



DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

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# SPOT COMMENTARY

[REDACTED]

15 February 1991  
2300 EST

IRBQ-KUWAIT: SITUATION REPORT #573 B

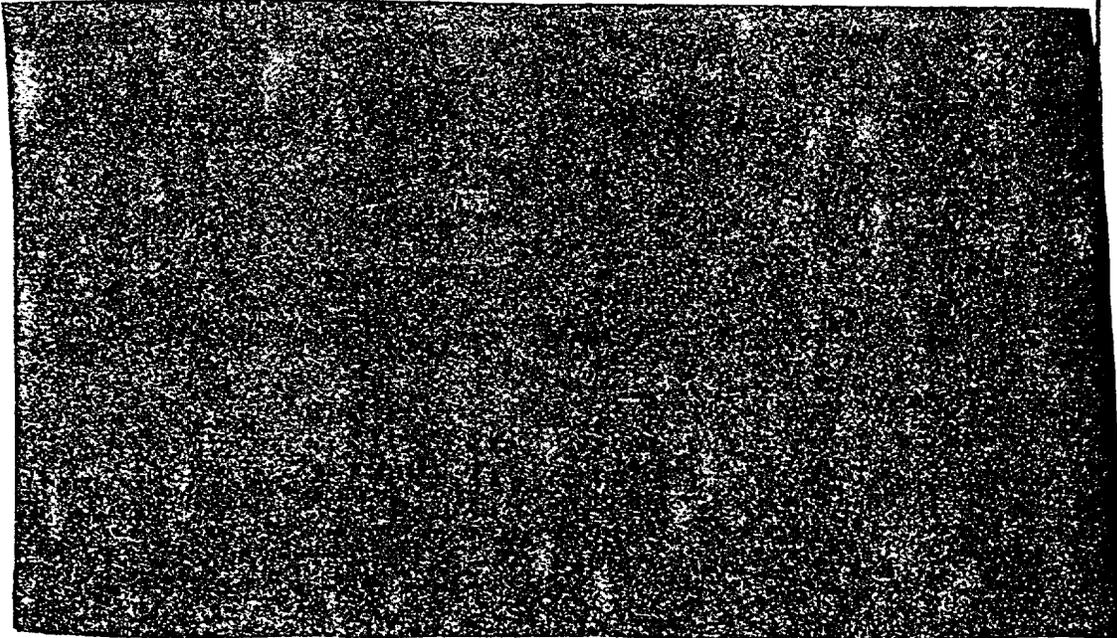
[REDACTED]

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Date

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#### **Iraqi Tanker Possibly Positioned to Block Harbor**

A US military air unit reported on 14 February that the recently reloaded Iraqi oil tanker Al Fao remains moored by the bow at the Ash Shuybah POL terminal, with its stern floating free from the pier. [REDACTED]

Comment: Tug boats have not assisted the Al Fao and it has not moved under its own power, suggesting that the vessel is unmanned and has broken free of its stern mooring; alternatively, the Iraqis may have prepositioned the ship to be able to quickly block the entrance channel to Ash Shuybah's protected inner harbor in the event of a coalition amphibious assault. [REDACTED]

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