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DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

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SPOT COMMENTARY

01 March 1991
1500 EST

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IRAQ-KUWAIT: SITUATION REPORT #618

Saddam Reportedly Considering Seeking Asylum

According to an article in this afternoon's edition of Le Monde, Saddam Husayn is considering seeking asylum in Algeria. The article goes on to say Algiers is seeking assurances from coalition leaders that no action would be taken against Saddam if he fled to a foreign country. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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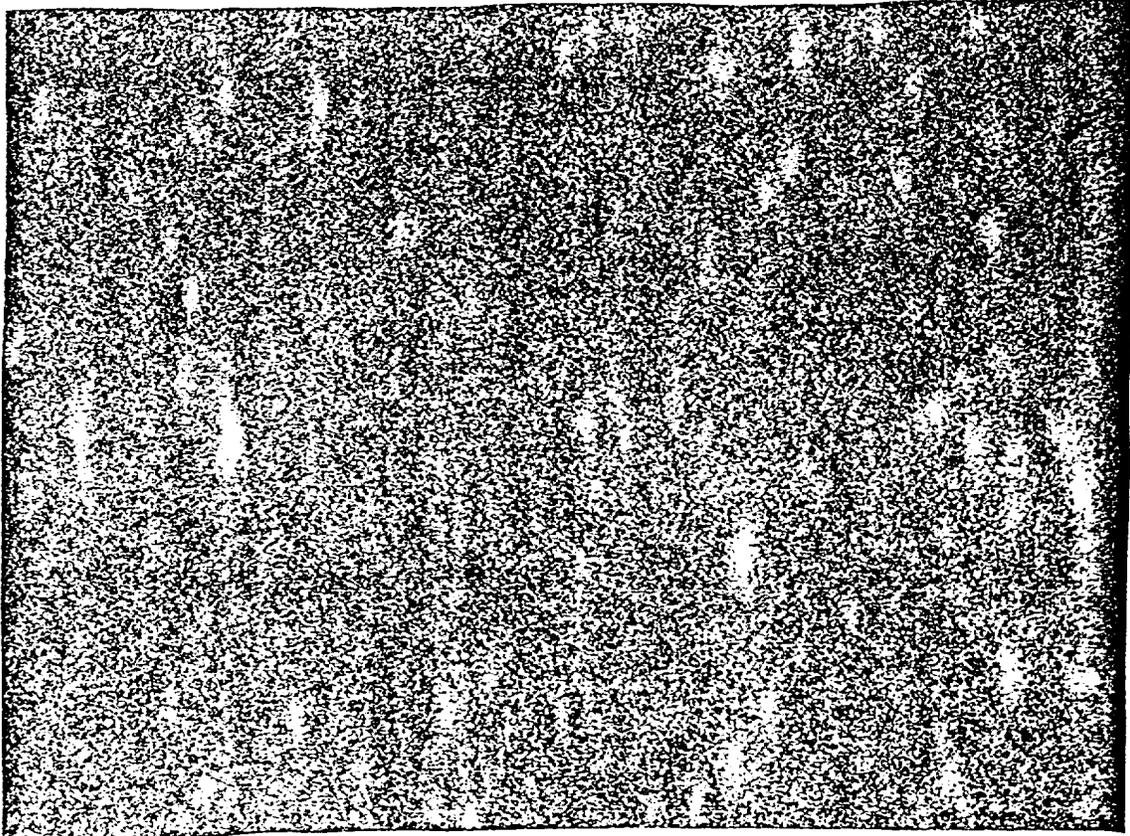
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OCT 1997

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Soviet Military Comments on Iraq's Air Defense System.

According to TASS, Soviet Defense Minister Dmitriy Yazov told the Soviet parliament that the entire Soviet air defense system needed a review. He was responding to questions by legislators Thursday about the failure of the largely Soviet-trained and equipped Iraqi air defense force against coalition air attacks. Other Soviet officials have attempted to deflect doubts over Soviet air defense effectiveness by noting that Iraq's equipment was old, poorly manned and included non-Soviet weapons. They have stressed that coalition air forces outnumbered those of Iraq and had the advantage of surprise.

Comment: The viability of Soviet strategic air defenses have been the subject of debate in Soviet policy circles during recent years. The war has heightened concerns over the Soviet Air Defense Force's future. The military probably fears increased doubts among the public and possibly the leadership

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that strategic air defense can be cost effective or even feasible against precision or nuclear weapons. The military is likely to argue that the growing air threat demands continued modernization, particularly if defenses are to shrink. [REDACTED]

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