

FROM WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM 88

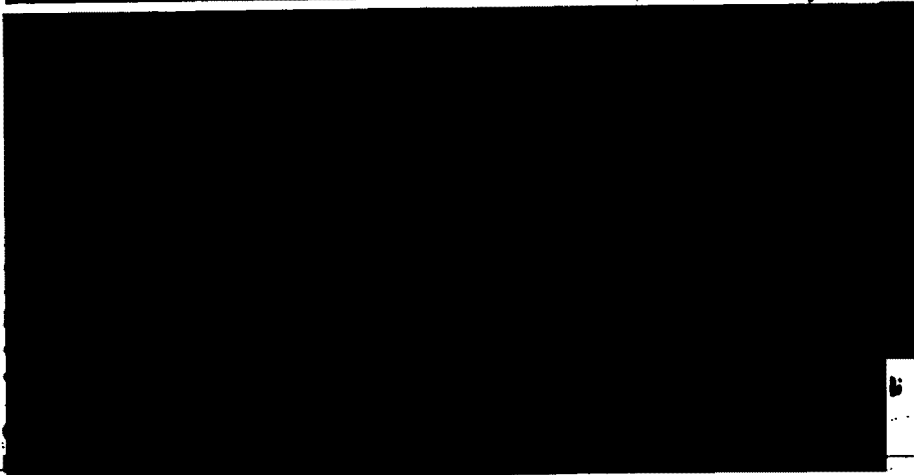
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[REDACTED] Intelligence reporting subsequent to Operation Desert Storm revealed that Iraqi nuclear weapons research was further along than we had assessed. In fact, on the basis of information obtained after the Gulf war, we judge that by 1990 Baghdad had a design for a workable nuclear weapon, and that by early 1991, Baghdad probably was about two to three years away from having enough highly enriched uranium for a nuclear weapon.

[Discussion concerning Iraq's research into uranium enrichment techniques and Iraq's investigation of a broad range of nuclear weapons-related topics.]



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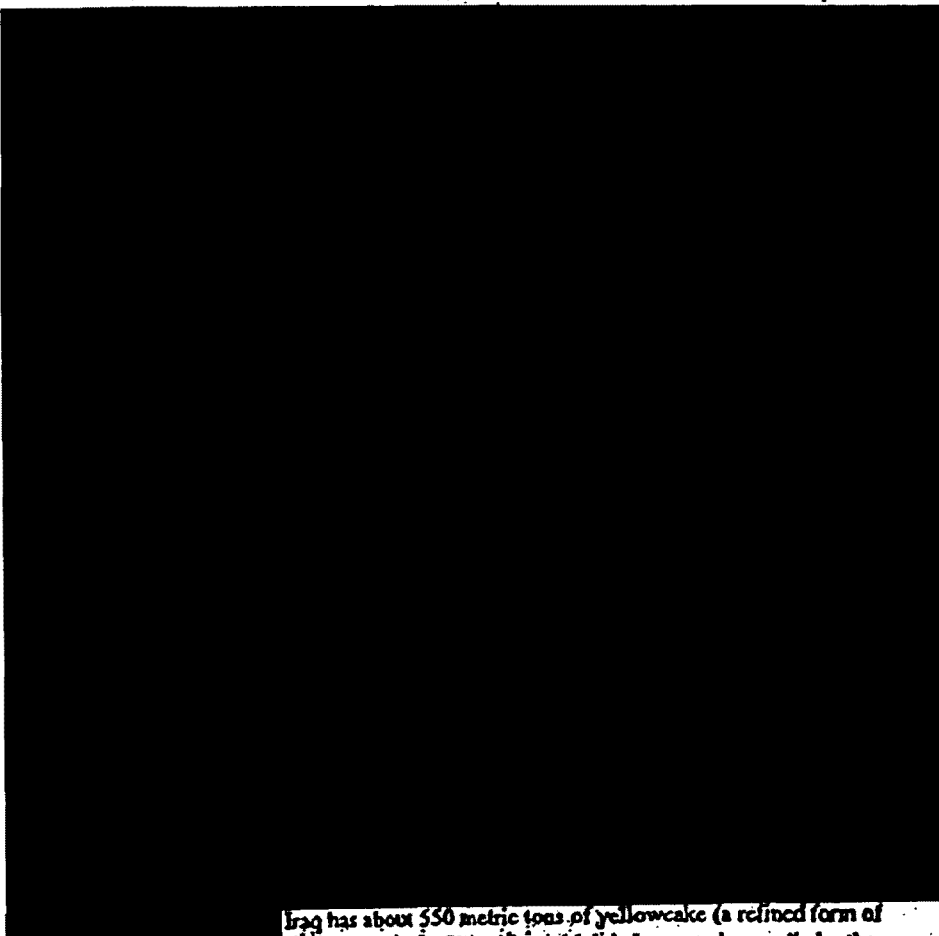
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Iraq has about 550 metric tons of yellowcake (a refined form of natural uranium) and low-enriched uranium at Tuwailha, which is inspected annually by the IAEA. Iraq also began vigorously trying to procure uranium ore and yellowcake; acquiring either would shorten the time Baghdad needs to produce nuclear weapons.

- A foreign government intelligence service reported that as of early 2001, Niger planned to send several tons of "pure uranium" (probably yellowcake) to Iraq. As of early 2001, Niger and Iraq reportedly were still working out arrangements for this deal, which could be for up to 500 tons of yellowcake. We do not know the status of this arrangement.
- Reports indicate Iraq also has sought uranium ore from Somalia and possibly the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

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