports indicate Saudi Arabia has closed the Saffaniyah desalination plant as a preventive measure although a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) observer who overflew the oil slick today reported that heavy oil had not blocked the plant's intakes. He also reported that the slick has not yet extended beyond Ra's al Ghar and that most of the heavy oil is within 20 km of the shore. Oil up to a foot deep has accumulated at Ra's al Gar, according to Embassy reporting today. Tests indicate that the oil coming ashore is buoyant so even oil on the beaches can refloat at high tide and continue southward. Farther north, a new slick has appeared at Kuwait's Mina' al Ahmadi Sea Island terminal that could represent drainage from its supply line. Oil also continues to seep from Iraq's export terminal at Mina' Al Bakr.

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