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The overall exemptions for this document are (b)(1) and (b)(3).



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SPOT COMMENTARY

CIA/DI

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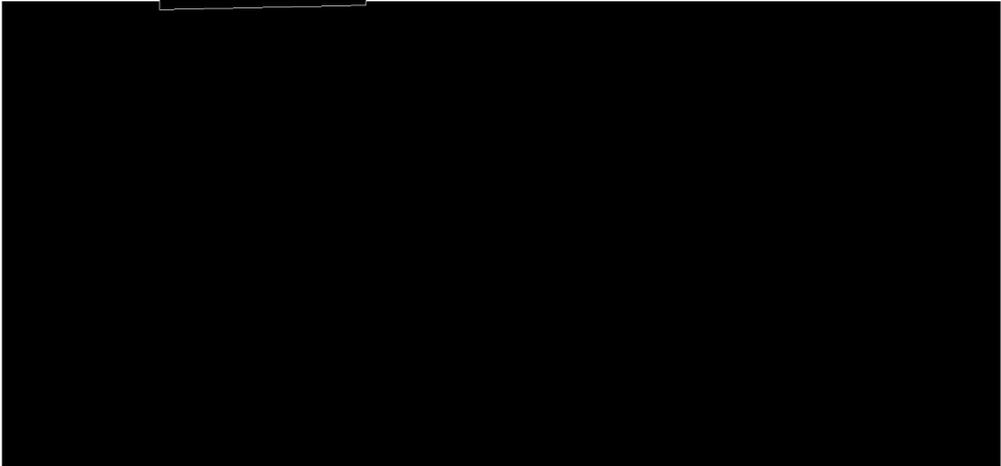
9 March 1991
2300 EST

IRAQ-KUWAIT: SITUATION REPORT #644

Military Developments

Iraqi Unrest Update

The government appears to be securing most areas in the south but has not been able to eliminate resistance elsewhere in the country. [REDACTED]



Iraqi opposition groups, however, are still making claims in the press that have not been confirmed independently. They assert that insurgents control Al Basrah and that disturbances rage in some districts of Baghdad. A journalist [REDACTED] had been told that some Republican Guard forces in Al Basrah had switched to the rebel side. Tehran press, quoting a statement from the Da'Wa Party, claims the 7th Division of the Iraqi Army has defected to the resistance in Al Basrah. [REDACTED]

Prepared by:

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In the north:

- o The city of Sar Qal'ah fell to insurgents today, [REDACTED]
- o Insurgents made limited gains yesterday and today in attacks on government forces, [REDACTED] near Irbil, [REDACTED]
- o [REDACTED]

Political Developments

Iraqi Opposition Conference Postponed

A spokesman for the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) announced today that the "General Congress of the Opposition" will begin in Beirut on Monday instead of Sunday, according to press reports. Organizers reportedly decided to delay the conference to allow more time for delegates to arrive. [REDACTED]

Comment: Representatives from all Iraqi opposition groups apparently have been invited to attend the Beirut conference. Syria appears to be the conference's primary sponsor. The conferees are unlikely to make significant progress towards developing a unified platform, however, because of the deep political, social, and ideological differences among them. [REDACTED]

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Situation in Kuwait

Despite some progress, myriad problems are delaying the restoration of basic services in Kuwait. [REDACTED] police are joining the Kuwaiti Army at checkpoints in the capital. Electricity supplies are limited, however, and problems continue with food distribution. Telephone service also is intermittent and power shortages are delaying sewage processing. Saudi sanitation trucks, however, arrived on Friday. [REDACTED]

Comment: The restoration of basic services in Kuwait will proceed slowly because of the magnitude of the country's needs and the lack of preliberation preparations by the government. The government's already shaky credibility will suffer from the delays. [REDACTED]

Journalists in Jordan

The forty journalists previously missing in southern Iraq arrived in Amman, Jordan today along with the Western journalists recently booted from Baghdad, according to press reports. [REDACTED]

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