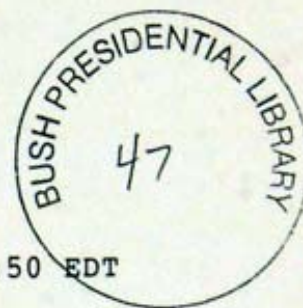


NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

15-Feb-1991 10:50 EDT



MEMORANDUM FOR:

FROM:

(WHSR_ROUTER@WHSR)

SUBJECT:

GORBACHEV'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT BUSH ON

<DIST>

PRT: BOOK GATES HILL SCOWCROFT SIT SITTMANN SUNUNU
SIT: FILE GOMPERT HAASS CHARLES PAVITT ROSTOW WELCH WHSR_IRAQ WORKING
PRES_MSGS RICE SANNER SIT SUM VAX BRANSCUM

<PREC>

IMMEDIATE

<CLAS>

~~SECRET~~

<OSRI>

RUEHC

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150154Z FEB 91

<ORIG>

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

<TO>

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE 0000

<SUBJ>

GORBACHEV'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT BUSH ON
-- PRIMAKOV VISIT TO BAGHDAD

<TEXT>

BT

~~SECRET~~ STATE 049869

NODIS

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, UR, IZ

SUBJECT: GORBACHEV'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT BUSH ON
-- PRIMAKOV VISIT TO BAGHDAD

1. ~~SECRET~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SOVIET CHARGE CHETVERIKOV MET WITH THE SECRETARY THE
EVENING OF FEBRUARY 13 AND ASKED HIM TO CONVEY TO THE
PRESIDENT A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT GORBACHEV TO PRESIDENT
BUSH (TEXT PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH FIVE). PARAPHRASING
FROM AN INFORMAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE LETTER,
CHETVERIKOV SAID THAT PRIMAKOV HAD HELD MEETINGS IN

DECLASSIFIED IN PART
PER E.O. 12958

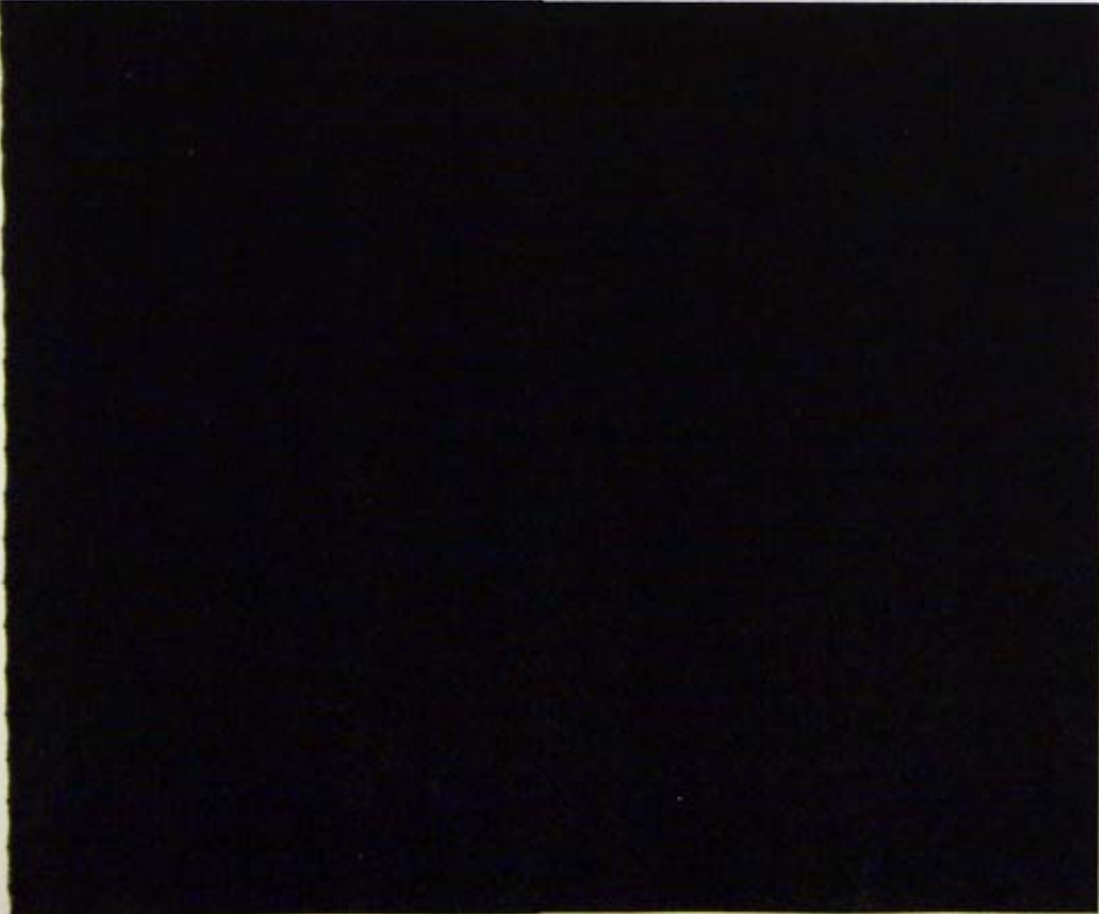
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BAGHDAD AND MADE CLEAR TO SADDAM HUSSEIN THAT HE HAD TO COMPLY FULLY WITH U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS. HE PROPOSED THAT WHEN THE LEADERSHIP OF IRAQ STATED ITS READINESS TO WITHDRAW ITS FORCES FROM KUWAIT AND SET DATES THEN A CEASEFIRE COULD TAKE PLACE. OF COURSE, WITHDRAWAL WOULD HAVE TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY AFTER THIS.

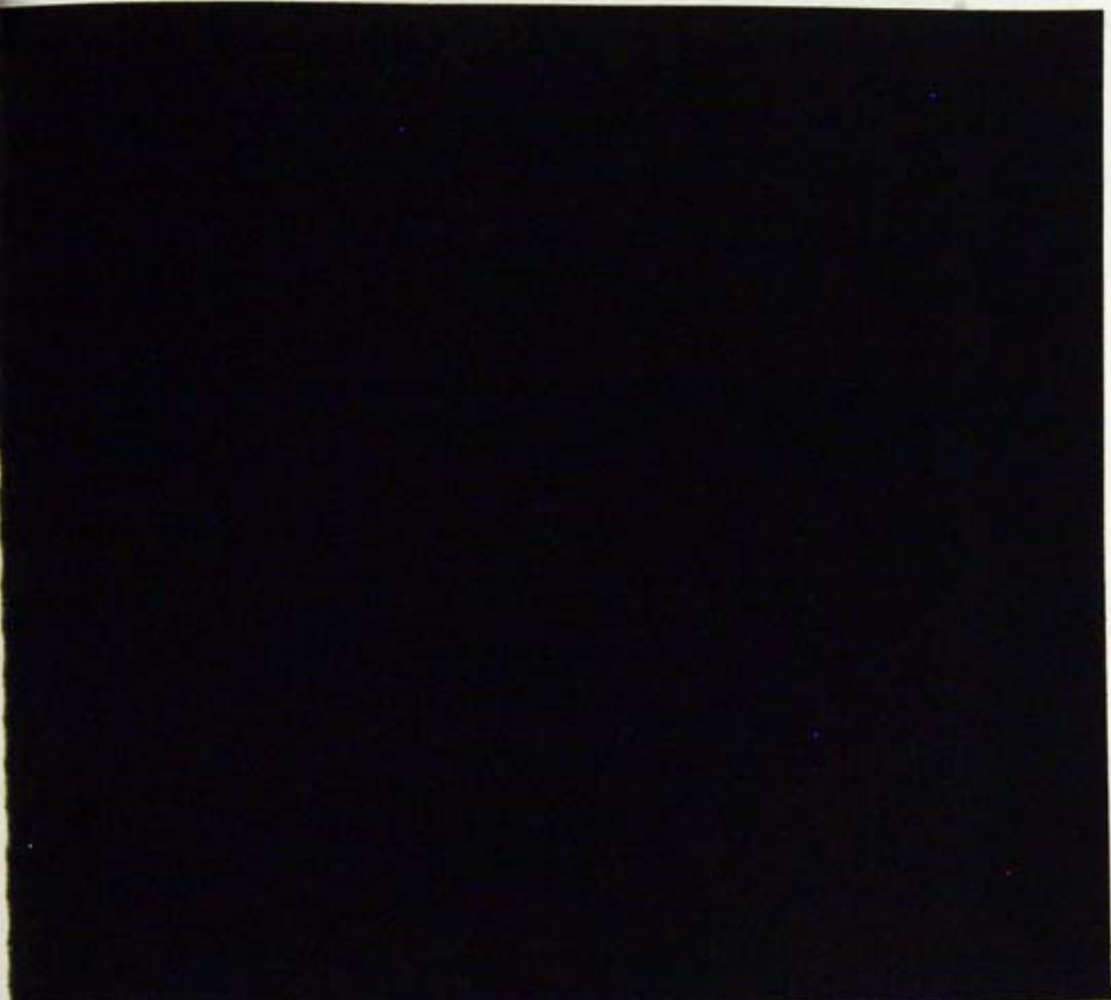
3. CONTINUING TO PARAPHRASE CHETVERIKOV SAID SADDAM HUSSEIN SEEMED TO BE MORE INTERESTED IN THIS EXCHANGE AND WANTED TO CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE. THEREFORE, HE WAS SENDING A SENIOR IRAQI OFFICIAL TO MOSCOW FOR TALKS. CHETVERIKOV EXPLAINED GORBACHEV'S VIEW THAT, IF THERE WAS THE SLIGHTEST CHANCE OF REACHING AGREEMENT, IT SHOULD BE PURSUED. THUS, WHILE THE TALKS TOOK PLACE IN MOSCOW IT WOULD NOT BE DESIRABLE TO CONDUCT GROUND OPERATIONS IN KUWAIT. GORBACHEV ASSURED THE PRESIDENT IN THE LETTER, CHETVERIKOV SAID, THAT HE WOULD NOT PERMIT THE TALKS TO DRAG ON OR STALL OPERATIONS.

4. THE SECRETARY REPLIED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE MESSAGE AND WOULD CONVEY IT TO THE PRESIDENT. HE COMMENTED THAT A MERE STATEMENT OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW FROM KUWAIT WAS NOT ENOUGH. THE JOINT STATEMENT HE AND FOREIGN MINISTER BESSMERTNYKH HAD ISSUED CALLED FOR IMMEDIATE AND CONCRETE STEPS. CHETVERIKOV THEN LOOKED AT THE RUSSIAN TEXT AND SAID THAT IT IN FACT SAID SADDAM WOULD NEED TO ANNOUNCE A "TIME SPAN" FOR WITHDRAWAL. ASSISTANT SECRETARY SEITZ ASKED HIM TO CLARIFY WHETHER THIS MEANT A PERIOD WITH A BEGINNING AND ENDING DATE, AND THE SOVIET CHARGE ASSENTED.

5. BEGIN EUR/SOV TRANSLATION OF GORBACHEV LETTER TO



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