

**Security Council**

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**Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations
Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission**

(for the period from 22 September 2000 to 27 March 2001)

I. Introduction

1. The present report gives an account of the activities of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) during the past six months in accordance with the mandate entrusted to it by the Security Council in resolutions 687 (1991) of 3 April 1991, 689 (1991) of 14 June 1991 and 806 (1993) of 5 February 1993.

II. Main developments

2. The situation in the demilitarized zone remained generally calm and UNIKOM functioned smoothly with the cooperation of both parties. UNIKOM continued to monitor the demilitarized zone from fixed observation posts and through patrols by land, sea and air. However, UNIKOM helicopter flights remained suspended on the Iraqi side as they have been since December 1998 (see S/1999/330, para. 2). In discharging its mandate, UNIKOM continued to visit ships docking in the port of Umm Qasr.

3. There were 267 violations of the demilitarized zone, of which 101 were ground violations, 12 were weapons violations, 11 were maritime violations and 143 were air violations. Of the ground violations, 78 occurred when a peaceful demonstration was staged by Bedouins (stateless Arabs) from 2 to 7 October 2000, near Abdali. Most of the other ground violations along the border involved Iraqi vehicles using the gravel road, which crosses in and out of Kuwaiti territory.

4. The weapons violations comprised seven cases when Iraqi men carrying weapons were observed in the demilitarized zone, one case when five Kuwaiti police vehicles entered the demilitarized zone with machine-guns mounted, three times when Iraqi patrol boats mounted with machine-guns entered the Khawr' Abd Allah waterway and once when an Iraqi boat equipped with four missile launchers entered the waterway.



5. The number of air violations of the demilitarized zone that were recorded increased from 6 during the previous reporting period to 143. The violations mostly involved aircraft heard or observed, but flying too high to be identified. A Gazelle helicopter was observed on three separate occasions, a Lynx-type helicopter with British colours once, an F-18 jet twice and a pair of F-14 jets once.

6. The reporting of air violations has been the subject of discussions between UNIKOM and the Iraqi authorities, who monitor overflights through national means and feel that UNIKOM should be reporting a higher number of violations and should identify aircraft by type and nationality. UNIKOM has explained to the Iraqi authorities that it cannot rely on inference or supposition in such a matter and that UNIKOM does not have the technical and intelligence capacity required for a positive identification. In any case, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America have made it clear that they continue to patrol a "no-fly-zone" in southern Iraq.

7. The 11 maritime violations involved Iraqi tugboats and patrol boats observed on the Kuwaiti side of the Khawr' Abd Allah.

8. During the reporting period, UNIKOM received 24 complaints, 19 from Iraq and 5 from Kuwait. Of the Iraqi complaints, 12 were about air violations, 2 were complaints about vehicles carrying military personnel on the Kuwaiti side of the demilitarized zone and 3 involved firing of small arms. UNIKOM was not able to verify these complaints except in one case of alleged small arms fire where the investigating team found empty shells in the vicinity of the area mentioned. One Iraqi complaint was about two large tents near a Kuwaiti police post. UNIKOM was informed by the Kuwaiti liaison officer that they were erected for a visit of a senior Kuwaiti official. Another Iraqi complaint, which could not be verified, involved two Kuwaitis in military uniform on motorcycles and armed with rifles. Of the Kuwaiti complaints, four were about Iraqis crossing the border into Kuwaiti territory, and one concerned the theft of scrap metal from an oil rig. UNIKOM was not able to confirm any of the Kuwaiti complaints.

9. In an incident on 30 November 2000, two United Nations military officers on their way from Kuwait City to Umm Qasr were pursued by an armed man in a car who discharged two shots. Subsequently, the Kuwaiti police informed UNIKOM that they had identified a suspect and that the incident appeared to be a prank carried out by an unstable youngster. Other incidents involved Iraqi children throwing stones at UNIKOM vehicles and observers, and the illegal entry into the UNIKOM compound at Umm Qasr of two Iraqi men holding false UNIKOM identity cards. On 15 February 2001, some 450 Iraqis staged a peaceful, carefully monitored demonstration in the centre of Safwan.

10. A high level of activity was observed at the oil installations on the Kuwaiti side of the demilitarized zone, particularly near Abdali. Iraqi oil production in the same vicinity also expanded considerably during the reporting period.

11. UNIKOM continued to facilitate the humanitarian activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross as necessary. It also carried out a number of casualty evacuations of Iraqi civilians injured by mine explosions.

12. UNIKOM maintained close and regular liaison with the authorities of both Iraq and Kuwait at various levels, including visits by the Force Commander to Baghdad and Kuwait City and through the UNIKOM liaison offices in the two capitals. The

Governments of both Kuwait and Iraq have continued to cooperate with the Mission in the conduct of its operations.

III. Organizational matters

13. As of March 2001, the overall strength of UNIKOM was 1,301, as follows:

(a) A total of 193 military observers, from Argentina (4), Austria (2), Bangladesh (5), Canada (6), China (11), Denmark (5), Fiji (7), Finland (5), France (11), Ghana (5), Greece (4), Hungary (6), India (6), Indonesia (5), Ireland (6), Italy (6), Kenya (3), Malaysia (5), Nigeria (5), Pakistan (6), Poland (6), Romania (5), the Russian Federation (11), Senegal (6), Singapore (5), Sweden (5), Thailand (5), Turkey (6), the United Kingdom (11), the United States (11), Uruguay (6) and Venezuela (3);

(b) An infantry battalion of 775 from Bangladesh;

(c) An engineering unit of 50 from Argentina;

(d) A logistics unit of 30 from Argentina;

(e) A helicopter unit of 35 from Bangladesh;

(f) A medical unit of 14 from Germany;

(g) A total of 204 civilian staff, of whom 52 were recruited internationally and 152 locally.

Major General John A. Vize of Ireland continued as Force Commander.

IV. Financial aspects

14. The General Assembly, in its resolution 54/18 B of 15 June 2000, appropriated the amount of \$52,710,270 gross for the maintenance of UNIKOM for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001, subject to review by the Security Council with regard to the question of termination or continuation of the Mission. Two thirds of the cost of the Mission, equivalent to \$31.8 million, is to be funded through voluntary contributions from the Government of Kuwait.

V. Observations

15. During the period under review, the situation along the border between Iraq and Kuwait remained generally quiet. UNIKOM continued to carry out its tasks smoothly, thereby contributing to the maintenance of calm and stability along the border. In undertaking these tasks, it continued to receive the cooperation of the Iraqi and Kuwaiti authorities. I recommend that the Mission be maintained.

16. In conclusion, I wish to pay tribute to Major General Vize and to the men and women under his command for the manner in which they have discharged their responsibilities. Their discipline and bearing have been of high order, reflecting credit on themselves, their countries and the United Nations.

