

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



DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

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SPOT COMMENTARY

CIA DI

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14 March 1991
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IRAQ-KUWAIT: SITUATION REPORT #658

Iraqi Insurrection Update

Kurdish forces in northern Iraq are forcing government troops out of towns in the mountains on the Turkish border. In the south, fighting continues at An Najaf [REDACTED]

-- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Kurdish insurgents today claimed to have taken several towns in the area, according to press reports. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

-- [REDACTED]

-- [REDACTED]

-- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Refugees said that opposition forces in An Najaf had formed citizens' committees and were erecting defensive positions. [REDACTED]

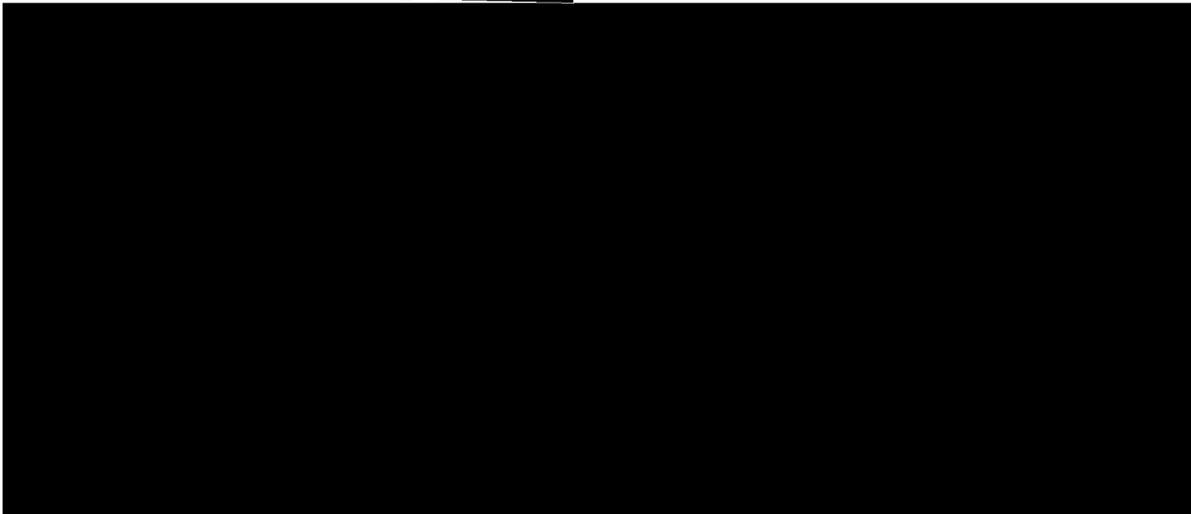
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Comment: Government forces in the north are spread thin and facing what increasingly appear to be well organized and equipped Kurdish forces. The Iraqi forces are hampered by the lack of fixed-wing aircraft. [REDACTED]



Possible Chemical Agents Found in Kuwait

Traces of chemical agents have been found in Kuwait, [REDACTED] A US chemical reconnaissance unit in Kuwait gathered soil samples that may be contaminated with blister agent Lewisite (L) and nerve agent Sarin (GB). The samples are being forwarded for further evaluation. [REDACTED]

Limited Gasoline Sales in Baghdad

Saddam Husayn ordered the resumption of gasoline sales in Baghdad today, according to press reports. Owners of private vehicles can buy eight gallons of gas every 20 days at government controlled prices. The sale of gasoline is still forbidden in the rest of Iraq. [REDACTED]

Comment: Iraq's oil refineries are closed. The resumption of gasoline sales suggests the government is drawing down existing stores. [REDACTED]

Iraqi Oppositionists Conference Ends

Iraqi opposition groups, concluding a three-day conference in Beirut sponsored by Syria, announced plans today to form a transitional coalition government, according to press reports. The conferees called on the Iraqi army to join the oppositionists

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in toppling Saddam. The communique recommended "a fair settlement" for the Kurdish minority and called for the creation of a fund to support the uprising and special committees to rally public opinion worldwide. The various groups are reportedly planning to meet in Taif, Saudi Arabia in three weeks. [REDACTED]

Comment: The joint communique does little more than paper over the deep rifts that plague the opposition. The various groups agree on very little beyond the need to oust Saddam and establish a pluralist government in Baghdad. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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