



~~TOP SECRET~~

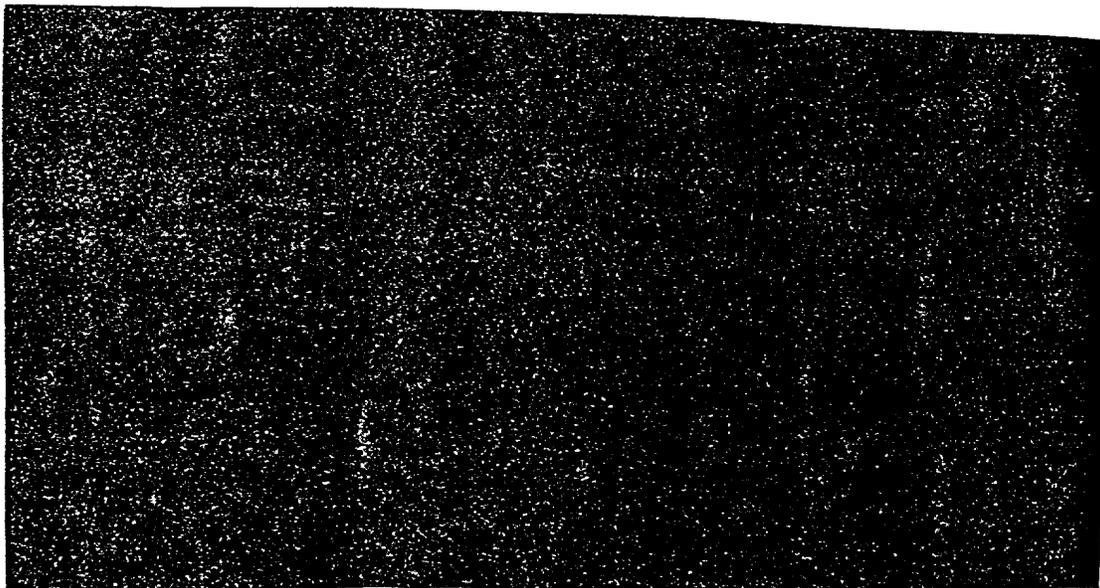
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

SPOT COMMENTARY

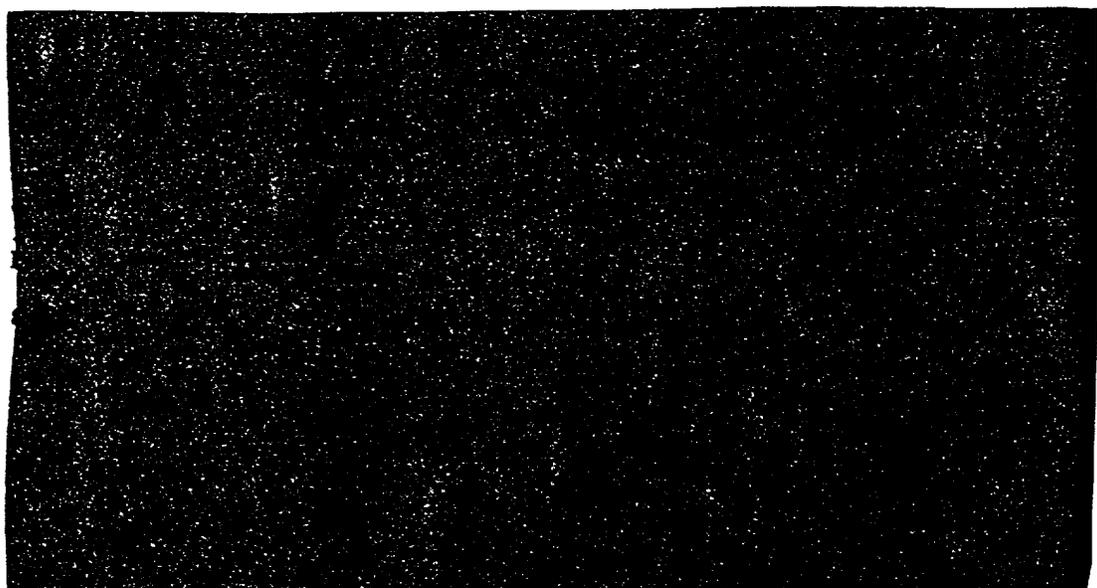
DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

16 January 1991
2300 EST

Iraq-Kuwait: Situation Report #475



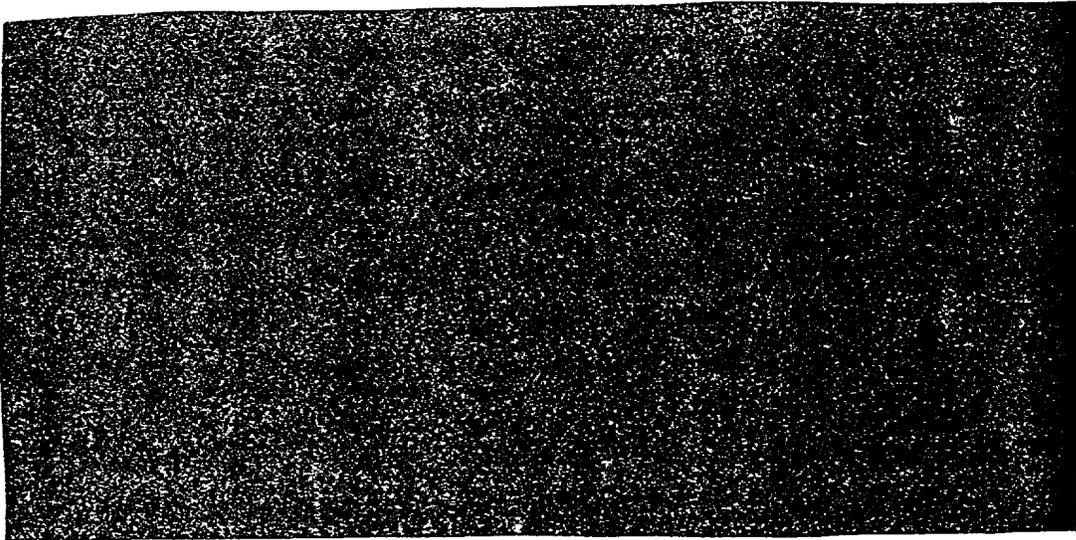
Meanwhile, Western reporters broadcasting from Baghdad submitted live reports of the first air attacks, noting that the city failed to institute an effective blackout until more than half an hour after the initial air strikes. [REDACTED]



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Approved for Release
Date 10/10/91

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Initial Political Reactions to Operation Desert Storm

Iraq: Baghdad's Voice of the Masses radio at approximately 2200 EST was broadcasting patriotic songs. There has been no official Iraqi reaction to the initiation of hostilities yet. [REDACTED]

Israel: At approximately 1940 EST, CNN announced that the Israeli military broadcast a statement advising citizens to stay home and open the kits that had been distributed to them, which contain gas masks. According to press reports, Israeli Defense Forces imposed a curfew on the occupied territories in response to Desert Storm. [REDACTED]

Iran: Iranian radio at 2030 EST and later at 2125 EST broadcast information concerning Operation Desert Storm, quoting US sources and CNN sources in Baghdad. The broadcast contained only factual data and no commentary. [REDACTED]

Japan: Prime Minister Kaifu announced that Japan resolutely supports military action taken by the US based on the UN Security Council resolutions, according to press. The Cabinet endorsed Kaifu's statement. [REDACTED]

USSR: According to Yugoslavian press reporting, Soviet Armed Forces in the southern USSR were put on alert shortly before the start of Desert Storm. The Soviet news agency TASS has reported the onset of hostilities and repeated details from Western reporting, but the Soviet government has not yet issued any formal statements. [REDACTED]