



DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

~~TOP SECRET~~

# SPOT COMMENTARY

132

[REDACTED]

26 February 1991  
2300 EST

IRAQ-KUWAIT: SITUATION REPORT #610

## Political Developments

### Iraq and Friends Unprepared For Defeat

Iraq's government-controlled media have not prepared the Iraqi public for military defeat. The media's overall tone continues to be both militant and upbeat about Iraq's performance in the war. The large numbers of Iraqi casualties have not been reported because the media has carried only news favorable to Iraq. Radio reports claim that Iraqi troops are returning to positions of 1 August 1990 because the jihad is "complete." The withdrawal is characterized as a victory for Iraq. [REDACTED]

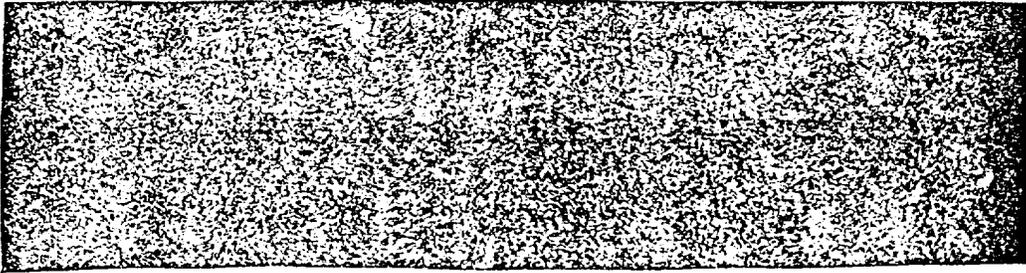
Comment: Baghdad's well-developed propaganda machine probably has caused many Iraqis to believe that the army was repulsing the coalition attack and inflicting heavy casualties on coalition forces. The regime is likely to face a public confused and angry over the suddenness of the Iraqi defeat. [REDACTED]

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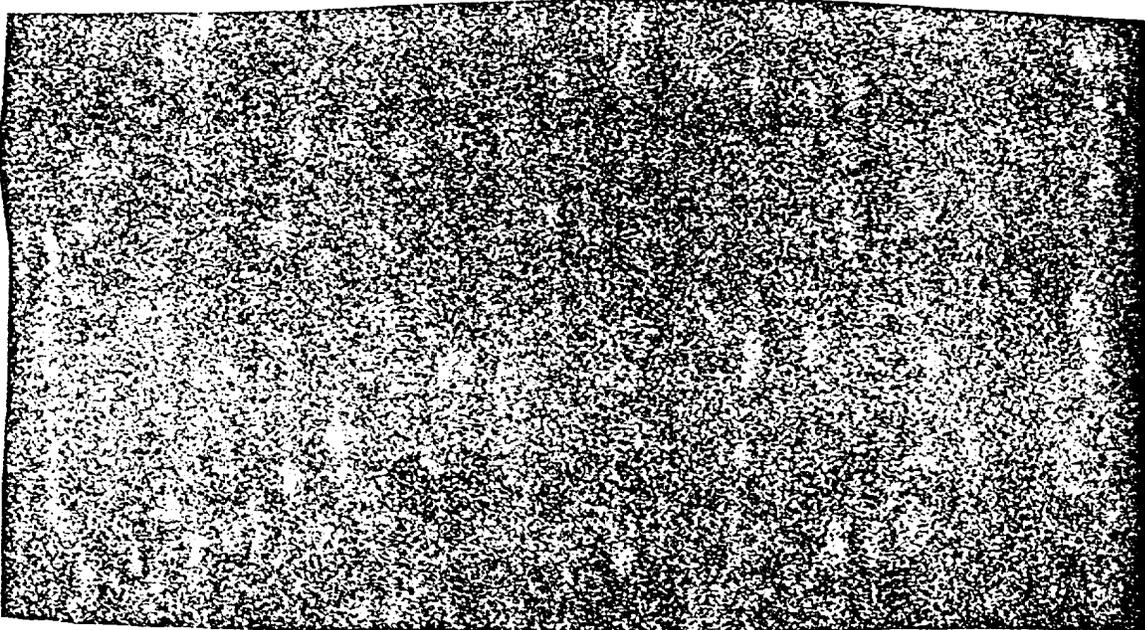
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**Jordan's Stunned Reaction to Saddam's Announcement**

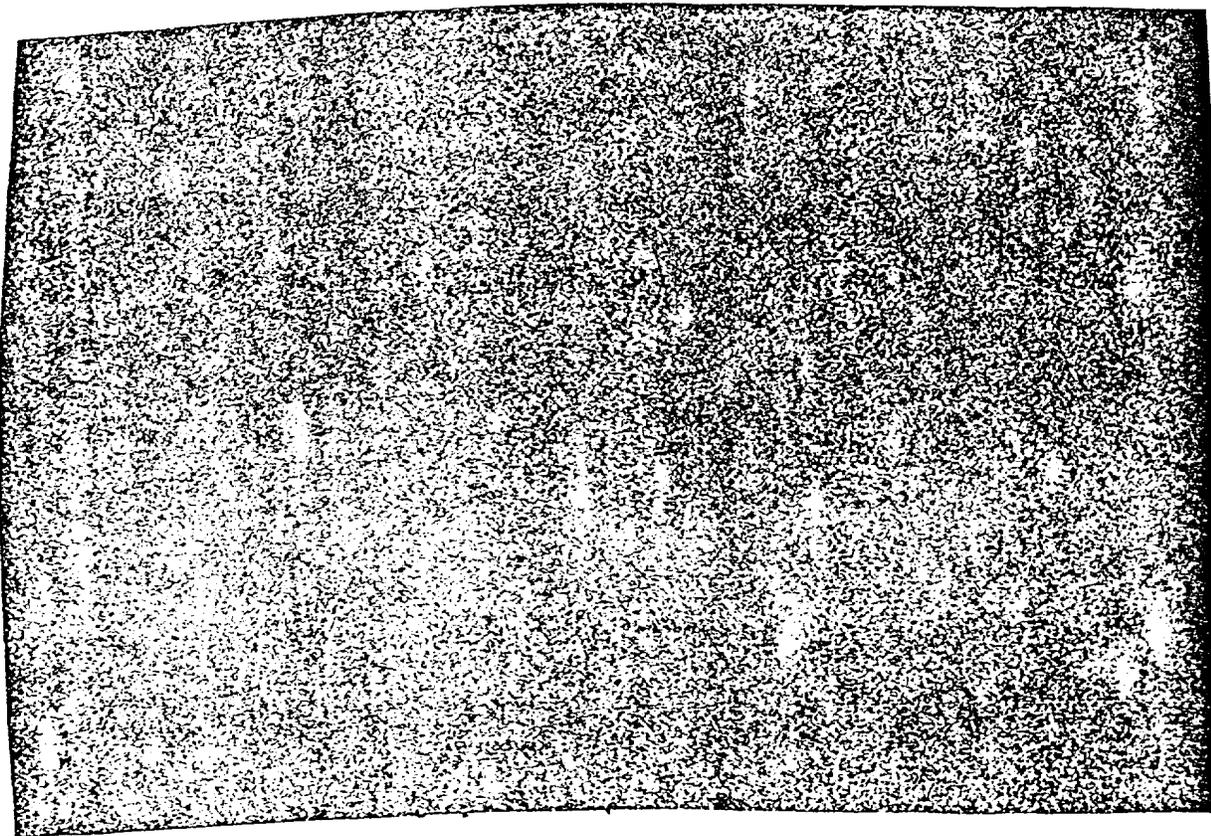
Jordanians are shocked at--and distrustful of--reports that Saddam has decided to withdraw the Iraqi army from Kuwait, according to press reports. One Jordanian told a reporter that the withdrawal announcement was a coalition forces' trick, because he believed Saddam would not retreat in defeat. Many Jordanians are calling international news agency offices in Amman for confirmation of the Iraqi withdrawal, which Jordan's Arabic-language newspapers did not report in their Tuesday editions. Jordanians continue to collect food and medicine to send to Iraq, and "dozens" of Jordanian youths are reportedly volunteering at recently opened Arab-Islamic Corps recruiting offices to fight beside the Iraqi Army. [REDACTED]

**Comment:** The government's censorship of Western war reporting probably caused many Jordanians to believe that Iraq was repulsing the coalition attack and inflicting heavy casualties on coalition forces up until the time of Saddam's announcement. [REDACTED]



Pages: 3

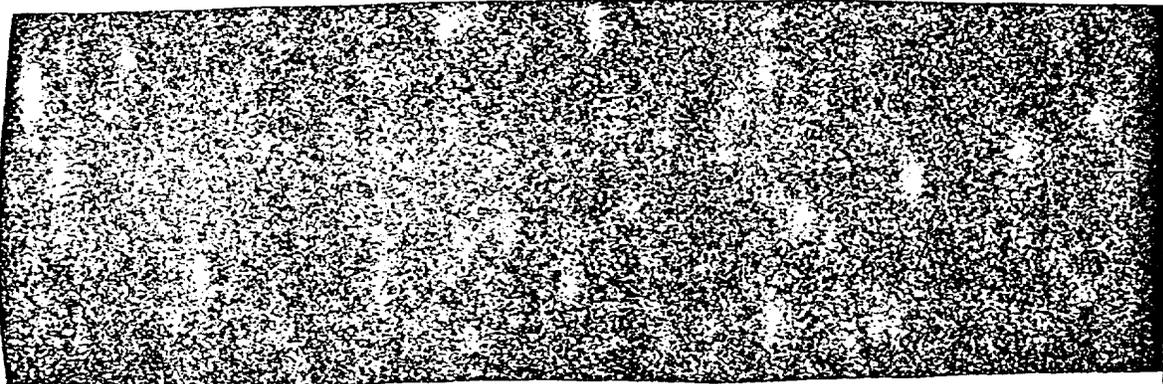
Exemptions: (b)(1) (b)(3)



**Japanese Reactions**

Chief Cabinet Secretary Sakamoto, rejecting Iraq's proposal to withdraw conditionally from Iraq, today called on Baghdad to comply with all UN resolutions. Prime Minister Kaifu and Foreign Minister Nakayama made similar remarks.

**Comment:** The statements indicate that despite some domestic pressure to support a ceasefire, Tokyo continues to stand firmly behind the multinational action. 



Pages: 5 + 6

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