



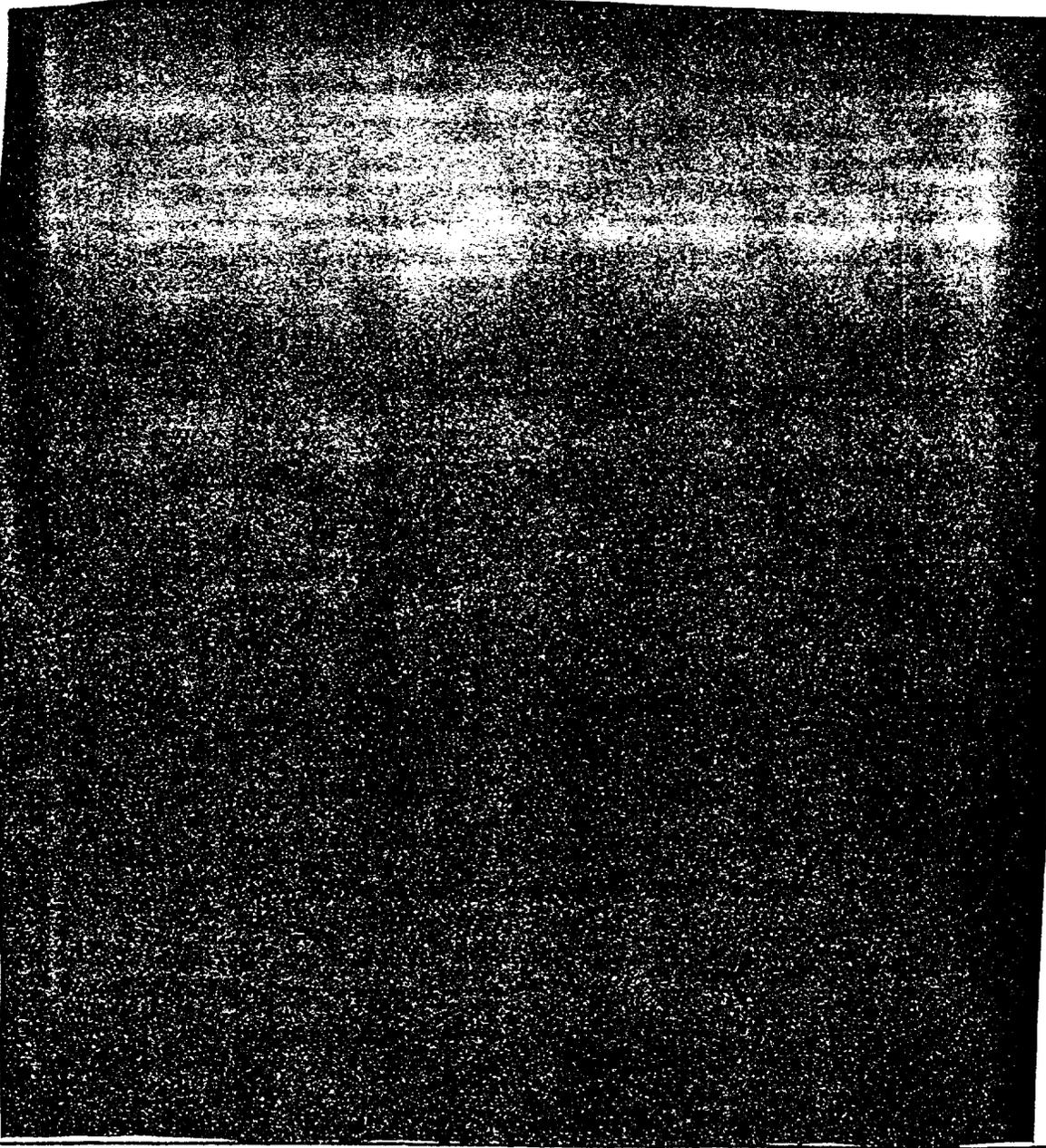
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DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

SPOT COMMENTARY

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3

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Baghdad Torching Kuwaiti Oil Assets?

CNN and other media reports indicate that Iraq has begun carrying out its threat to set "the Gulf ablaze" by setting Kuwaiti oil wells and storage tanks on fire.

Tokyo May Provide More Aid

Press reports indicate Tokyo may provide \$2-3 billion in additional aid to nations suffering economic hardship because of the Gulf crisis. Contributions would raise Japan's total aid pledge to frontline states to \$4-5 billion.

Comment: Japanese officials probably will broaden the scope of their Gulf aid program to include nations outside the Middle East that are suffering from higher oil prices and the loss of remittances.