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DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

SPOT COMMENTARY

[REDACTED]

21 ~~January~~ 1991
1245 EST

IRAQ-KUWAIT: SITUATION REPORT #591

SPECIAL SPOTCOM

Saddam Defiant, Determined to Fight

The limited excerpts of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's speech available from FBIS and rough translations from CNN may have missed important points. Nonetheless, the material is sufficient to conclude that his mood remains defiant and uncompromising. [REDACTED]

Saddam placed blame for the continuation of the war on the United States and its allies in the multinational coalition. In a prerecorded speech broadcast at 1010 EST, he accused the White House and Riyadh of failing to reciprocate his 12 August and 15 February proposals for comprehensive peace in the region and of setting new demands instead. He charged the US and its Arab "mercenaries" with using the invasion as a pretext to destroy Iraq, including its military, its religion, and its culture. Saddam said Iraqis were prepared to continue the fight--which he described again as the "mother of all battles"--and said that the "real capability" of the Iraqi military was still unrevealed. The limited excerpts suggest Tariq Aziz may be carrying "directions" to Moscow, a possible reference to further proposals. [REDACTED]

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