



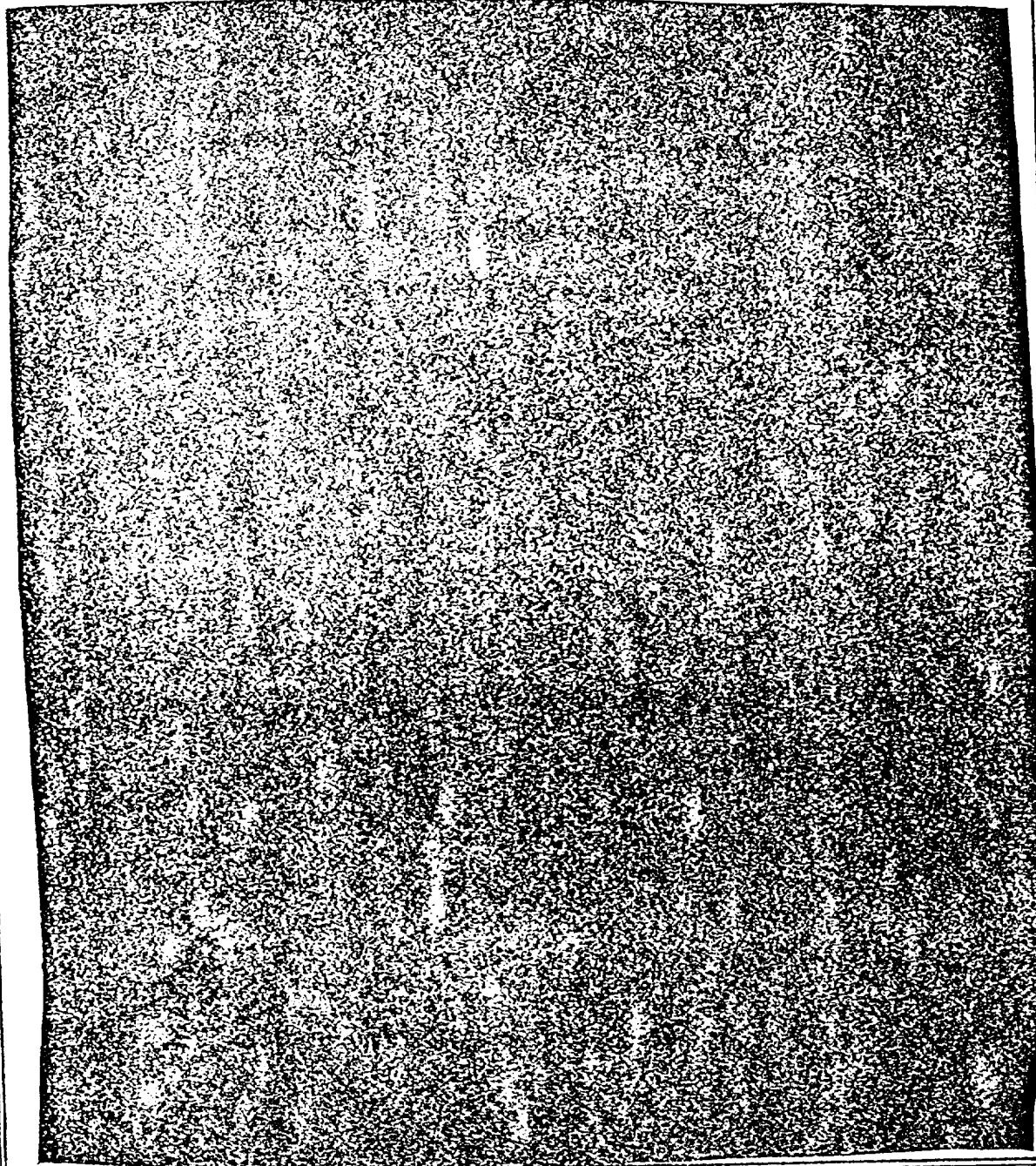
DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

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SPOT COMMENTARY

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Spanish Legislators Reaffirm Support for US Basing

The Spanish Congress yesterday overwhelmingly defeated a motion sponsored by the United Left party calling for an end to the use of Spanish air bases by US B-52s, according to press accounts. The measure was rejected by a vote of 232 to 18.

Comment: The vote suggests that Madrid has been successful in dampening increased opposition to Spanish support for Operation Desert Storm in the wake of the Baghdad bunker bombing. Spanish officials have called for an end to coalition bombing of cities and have given public assurances that B-52s based in Spain are not involved in such missions.

EC Foreign Ministers Discuss Gulf

European Community foreign ministers meeting in Luxembourg yesterday cautiously welcomed the Gorbachev peace proposal and discussed postwar prospects for the Gulf region. Current EC President Jacques Poos said the ministers interpreted the Soviet proposal as an appeal to Iraq to withdraw unconditionally from Kuwait, leaving the key to the solution in Baghdad. In a formal statement, the ministers reaffirmed the EC's commitment to actively pursue security, stability, and development for all countries in the region after the war and renewed calls for an international conference on the Arab/Israeli conflict and the Palestinian question "at an appropriate time."

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