



DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

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SPOT COMMENTARY

22 February 1991

1500 EST

[REDACTED]

IRAQ-KUWAIT: SITUATION REPORT #596

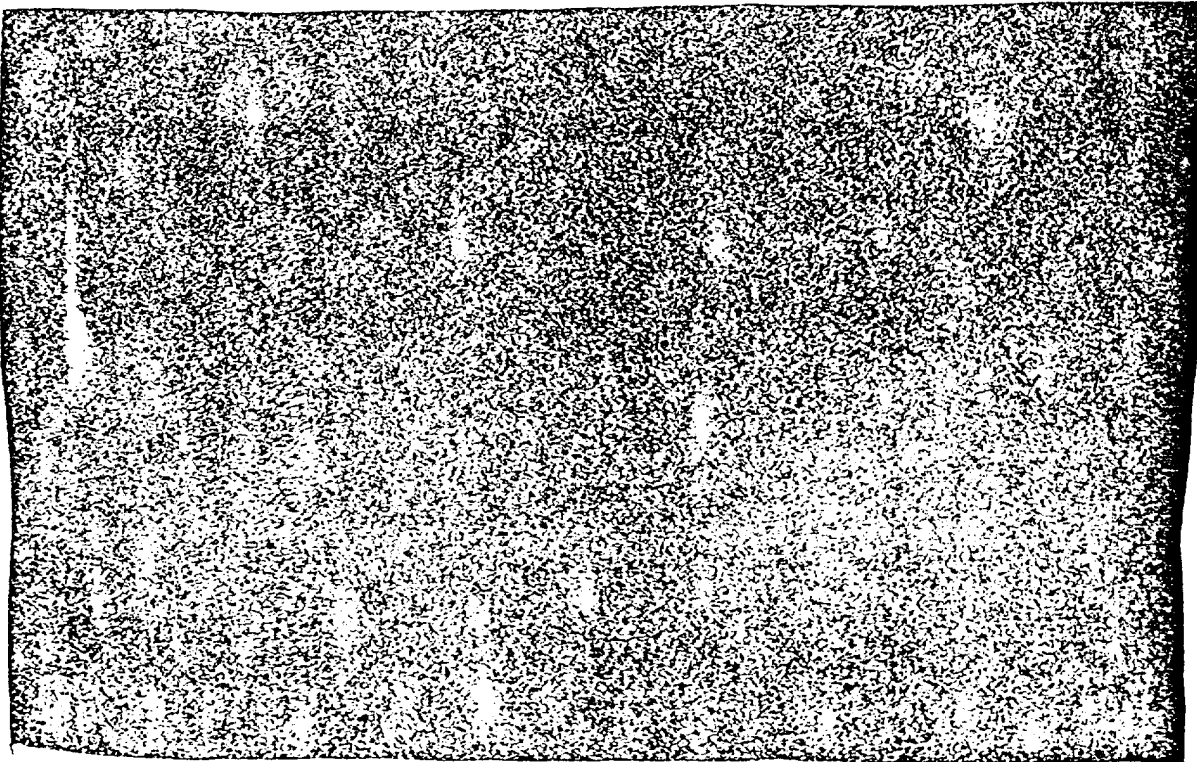
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OCT 1997

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Baghdad Believes Ground War Has Begun

Baghdad radio today carried a statement indicating that the ground battle has begun. Additional statements reported that heavy attacks by coalition forces were underway in southern Kuwait against the 7th and 14th Infantry Divisions--identified by their honorifics as the Al-Mansur and Al-Hamza forces. Baghdad radio admitted that some Iraqi units were compelled to retreat.

Comment: Baghdad probably is responding to probing attacks, intensified artillery raids, and reconnaissance in force operations that coalition forces have undertaken over the past few days.

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

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Political/Economic Developments

Moscow Says Iraq Agrees to "New, Improved" Peace Plan

During a hastily called news conference this afternoon, Gorbachev spokesman Ignatenko said Iraqi Foreign Minister Aziz had agreed to several new provisions of the Soviet peace proposal. Moscow is awaiting approval of the provisions from Baghdad and then will send it to the UN. According to the new, six-point plan:

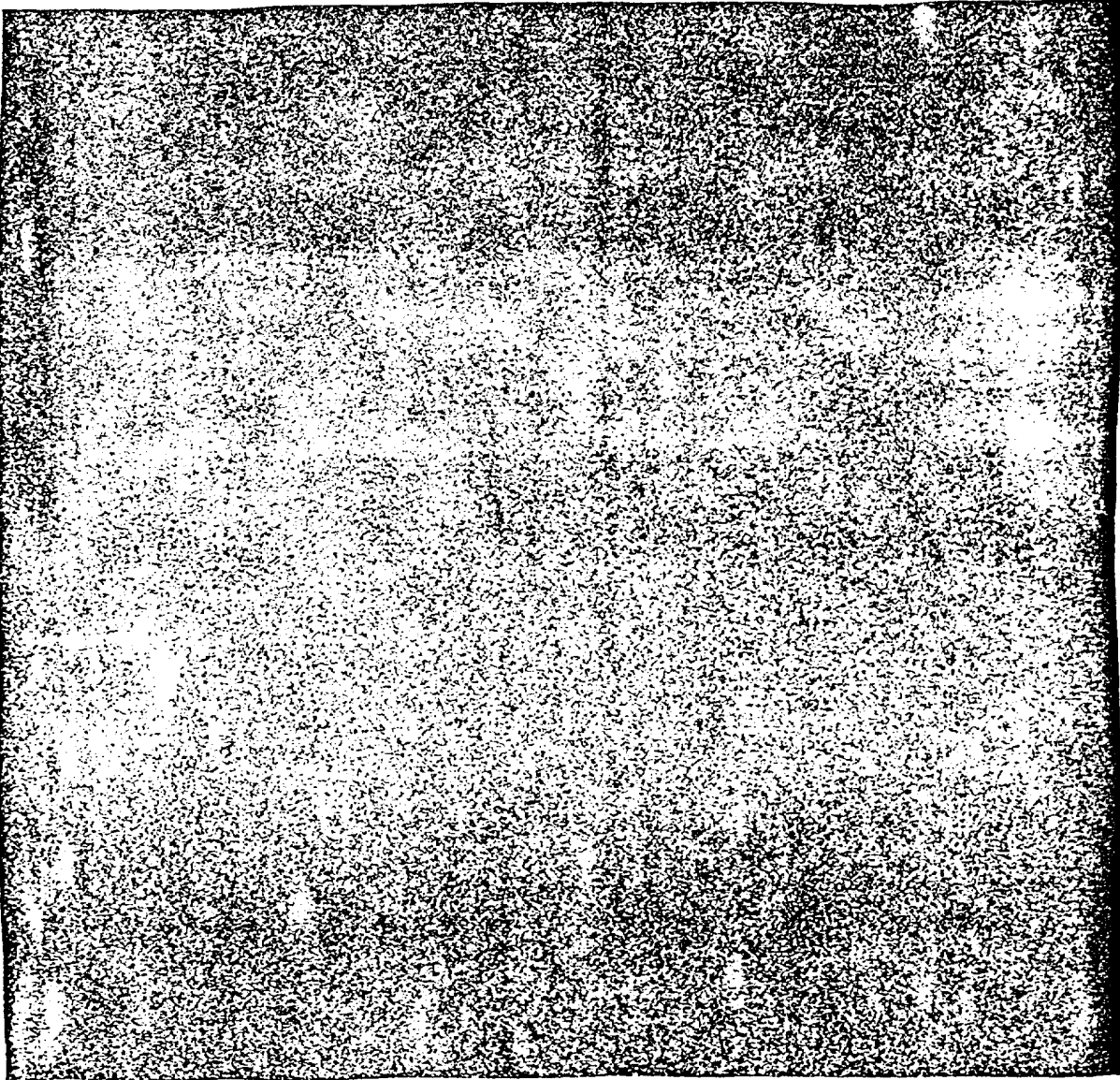
- o Iraq would implement UN Resolution 660, calling for an immediate withdrawal from Kuwait, without delay and without conditions.
- o The withdrawal would begin one day after a ceasefire.
- o The withdrawal would be completed 21 days after the ceasefire.
- o After withdrawal, all other Security Council resolutions referring to the Gulf crisis would "lose their meaning and be rescinded."
- o Prisoners of war would be released within 72 hours after the ceasefire begins.
- o Supervision of the withdrawal would be conducted by a peacekeeping force determined by the UN Security Council.

Comment: Saddam is looking for a way to get negotiations started and to avoid a ground war, but he is not yet prepared to accept US terms. He has made no major concession, and his latest proposal retains his key demands to remove sanctions, the arms

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embargo, and the threat of reparations. He almost certainly is aware that his terms remain unacceptable to Washington. ~~TOP SECRET~~



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