

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

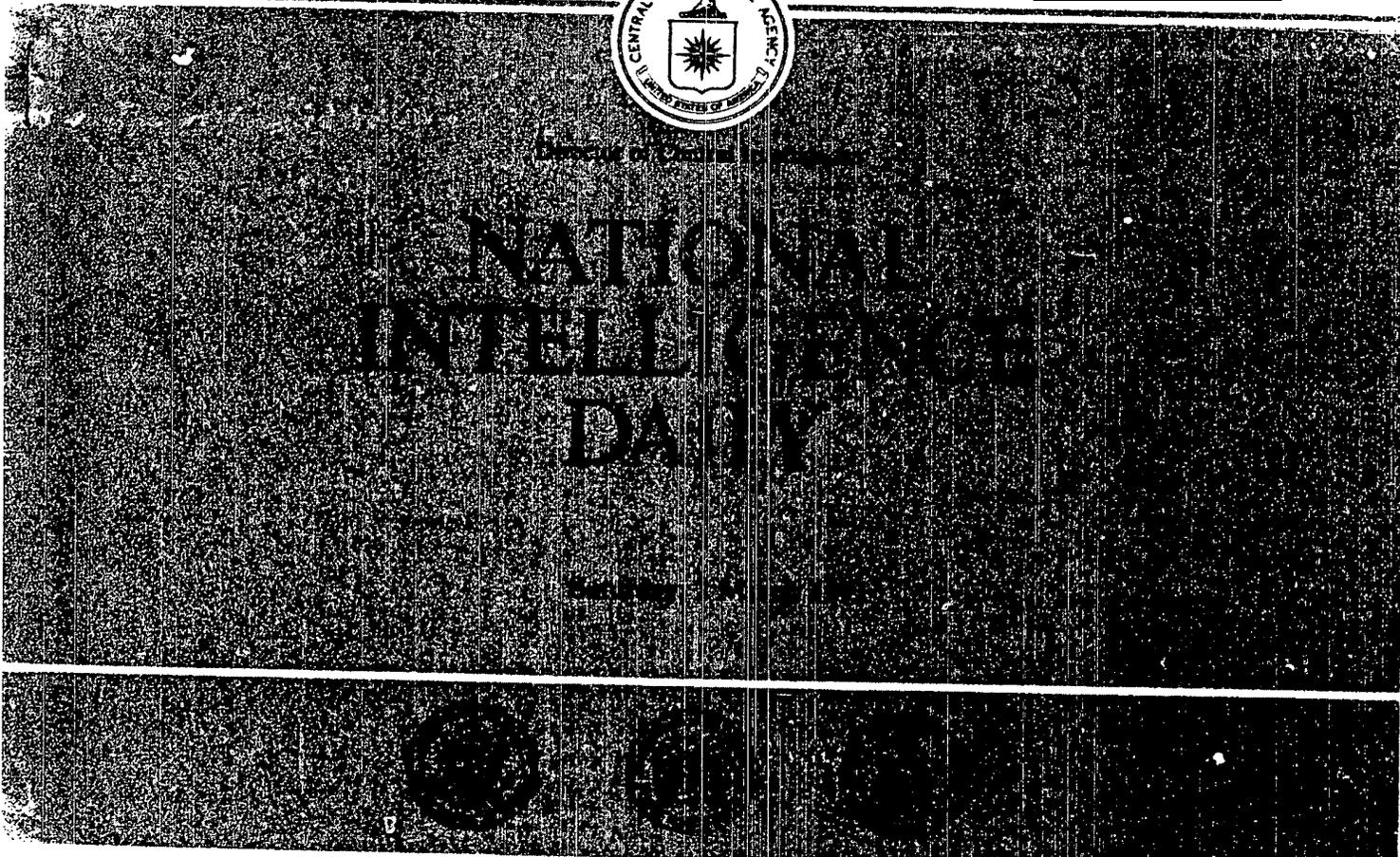
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IRAQ-KUWAIT: Situation Report

Baghdad not only continues to claim victory but also is spreading reports that Iraq was "stabbed in the back" by other Arabs. [REDACTED]

Saddam Considers His Options

The Iraqi government-run media are lauding Saddam and the Army's "victory" in forcing coalition forces to seek a cease-fire. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Iraqis are now blaming the Arabs for abandoning Baghdad. Western journalists leaving Iraq recently report that popular grumbling against Saddam is uncharacteristically growing louder, and military defectors claim that anti-Saddam graffiti has appeared in some cities. Diplomats and European press stories are repeating rumors that Saddam and his family plan to flee to Algeria, Mauritania, India, or the USSR. [REDACTED]

Comment: The "stabbed in the back" thesis is likely to get wider play as Iraq tries to transfer blame for its defeat. Baghdad may also start to warn that "external forces"—opposition elements backed by Damascus, London, and Washington—are in the country trying to erode confidence in Saddam and destroy Iraq. None of the reports that Saddam or his family plan to leave Iraq has been corroborated; he is more likely to challenge his attackers and is unlikely to flee unless he believes his regime is near collapse and his life is in danger. [REDACTED]

Iraqi Forces Remaining in the Kuwait Theater

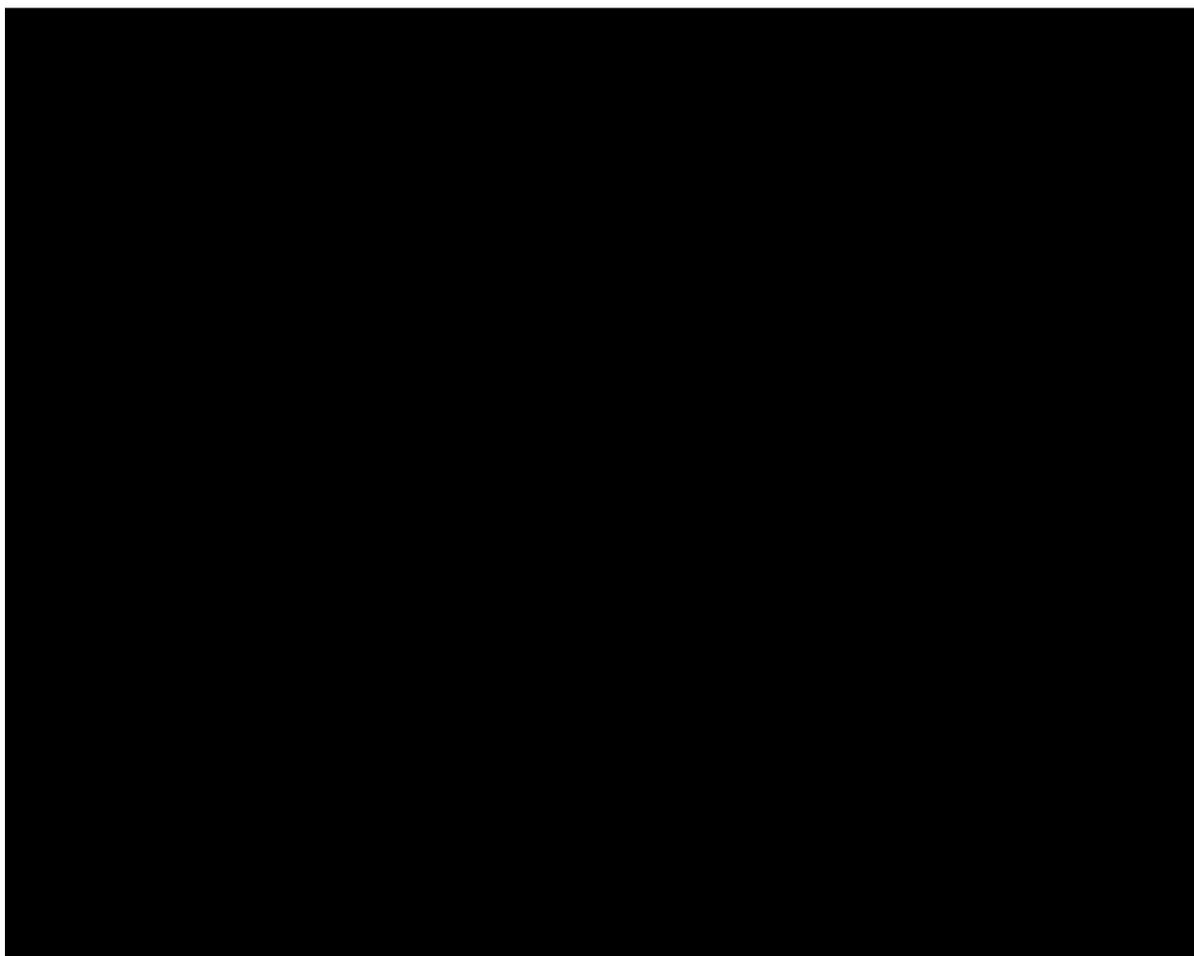
Iraqi forces from the Kuwait theater continue to try to retreat and regroup [REDACTED]

Iraqi forces continue to flee by crossing the Shatt al Arab waterway. [REDACTED]

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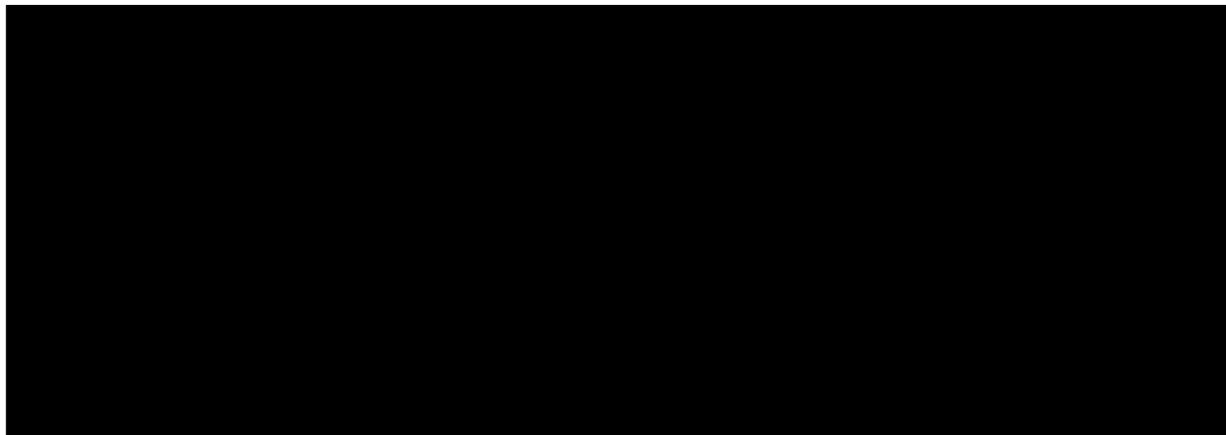
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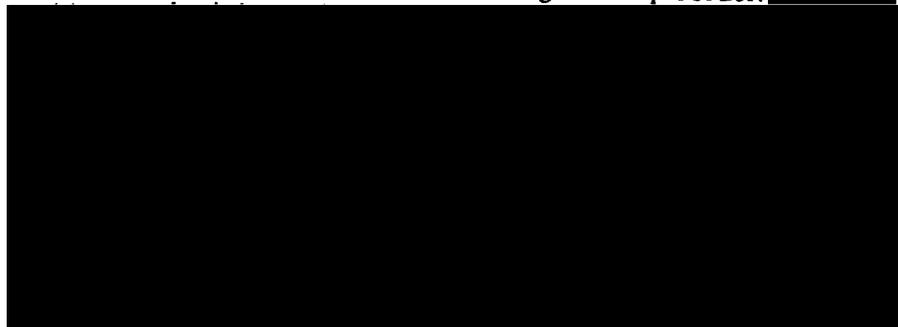
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UN Preparations for a Peacekeeping Role

The UN is prepared to respond to Saudi Arabia's and Kuwait's request for a small UN observer force along the Iraqi border. [REDACTED]



Comment: Saudi Arabia and Kuwait may ask the UN Security Council to approve a small 300- to 700-man UN observer force along their mutual border with Iraq. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The UN probably has concluded that a peacekeeping force now can be smaller than originally envisioned because of the Iraqi Army's destruction and Baghdad's acceptance of the UN resolutions. The UN will try to persuade Baghdad to permit stationing observers on both sides of the border. [REDACTED]

Hizballah Declares Jihad

Several Hizballah leaders—including an influential member of the Leadership Council—have declared a holy war against the US. The day after the cease-fire was announced, the group warned that US presence in the region is no longer justified, and one member claimed that now “the real mother of battles” between Islam and the West had begun. Hizballah sent terrorist teams to the Gulf last month to plan attacks against coalition interests. [REDACTED]

Comment: Some Hizballah elements probably will push for attacks on US interests soon. [REDACTED]

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