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Office of Near Eastern and
South Asian Analysis
Directorate of Intelligence

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Iraq: Domestic Impact of the War

25 January 1991
Report #1

Highlights

~~_____~~ many key economic facilities in Iraq have suffered significant damage from coalition air attacks.

--About one-third of Iraq's 470,000-b/d oil refining capacity has been put out of operation.

--An estimated one-third of the country's electrical generating capacity and about 90 percent of Baghdad's generating capacity have been knocked out.

--Strategic and nonconventional weapons facilities have been the hardest hit of Iraq's defense industries.
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Daily life for residents of Baghdad and other areas hit by coalition attacks reportedly has become bleak.

--The regime halted the sale of gasoline and other petroleum products this week.

--Electricity and telephone service are unavailable in most parts of Baghdad, and water supplies there also have been disrupted, according to press reports.

--Food supplies reportedly are tightening.
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The weekly publication Iraq: Domestic Impact of Economic Sanctions has been discontinued. This is the first issue of a situation report assessing the impact of the war inside Iraq.
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[redacted] many residents of the affluent sections of Baghdad fled to the north or to Shia holy cities of Najaf and Kerbala in the south before or during the early days of the coalition air attacks. In contrast, Iraqis in the poorer--probably Shia--sections of the capital are hunkering down and trying to cope.

We do not have accurate figures for refugees or civilian casualties.

- Press reports indicate several thousand Iraqis already have fled to neighboring countries. Iran is now the only viable refuge, however, because of Iraq's closure of the Jordanian border to refugees this week, its complete closure of the Turkish border last week, and its closure of the Syrian border for years.
- The US Mission in Geneva reports the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Society are preparing shelter and supplies in neighboring countries for up to 300,000 displaced people.

--Iraq's ambassador to the UN claimed that 41 civilians had died and 191 had been wounded as of 23 January. [redacted], however, [redacted] neither Iraqi authorities nor civilian witnesses would verify this count.

Political Climate

Reporting on the political climate in Iraq is fragmentary--the regime has restricted the movement of civilians and requires reporters to clear all news items with Iraqi censors--but the regime appears fully in control. There have been no credible reports of unrest since the war began.

--According to Yugoslav press, Iraqi citizens in Baghdad are scared but not totally demoralized; they listen to authorities and are disciplined.

[redacted]
Iraqis remain steadfast in not voicing disagreement with the regime, especially to Westerners.

--Saddam has only his most loyal military and security personnel in Baghdad, reducing the threat of a military coup. The military forces in the capital are drawn from the elite Republican Guards.

Baghdad continues to try to mobilize Arab support in the hope of weakening coalition resolve.