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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

# SPOT COMMENTARY

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

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13 August 1990  
0000 EDT

## Iraq-Kuwait: Situation Report

### Muslim Leaders Speak Out

On Sunday, Lebanon's fundamentalist Hizballah leader Hussein Musawi lashed out at Palestinians protesting in favor of Iraq in southern Lebanon, referring to Saddam Husayn as "a Satan." Musawi reminded listeners in a press statement that the man who waged war on "the Islamic Republic" (Iran) and Syria and unleashed chemical weapons on Kurds "was no hero."

In a separate message, Musawi challenged Iraq to release 15 militant Shia Dawa prisoners--whose fate has been unknown since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait--as proof that Baghdad is really in conflict with the US. Musawi suggested that up until now, all Saddam's acts have served US interests by leading to US intervention in the Gulf. b3

Fundamentalists groups in Syria and Algeria are supporting Saddam Husayn. Despite Prince Bandar's public denunciation of Saddam as an unholy person unqualified to call for a holy war, the Islamic Salvation Front in Algeria is calling the introduction of foreign troops a "provocation and threat for the security of Arab people." The Syrian Muslim Brotherhood also called for Arab solidarity against the US presence in the land of the two holy Mosques. b3

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Prepared by: [REDACTED]

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Approved for Release  
Date JUN 1999

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**Iraq Looking for Food and Medicine**

Iraq has approached Jordan and Tunisia in an attempt to obtain foodstuffs and medicine, both of which appear to be sorely needed in Iraq and Kuwait. Baghdad is proposing that Jordanian merchants import goods that are not usually available in Jordan and send them to Iraq.

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[REDACTED] widespread looting continues in Kuwait, with much of the plunder being sent to Iraq. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] As economic sanctions take hold, the supply of food and medicine in Iraq and Kuwait is getting worse, forcing Baghdad to turn to those nations that have lined up behind up it thus far. The movement of goods from Kuwait to Iraq may indicate that Kuwaitis will suffer the effects of shortages caused by sanctions before Iraqis. [REDACTED]

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