



DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

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SPOT COMMENTARY

9 February 1991
2300 EST

[REDACTED]

IRAQ-KUWAIT: SITUATION REPORT #555

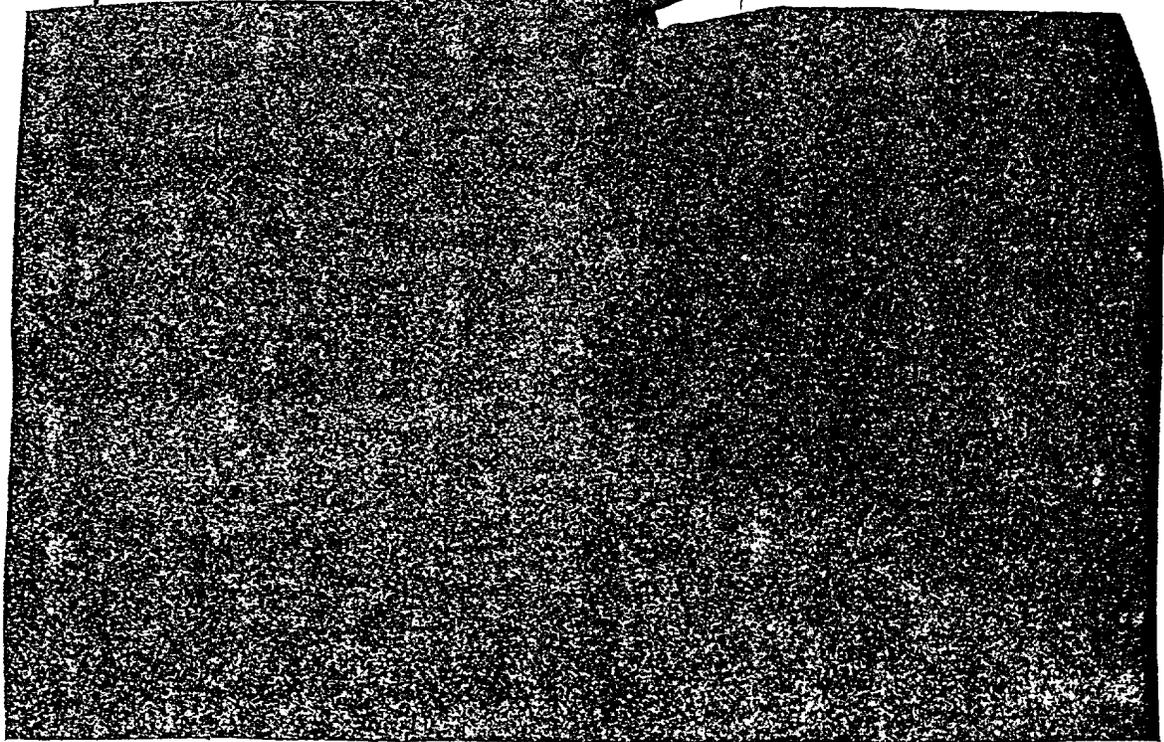
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Date OCT 1997

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Political Developments

Where Is Saddam?

We believe Saddam Husayn remains in control i. Baghdad and probably is keeping a low profile for security reasons. Given the continuing allied airstrikes on Iraqi command and control facilities, Saddam--who is extremely security conscious even under normal circumstances--almost certainly is carefully planning and limiting his movements, frequently shifting his command center between his many hardened bunkers and other secure locations in Baghdad, and using deception tactics to cloak his movements and whereabouts. There is no evidence whatsoever that Saddam is dead, injured, or has fled the country. [REDACTED]

Although Saddam has made few confirmed public appearances since 16 January, he rarely appears in public even during

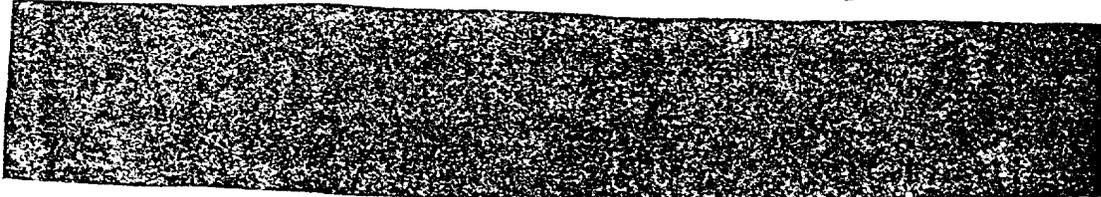
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peacetime and usually gives no advanced notice of his trips outside the capital. He continues to rely on his propaganda machine to keep his image and message before the Iraqi people. Photographs of Saddam--the actual date of which cannot be confirmed--still appear daily in Iraqi press, and Baghdad radio continues its steady stream of propaganda to rally public support and show the regime is firmly in control.

Iraqi Envoy Hammadi Still Traveling

Deputy Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi flew to Jordan this evening instead of returning to Baghdad after a brief visit to Iran, according to press. Hammadi reportedly met with King Hussein to discuss the course of the Gulf war.



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