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COMMISSION DES DROITS DE L'HOMME  
Cinquante-septième session  
Point 9 de l'ordre du jour provisoire

QUESTION DE LA VIOLATION DES DROITS DE L'HOMME ET DES LIBERTÉS  
FONDAMENTALES, OÙ QU'ELLE SE PRODUISE DANS LE MONDE

Note verbale datée du 15 décembre 2000 adressée à la Haut-Commissaire  
des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme par la Mission permanente  
de la République d'Iraq auprès de l'Office  
des Nations Unies à Genève

La Mission permanente de la République d'Iraq auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève présente ses compliments à la Haut-Commissaire des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme et a l'honneur de lui transmettre ci-joint le document intitulé "Continuation of the embargo is a violation of international law"\*.

La Mission permanente de la République d'Iraq saurait gré à la Haut-Commissaire de bien vouloir faire adopter et distribuer ce document en tant que document officiel de la cinquante-septième session de la Commission des droits de l'homme au titre du point de l'ordre du jour intitulé "Question de la violation des droits de l'homme et des libertés fondamentales, où qu'elle se produise dans le monde".

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\* L'annexe est reproduite telle quelle, en anglais seulement.

Annex

**CONTINUATION OF THE EMBARGO IS A VIOLATION  
OF INTERNATIONAL LAW**

- On 2 August 1990, resolution 661 (1990) was adopted to impose in an unprecedented fashion the most comprehensive regime of mandatory sanctions against Iraq.
- Shortly thereafter, the Security Council instituted a "maritime embargo" to strengthen the effectiveness of the sanctions regime, when it adopted on 25 August 1990 resolution 665(1990). A month 25 September .
- It is to be noted that before any sanctions resolution had been adopted, the United States took on 2 August 1990 immediate punitive economic measures against Iraq, by freezing Iraqi assets.
- For over nine years, the Security Council has maintained the most comprehensive embargo against Iraq without once referring to its legal obligation to act in accordance with human rights and humanitarian and the deaths of hundreds of thousands of children, women and the elderly, and the catastrophic consequences felt by the population.
- Under both the Charter and international law, the Security Council's enforcement powers are limited by human rights and humanitarian standards. Article 24 of the Charter directs the Council "to act in accordance with the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations" in the use of its authority to maintain peace and security. Among the most fundamental Purposes and Principles listed in Article (1) is the promotion of human rights. Indeed, the Preamble to the Charter begins by stating its determination "to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights and in the dignity and worth of the human person".
- From the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, to the Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1990, each declaration, treaty or covenant represents an elaboration upon the UN Charter's original vision of human rights, making the treaty principles binding on the Security Council through Article (24). The Security Council is under a duty to recognize, consider, and account for the impact of its activities on human rights.

- The Security Council has failed to live up its duties in the case of sanctions on Iraq. The sanctions regime, which is supposedly based on genocide conducted by bureaucratic organs in various countries and the UN Sanctions Committee .
- The Security Council flagrantly violated its functions and powers. Notwithstanding frequent statements of concern regarding the humanitarian situation in Iraq, the Council has failed to acknowledge its own legal responsibility to protect the rights of Iraqi civilians suffering under sanctions by failing to reduce or lift sanctions commensurate with the record of implementation by Iraq.
- The tragic loss of life in Iraq due to the embargo constitutes a massive violation of this most fundamental human right. The embargo inadequate standard of living, guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.  
This last Convention specifically recognizes that “ every child has the inherent right to life “ and calls on all states “ to ensure to the maximum extent possible the survival and development of the child“ and “to take appropriate measures to diminish infant and child mortality“.
- The inhuman destruction inflicted upon Iraq and the Iraqi people by the comprehensive embargo, the war and the continuation of the embargo despite the official cease-fire and the implementation by Iraq of the obligations imposed upon it, constitute “ genocide”.

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