



DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE



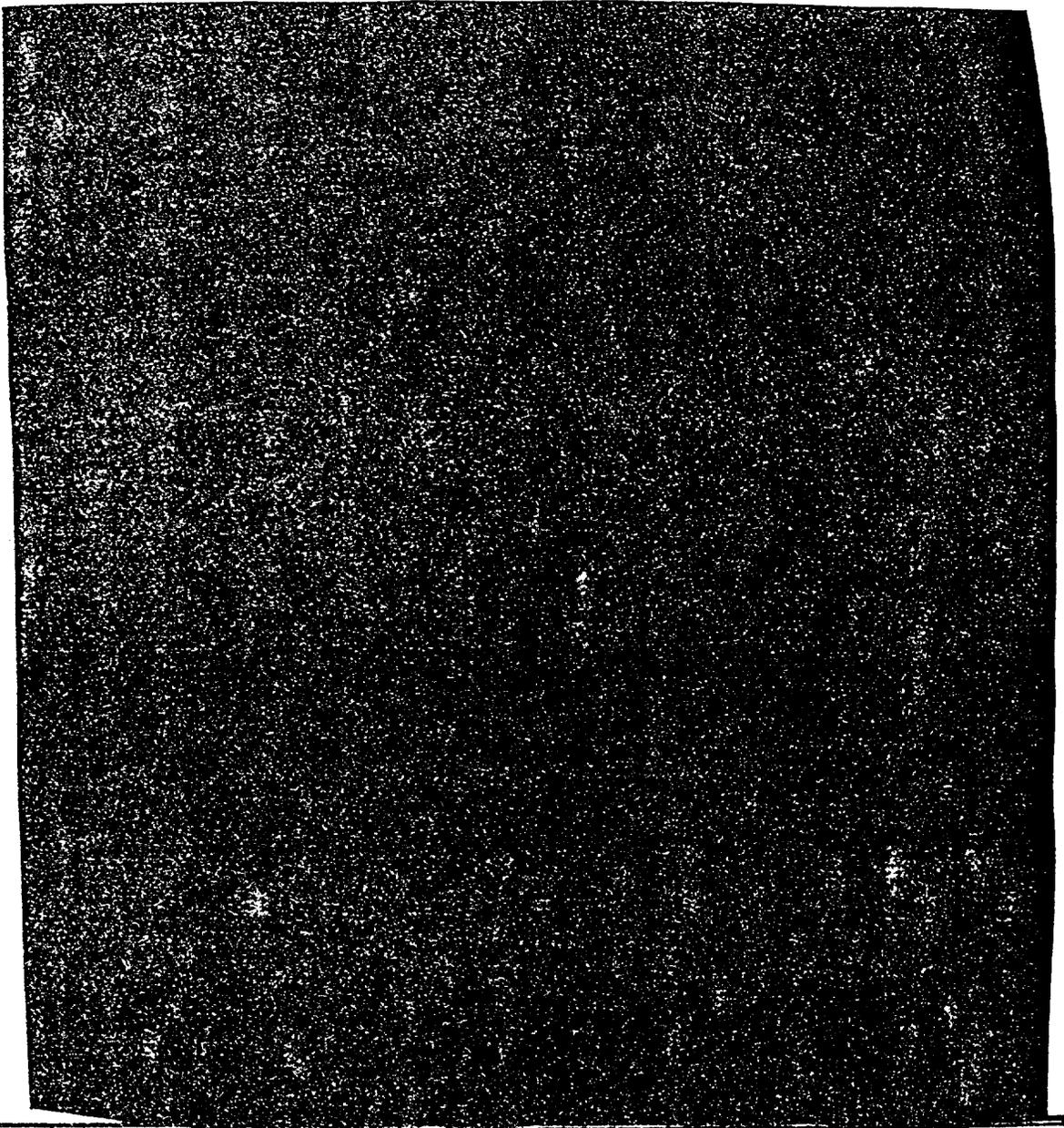
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SPOT COMMENTARY

POOR ORIGINAL

26 January 1991
1500 EST

IRAQ-KUWAIT: SITUATION REPORT #510



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Approved for Release
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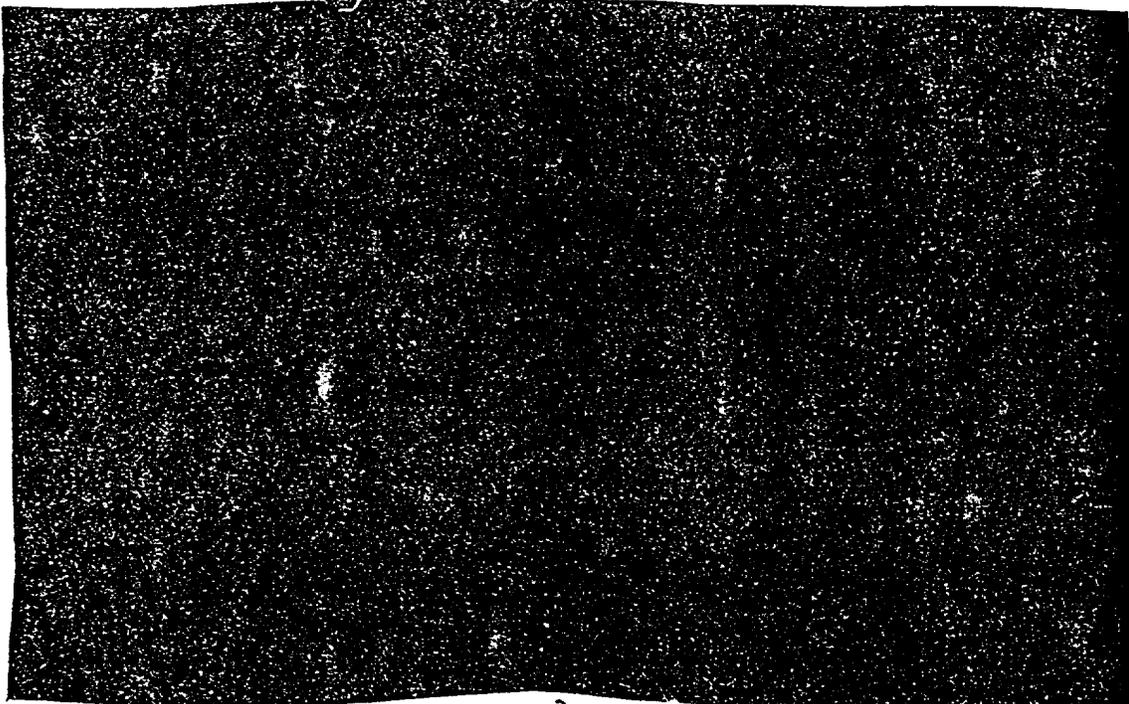
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Both Tehran and Baghdad radio services reported forced landings by Iraqi aircraft in Tehran today:

- Tehran radio reported at 1030Z that Iraqi warplanes had made "emergency landings" at an Iranian airport and that the leadership had stressed its intention to "confront any action that may violate [Iran's] neutral stance."
- Baghdad radio reported at 1420Z that several Iraqi planes had been "forced to land" in Iran and that the return of the planes and pilots was being pursued.

A later broadcast from Tehran reported President Rafsanjani had just chaired a Supreme National Security Council meeting that discussed the emergency landings. The Council reportedly warned combatants--in view of Iran's neutrality--not to use Iranian airspace and declared that any aircraft from either side that made emergency landings in Iran would be "confiscated until the end of the war."

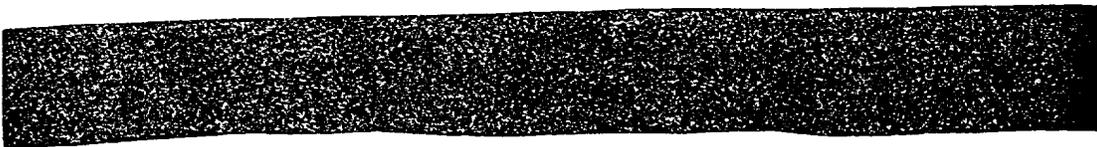


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Australia Expels Iraqi Diplomat

The Iraqi Charge d'Affaires in Australia, Sa'ad Omran, was given 72 hours to leave the country, according to press reports today. Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said the decision to expel the highest ranking Iraqi diplomat remaining in Canberra was based on Australian security concerns, factoring in statements by Omran earlier this week linking Australia's membership in the coalition with the possibility of terrorism. The Iraqi Embassy in Canberra will be staffed by three remaining diplomats and two administrative staff members. ■

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