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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

SPOT COMMENTARY

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

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Iraq-Kuwait: Situation Report #234

Political Developments

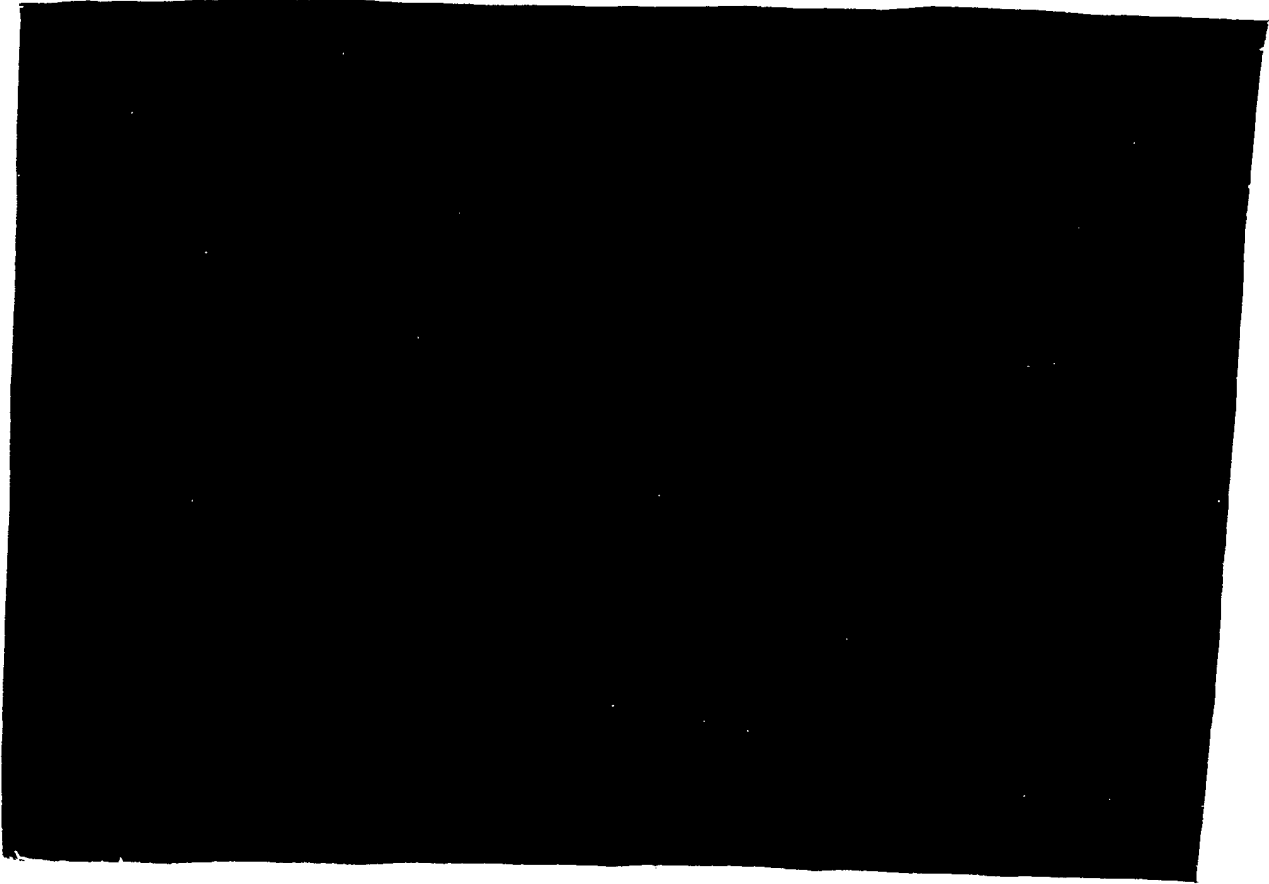
Iraq's Ambassador Reacts to the President's UN Speech

Muhammad Mashat, Iraq's ambassador to the United States, said yesterday that President Bush's UN speech "has subtleties that have to be studied," according to press. The Ambassador told reporters that the speech had "pointed out the need for a political settlement, a peaceful settlement." He added "for us, always we wanted a political settlement, always we wanted a dialogue, always we wanted to resolve the problem through negotiations." Mashat, however, refused to say if Iraq would consider withdrawing from Kuwait. Meanwhile, an Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman announced on Tuesday that "Iraq is ready to destroy [its] weapons of mass destruction provided this measure included all of the states of the region, including Israel."

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