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SPOT COMMENTARY

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Political Developments

EC Troika Meet with Gorbachev in Moscow

The EC Troika--composed of representatives of countries holding past, present, and future EC presidencies--met yesterday with Soviet President Gorbachev in Moscow to discuss bilateral ties and Gulf issues, according to press reports. The meeting restated common EC-Soviet views on the war. According to press accounts, the Troika expects "positive results" from Gorbachev's meeting with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, scheduled for later today.

Comment: Some press reports speculate that the Troika may join in the Gorbachev-Aziz meeting in an effort to re-launch a European-Iraqi dialogue. Luxembourg, which currently holds the EC presidency, reportedly urges EC participation, but other Community members may oppose getting involved unless the US is also represented.

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Pages: 3

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