



DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

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SPOT COMMENTARY

[REDACTED]

20 February 1991
1500 EST

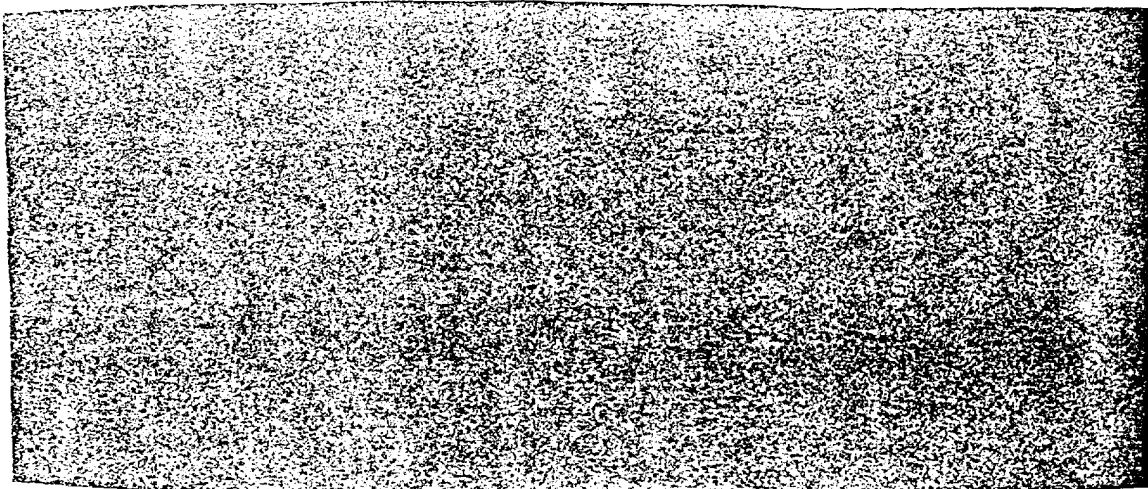
IRAQ-KUWAIT: SITUATION REPORT #588

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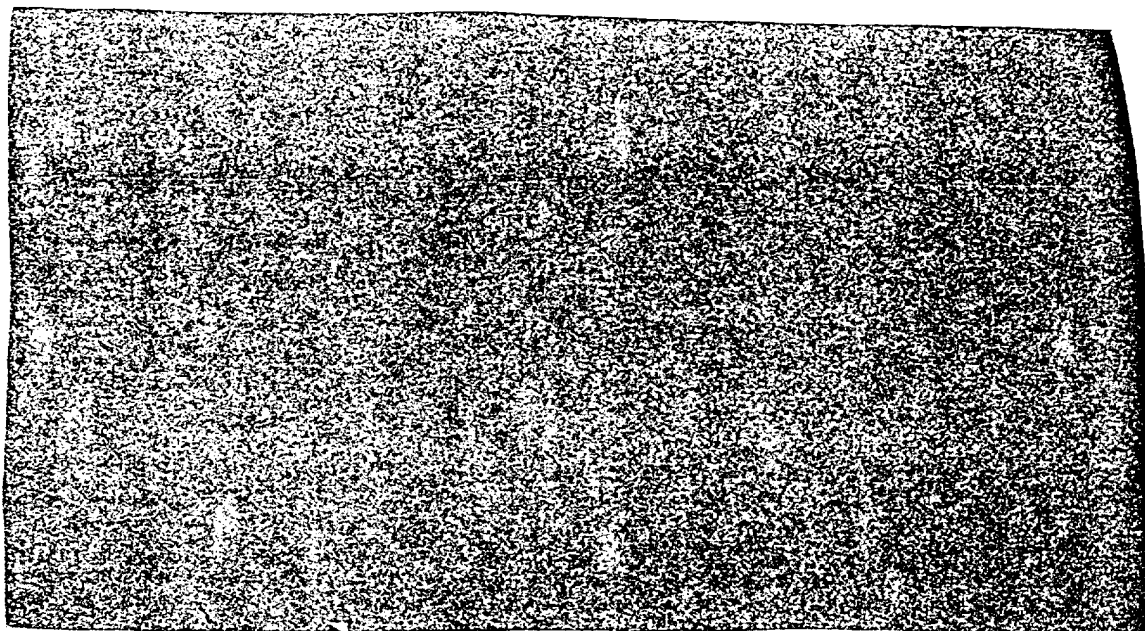
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Iraqis Seek Asylum in Turkey

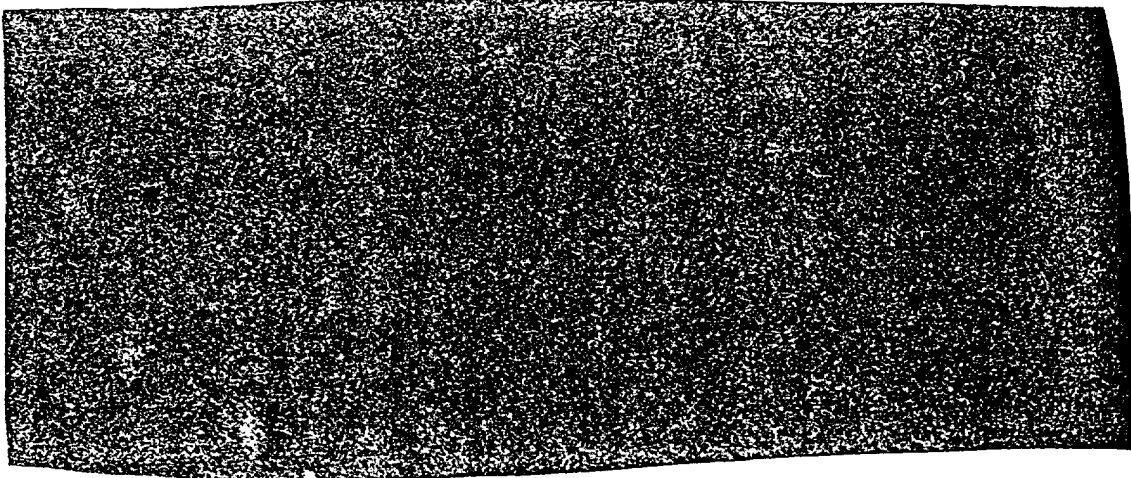
Over 2,000 Iraqis have fled to Turkey since the outbreak of hostilities, according to a Turkish press source. [REDACTED] many of the defectors are Iraqi soldiers. [REDACTED]

Comment: The number of soldiers and their families fleeing to Turkey has increased over the last week primarily from units in Iraq. Some deserters are heading to Turkey to avoid capture and likely execution for going AWOL. [REDACTED]



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Exemptions: (b)(1) (b)(3)



Arab Maghreb Union: Foreign Ministers Meet in Benghazi

Libya has called for an emergency meeting of the five Arab Maghreb Union Foreign Ministers today in Benghazi to discuss the war in the Persian Gulf and other issues, according to press reports. The Union is made up of Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, and Mauritania.

Comment: Tripoli probably will push for a joint statement supporting the Soviet peace plan. Qadhafi almost certainly believes his newly acquired position as chairman of the AMU Presidential Council will give his efforts to resolve the Gulf war increased visibility, credibility, and legitimacy.

China Stands Firm with Iraqi Envoy

China's Premier Li Peng told visiting Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Hammadi today that Beijing opposes Iraq's occupation and annexation of Kuwait and demands its unconditional withdrawal, according to Chinese press reports. The visit was put together on very short notice, according to US diplomats, but Hammadi nonetheless was able to meet for over an hour with Li, Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, and Vice Foreign Minister Qi Haoyuan; he also had a working lunch with Vice Premier Wu Xueqian.

Comment: By accepting the hurried visit and repeating its standard position on Iraqi withdrawal, Beijing is cultivating an international image of peace-oriented goodwill and activism, while apparently resisting Iraqi efforts to elicit Chinese support for its peace plan. Probably to avoid any appearance of tilting toward Baghdad during this high-profile visit, Li's reported remarks avoided China's recent emphasis on the need for

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an Arab solution to the conflict and the withdrawal of foreign
military forces from the region.

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Exemptions: (b)(1) (b)(2)