



DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

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# SPOT COMMENTARY

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7 February 1991  
2300 EST

IRAQ-KUWAIT: SITUATION REPORT #549

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Approved for Release  
Date: 12 OCT 1997

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### Status of the Oil Spill

The southern edge of the Mina' al Ahmadi oil slick is within 50 kilometers of Jubayl and is expected to be south of there by Sunday, according to the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The US Embassy in Riyadh reports that the slick had been slowed earlier this week by winds from the south. There are heavy oil concentrations--with patches measuring a mile or so long and several hundred yards wide--near As Saffaniyah, according to NOAA.

### Political Developments

#### Mitterrand Prepares France for Hard Fighting

In an interview broadcast today, French President Mitterrand said that ground fighting is now inevitable and will be hard, adding that France will neither resort to chemical or nuclear weapons nor advocate an expansion of the war's aims past goals already approved by the UN Security Council. He also opined that the region's oil wealth should be more evenly distributed, perhaps through some type of Middle East development bank.

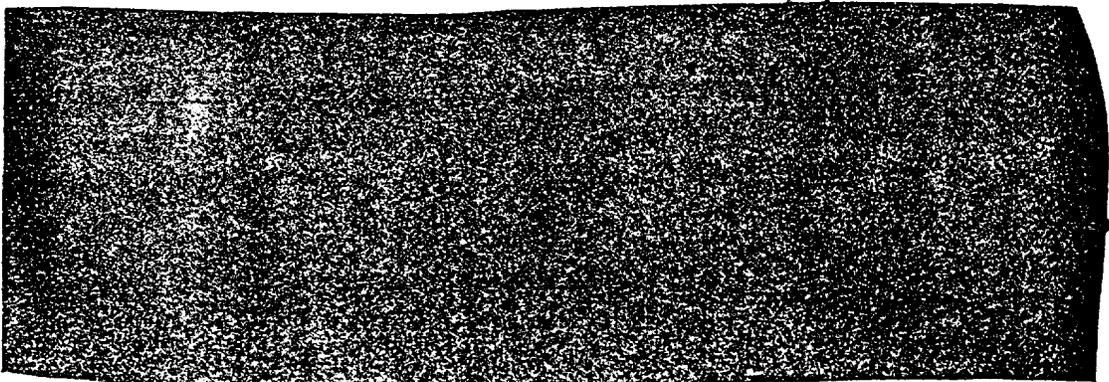
#### Egyptian Paper Blasts King Hussein

An editorial in the State-owned Egyptian newspaper Al-Akhbar condemned Jordan's King Hussein today, saying he and other pro-Iraq leaders share responsibility for the disaster Saddam created.

Comment: There has been no official comment by the Egyptian government on King Hussein's speech yesterday.

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### Hong Kong Considering Aid

A Hong Kong legislator proposed a \$29.5 million contribution to the British Gulf effort, according to the US Consulate in Hong Kong. The aid package is opposed by pro-Beijing legislators and has sparked anti-British sentiments among many others.

**Comment:** The proposal probably will pass, but much of the allotment may be earmarked for humanitarian purposes to appease Beijing.

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Exemptions: (b)(1) (b)(2)