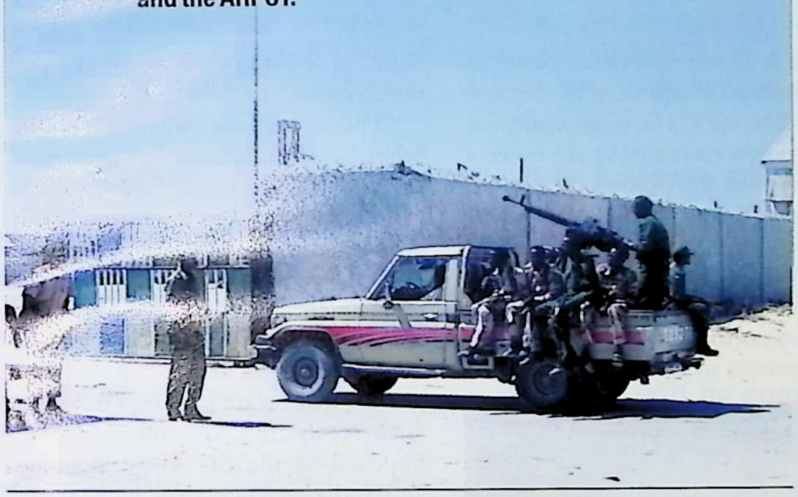
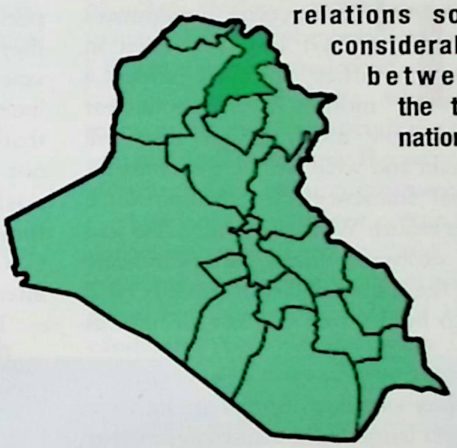
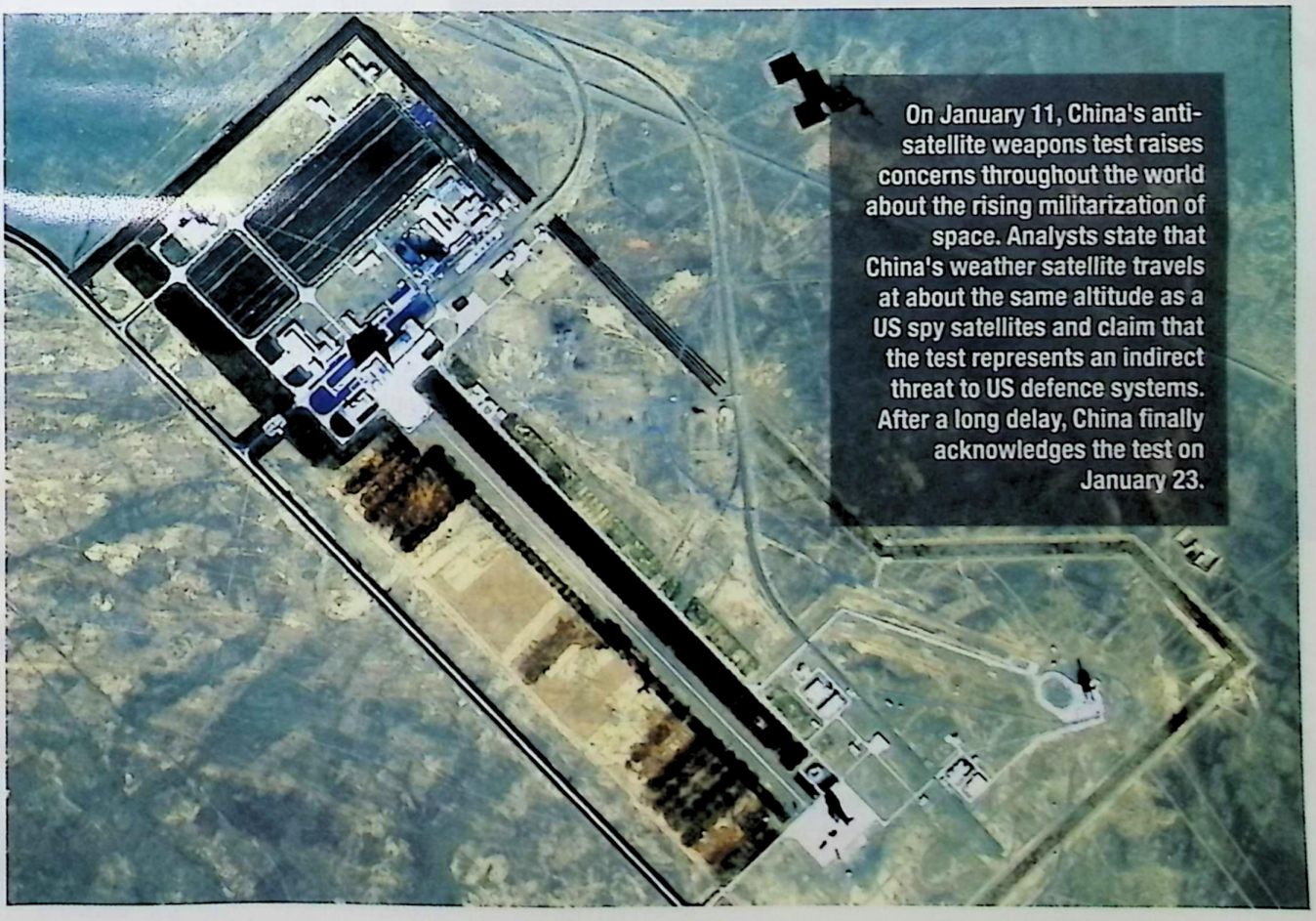
On January 9, the United States openly intervenes in Somalia, attacking Islamist positions in the south of Somalia over three days. Hundreds are reported dead. American intervention comes as the first public display of involvement since the latest civil conflict in Somalia broke out in May 2006 between the Islamic Court Union and the ARPCT.



AFP

On January 11, US forces braek into Iran's consulate in Arbil after disarming its guards and using force to break open the gate of the consulate building. It is believed that a number of Iranian officials were arrested as a result of the raid, as the United States claims that they have evidence of Iranian interference in Iraq. The event stands as one of a series of antagonistic acts by the US and Iran and relations sour considerably between the two nations.





On January 11, China's anti-satellite weapons test raises concerns throughout the world about the rising militarization of space. Analysts state that China's weather satellite travels at about the same altitude as a US spy satellites and claim that the test represents an indirect threat to US defence systems. After a long delay, China finally acknowledges the test on January 23.