



DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

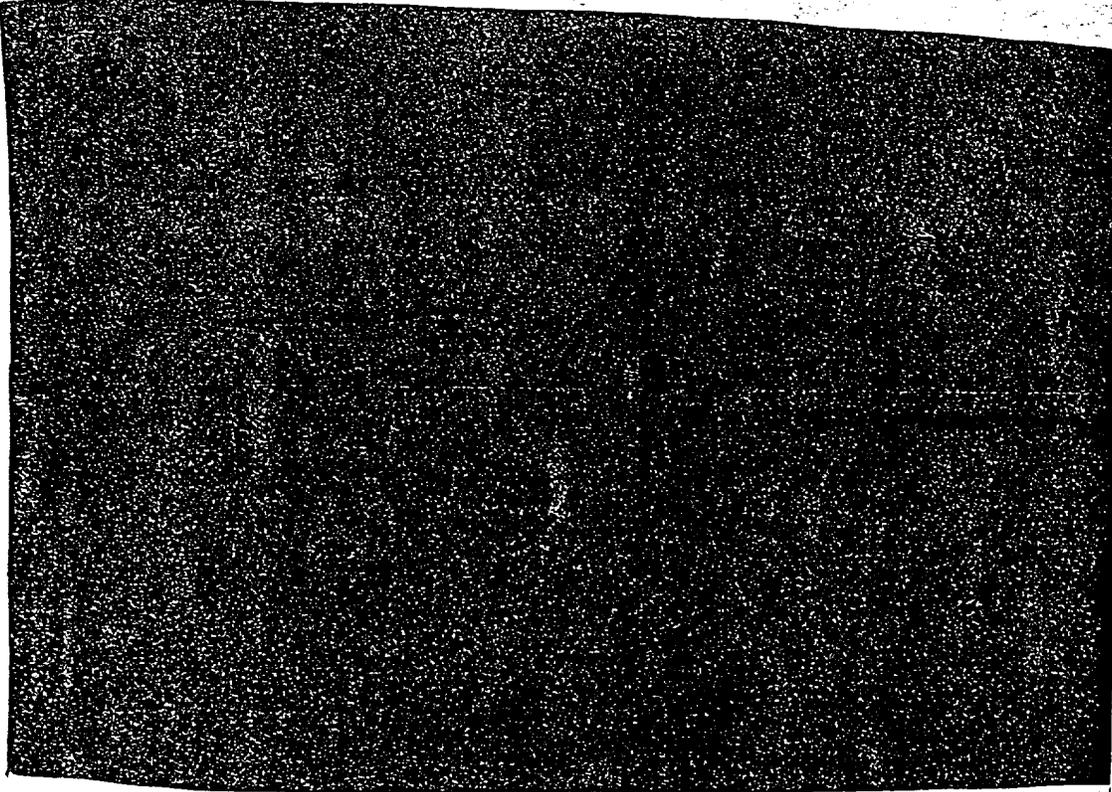
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SPOT COMMENTARY

23 February 1991
2300 EST

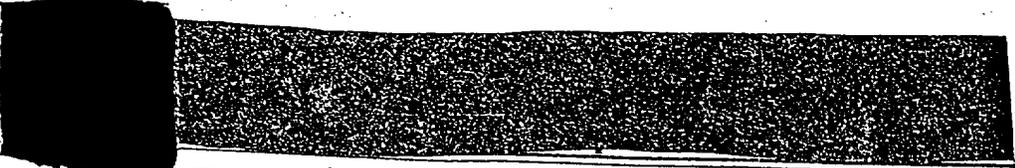
IRAQ-KUWAIT: SITUATION REPORT #600



Political Developments

Iraqis Remain Defiant

In Baghdad's first reaction to the start of a ground war in the Gulf, an Iraqi UN spokesman said his country will never surrender and "a lot of Americans will die also." Earlier today, Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolutionary Command



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Council, dismissed the US ultimatum as "nothing" and derided President Bush as "the enemy of God," according to Iraqi radio. Ibrahim also stressed that Iraq wants peace and supports the Soviet initiative. ■

Soviets Condemn Iraqi Intransigence

The Kremlin today said Baghdad has lost the chance to take advantage of a political initiative and should "have the guts" to withdraw from Kuwait, according to a spokesman for President Gorbachev. The spokesman announced "regret" at the turn of events but said his country would not condemn a ground war. He concluded by responding to questions on US-USSR ties, saying he did not think the recent differences between Washington and Moscow on the Gulf crisis would seriously harm relations. ■

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