

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

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[REDACTED] OUTGOING

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PRIORITY

FRP: ,2,3,
BRIEF

[REDACTED]

OUTGOING
MESSAGE

[REDACTED]

ASP

PAGE 001
TOT: 090741Z MAR 91

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

BRIEF
TO: PRIORITY EUROPEAN BRIEF.

090741Z

[REDACTED]

CIA/CPAS - EB 91-058

SUBJECT: HERewith SUPPORT CABLE FOR EUROPEAN BRIEF OCPAS
FOR SATURDAY, 09 MARCH 1991

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

(b)(1)
(b)(3)
(S)

OUTGOING
MESSAGE

FROM: DDI/O/CPAS

SUBJECT: EAST EUROPEAN BRIEF [REDACTED] FOR SATURDAY, 09 MARCH 1991.

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- 1. IRAQ-KUWAIT: SITUATION REPORT [REDACTED]
- 2. USSR: SITUATION REPORT [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: JAN 2001

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TOT: 090741Z MAR 91

1. IRAQ-KUWAIT: SITUATION REPORT

SADDAM APPEARS TO BE GAINING THE UPPER HAND, ALTHOUGH REGIME CLAIMS OF SUCCESS HAVE NOT YET BEEN INDEPENDENTLY VERIFIED. CONTINUED GOVERNMENT GAINS OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS, INCLUDING THE SECURING OF KARBALA' AND THE RAPID OCCUPATION OF AN NAJAF, PROBABLY WOULD MEAN THE END OF A LARGE-SCALE ORGANIZED RESISTANCE IN THE SOUTH. SADDAM COULD THEN SOLIDIFY HIS CONTROL IF THE REBELLION DOES NOT SPREAD TO THE CAPITAL. THERE IS NO CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE THAT GOVERNMENT FORCES USED CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN YESTERDAY'S ATTACKS.

REGIME TROOP MORALE PROBABLY HAS RISEN AFTER PREVIOUS FAILURES TO RETAKE AL HILLAH AND KARBALA'. SECURING AL AMARAH AND THE TIGRIS RIVER VALLEY WOULD LET SADDAM SHIFT FORCES AND CONCENTRATE TROOPS FOR AN ASSAULT ON AN NAJAF. COMPLETE PACIFICATION OF THE COUNTRY IS LIKELY TO TAKE CONSIDERABLY LONGER; SADDAM PROBABLY BELIEVES KURDISTAN CAN BE DEALT WITH AFTER CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN IRAQ ARE PACIFIED.

IRAN RESPONDING CAUTIOUSLY

IN HIS SERMON YESTERDAY, PRESIDENT RAFSANJANI CALLED FOR SADDAM'S RESIGNATION AND SUGGESTED POWER SHARING BETWEEN THE BA'TH PARTY AND THE IRAQI OPPOSITION. RAFSANJANI SAID SADDAM AND THE BA'TH PARTY SHOULD SUBMIT TO THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE, AND HE URGED THE IRAQI OPPOSITION TO UNITE AND JOIN WITH THE BA'TH IN REBUILDING IRAQ, SAYING TEHRAN WOULD THEN HELP BAGHDAD REBUILD. RAFSANJANI DENIED IRAN IS SUPPORTING THE IRAQI REBELS.

COMMENT: RAFSANJANI'S APPARENT ENDORSEMENT OF AN IRAQI COALITION GOVERNMENT SUGGESTS HE BELIEVES THAT THE OPPOSITION ALONE CANNOT OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT, BUT THAT SADDAM CAN BE TOPPLED BY SEPARATING HIM FROM THE BA'TH PARTY. DESPITE ITS DENIALS, TEHRAN PROBABLY IS PROVIDING AT LEAST SOME MATERIAL SUPPORT TO THE INSURRECTION. SADDAM'S BRUTAL CRACKDOWN ON SHIA PROTESTERS WILL INCREASE THE POLITICAL PRESSURE ON RAFSANJANI TO ASSIST THE REBELS, BUT TEHRAN'S CAPABILITY TO INTERVENE MILITARILY IS LIMITED. IF THE REVOLT IS CRUSHED, IRAN WILL HAVE FEW OPTIONS BEYOND CONDEMNING SADDAM AND INCREASING SUPPORT TO IRAQI EXILES.

IRAQI OPPOSITION GROUPS TO MEET

REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL IRAQI OPPOSITION GROUPS WILL HOLD A THREE-DAY CONFERENCE IN BEIRUT STARTING TOMORROW. REPORT. THE MEETING WILL INCLUDE SHIA AND SUNNI MUSLIMS AS WELL AS IRAQI KURDS AND FORMER BA'THISTS. ACCORDING TO LEBANESE PRESS REPORTS, KURDISH LEADER TALABANI HAS SAID THE REPRESENTATIVES WILL SEEK TO GO BEYOND THE TERMS OF A DECEMBER AGREEMENT SIGNED BY SEVERAL OF THE OPPOSITION GROUPS THAT CALLED FOR SADDAM'S REMOVAL. HE ALSO SAID THE MEETING MAY CONSIDER SETTING UP A GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE.

COMMENT: IRAQI OPPOSITIONISTS APPARENTLY HOPE TO CAPITALIZE ON THE UNREST. THEIR DEEP POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES PROBABLY WILL PREVENT SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARD DEVELOPING A UNIFIED OPPOSITION, HOWEVER. THEY HAVE NOT MADE MUCH PROGRESS ON BUILDING AN EXILE GOVERNMENT OR FORMING A NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DESPITE SEVERAL MONTHS OF EFFORT AND ARE UNLIKELY TO BECOME

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SADDAM'S REPLACEMENT IF HE FAILS.

FOREIGN JOURNALISTS RELEASED

RED CROSS WORKERS IN BAGHDAD REPORTED YESTERDAY THAT IRAQ HAD TURNED OVER 40 WESTERN JOURNALISTS AND TWO PERSONS CLAIMING TO BE AMERICAN SOLDIERS. THE REPORTERS INTERVIEWED SAID THEY HAD BEEN TREATED WELL.

2. USSR: SITUATION REPORT

THE CENTER AND EIGHT REPUBLICS HAVE MADE SOME PROGRESS TOWARD A UNION TREATY; PRO-YEL'TSIN DEMONSTRATIONS ARE IN PROSPECT IN RUSSIA TOMORROW.

NEW UNION TREATY DRAFT

IZVESTIYA HAS PUBLISHED THE TEXT OF A DRAFT UNION TREATY THAT THE FEDERATION COUNCIL HAS AGREED TO LET REPUBLIC LEGISLATURES CONSIDER.

COMMENT: THE CENTER AND RUSSIA, BELORUSSIA, THE UKRAINE, AND THE FIVE CENTRAL ASIAN REPUBLICS SEEM TO HAVE AGREED ON AN AMBIGUOUS COMPROMISE DOCUMENT. THE CENTER APPARENTLY HAS MADE SOME CONCESSIONS TO THE REPUBLICS, HOWEVER, PARTICULARLY ON THE CONTROL OF RESOURCES AND IN GIVING THE REPUBLICS GREATER SAY IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THE REPUBLICS RECOGNIZED THE CENTER'S SUBSTANTIAL ROLES IN FOREIGN, DEFENSE, AND MONETARY POLICY, AS WELL AS IN RESOLVING CONSTITUTIONAL DISPUTES. AGREEMENT ON THE DRAFT COULD PROVE TO BE A SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD, BUT THE TREATY'S FATE WILL BE DETERMINED THROUGH FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS AND THE CENTER'S ACTUAL POLICY TOWARD THE REPUBLICS IN COMING MONTHS.

STRIKE UPDATE

IN OBSERVANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY LEGAL HOLIDAY, SOVIET MINERS DID NOT STRIKE YESTERDAY BUT PLAN TO RESUME THEIR STRIKE TODAY.

YEL'TSIN ATTACKS COMMUNIST PARTY

IN A PRERECORDED RADIO ADDRESS TO THE RUSSIAN REPUBLIC ON THURSDAY, YEL'TSIN BLAMED THE COMMUNIST PARTY FOR USING THE 'MYTH' OF A CIVIL WAR TO JUSTIFY THE CENTER'S AUTHORITARIAN ACTIONS, PLAYED UP THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE REPUBLIC LEGISLATURE, AND BLAMED THE COMMUNISTS OF RUSSIA LEGISLATIVE BLOC FOR WASTING TIME 'THINKING UP COMPROMISING MATERIAL ON UNDESIRABLE LEADERS' AND DIVERTING THE LEGISLATURE FROM URGENT PROBLEMS. HE SAID HE WILL BE GIVING REGULAR RADIO SPEECHES TO INFORM THE PUBLIC OF PROGRESS IN THE LEGISLATURE BECAUSE OF A 'GROWING MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE PEOPLE AND THE TOP FEDERAL LEADERSHIP' AS A RESULT OF A NEWS BLOCKADE.

COMMENT: HAVING EMERGED STRENGTHENED IN PUBLIC OPINION FROM THE CENTER'S CAMPAIGN TO DISCREDIT HIM AFTER HIS CALL FOR GORBACHEV'S RESIGNATION, YEL'TSIN IS PUTTING THE CENTER ON THE DEFENSIVE BY STUMPING THE RUSSIAN PROVINCES AND APPEALING DIRECTLY TO THE PUBLIC TO SUPPORT HIS STAND ON THE 17 MARCH REFERENDUM. DEMONSTRATIONS TO SUPPORT YEL'TSIN CALLED FOR SUNDAY BY DEMOCRATIC RUSSIA COULD DRAW MORE THAN THE 150,000 PEOPLE SIMILAR OCCASIONS HAVE PRODUCED IN MOSCOW RECENTLY.

OUTGOING MESSAGE

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