



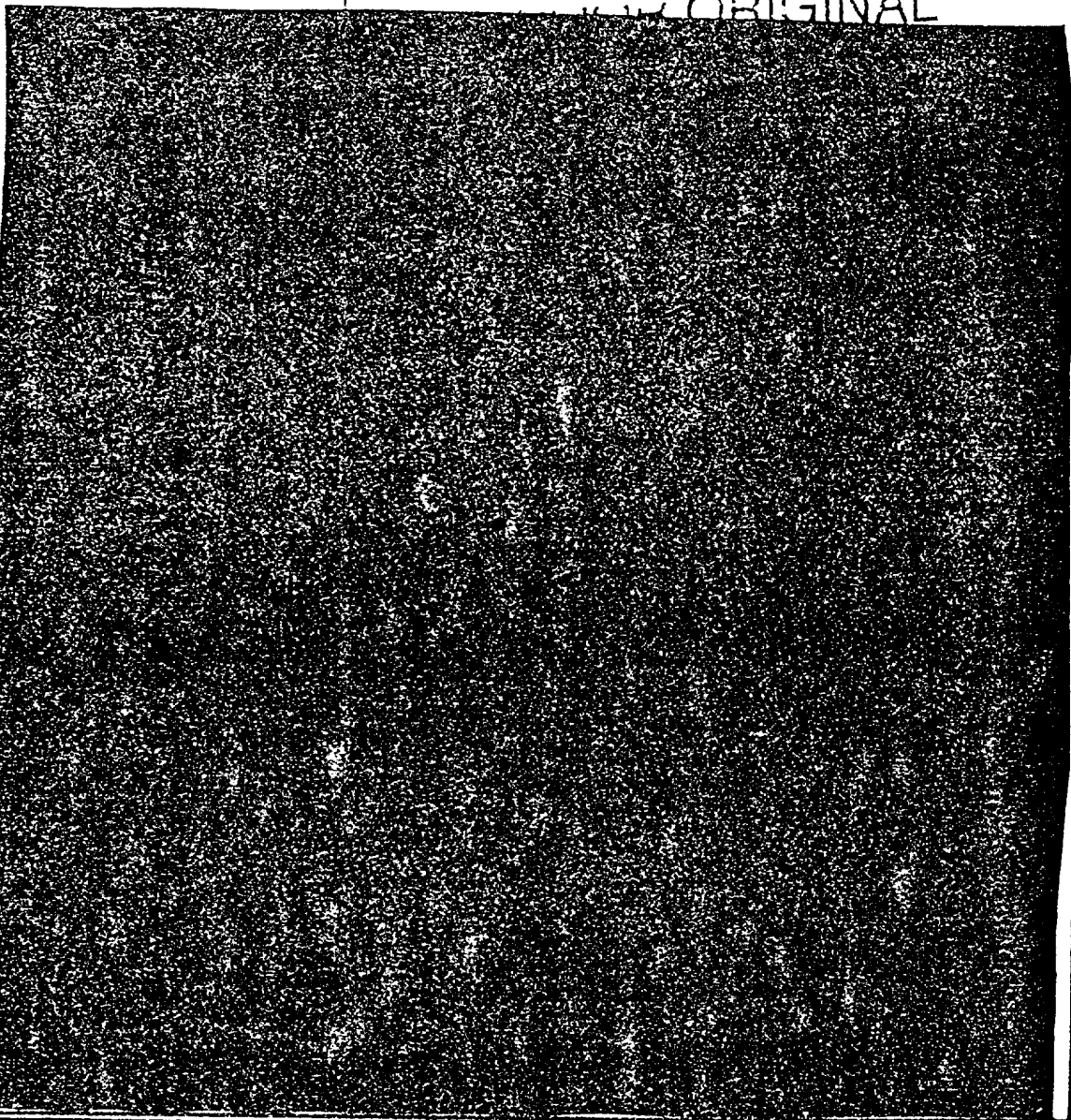
DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

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## SPOT COMMENTARY

10 February 1991  
1500 EST

IRAQ-KUWAIT: SITUATION REPORT #557



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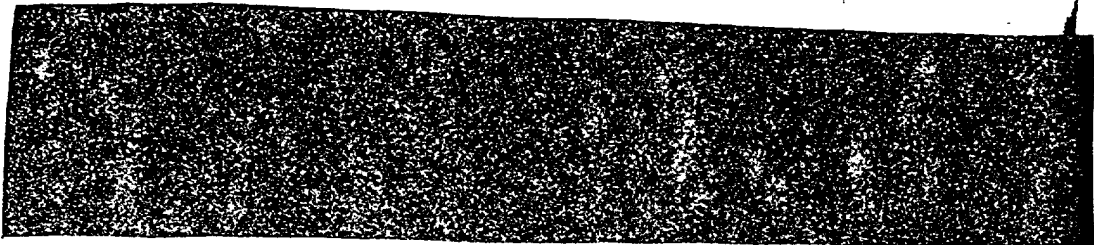
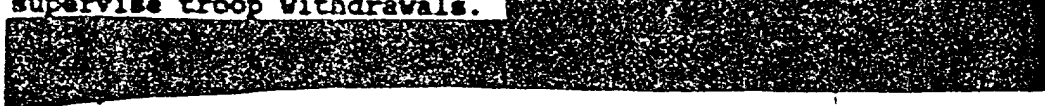


### Political Developments

#### Iranian-Saudi Diplomacy Active

Saddam Husayn's response to the Iranian peace initiative to end the Gulf Crisis was "not at the level that was anticipated," according to Iranian press accounts. Iranian President Rafsanjani said that, despite Baghdad's response, "not all the doors are closed." Meanwhile, Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati is expected to meet his Saudi counterpart Prince Saud within the next few days, possibly in Geneva, according to press reports.

Comment: Rafsanjani's remarks probably refer to the joint peace plan that Iran and India will apparently present at a meeting of non-aligned foreign ministers tomorrow and Tuesday in Belgrade. According to press reports, this initiative calls for an Iraqi declaration of intent to quit Kuwait, an end to hostilities, and a United Nations monitoring system to supervise troop withdrawals.



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**Soviet Measure Delays German Air Defense Missiles for Turkey**

A Soviet government order banning Soviet aircraft from carrying military equipment to a war zone has delayed the delivery of German Roland surface-to-air missile launchers to Turkey, according to press reports. A German Defense Ministry spokesman said today that Bonn learned of the measure--said to have taken effect 1 February--after a Soviet pilot on Friday refused to fly the first of several chartered flights by a Soviet An-124 aircraft from Cologne to Erhac, Turkey. Soviet press, however, reports that the plane crew refused because it originally had been chartered to transport commercial cargo.

**Soviet Envoy to Iraq**

Arab diplomats expect Soviet envoy Primakov to arrive in Iraq today or tomorrow carrying a warning of the consequences of Iraqi failure to withdraw from Kuwait, according to press reports. A Soviet MFA spokesman earlier this week had denied Japanese press reports that a Primakov visit to the Middle East was planned at that time.

Comment: Primakov met with Saddam twice in October in an attempt to persuade Bagdad to withdraw troops from Kuwait. Moscow increased its Gulf-related diplomatic activity this past week with Deputy Foreign Minister Belonogov's visits to Iran and Turkey and Deputy Foreign Minister Rogachev's trip to India.

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