



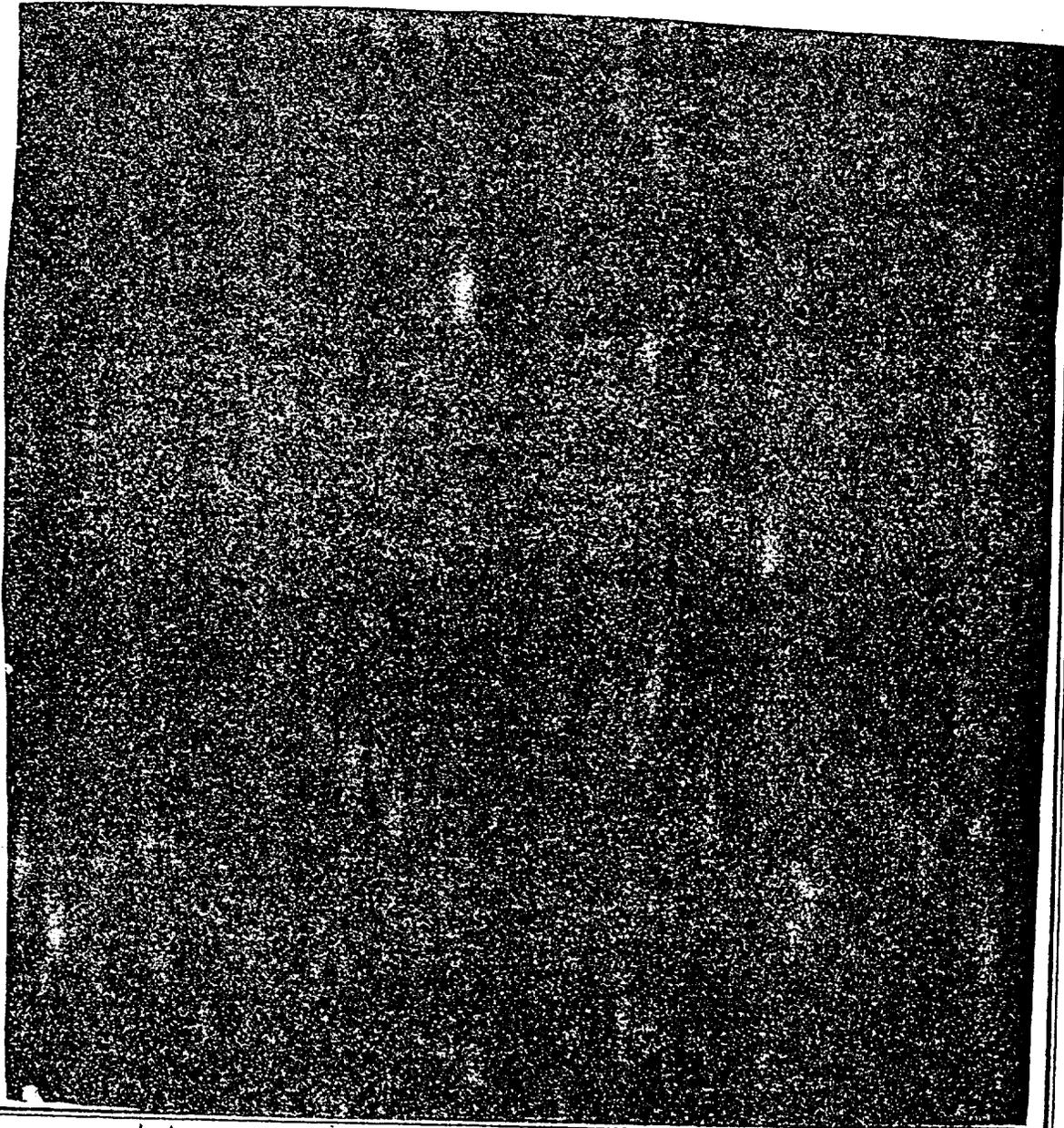
DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

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# SPOT COMMENTARY

8 February 1991  
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IRAQ-KUWAIT: SITUATION REPORT #552



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### Political Developments

#### Velayati to Hold Talks in Italy

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Velayati will hold talks with Italian officials on 14 February, according to press reports. Velayati reportedly will stop first in Belgrade to see Yugoslav officials--Yugoslavia is chairman of the Nonaligned Movement--before proceeding to Rome and other unspecified West European capitals.

**Comment:** Italy will be the first West European country Velayati has visited since the onset of war. He probably hopes to improve ties with Western Europe, promote Iran's efforts to broker a Gulf war settlement, and bolster Iran's image as a major player in Gulf diplomacy. Rome almost certainly does not regard Tehran's current effort as workable but will indulge the Iranians in an effort to keep them from playing a counter-productive role.

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**Iraq Closes Western Embassies**

Iraqi diplomats in London, Paris, and Rome officially informed their host governments today that Baghdad is breaking relations with them. According to press, the Iraqi Ambassador to France and the three remaining staff will be returning to Iraq next week. An Italian foreign ministry official told our Embassy that the Iraqis in Rome probably would be leaving as soon as they could arrange flights out.

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