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Translated from Arabic

REPUBLIC OF IRAQ
Office of the Adviser at
the Presidency

Baghdad, 10 October 2002

Sirs,

I have the honour to refer to your joint letter dated 8 October 2002 and should like, in this regard, to make the following points:

1. The content of the joint press statement on 1 October 2002 and of your written summary to the Security Council of 3 October 2002 coincides with what was agreed during the Vienna talks concerning the practical arrangements.
2. We confirm our full readiness to receive the advance team of UNMOVIC and the IAEA on 19 October 2002 as initially agreed with you. We also confirm the principle referred to in the joint press statement of 1 October 2002 that many of the practical arrangements applied during the period 1991-1998 remain viable and useful and could be reapplied, and that some past practical arrangements would be modified. You might agree with us that some of the problems which may be encountered during our future work relating to the practical arrangements could be solved by consultation and in a professional and objective manner, whenever there is a practical need to do so, as was the case during our talks in Vienna, and in a way that helps to achieve the work better and more quickly and accelerates the lifting of the unjust embargo imposed on Iraq.

Your affirmations and assurances that UNMOVIC's practices would be different from those of the previous Special Commission and that UNMOVIC would be professional and fair and would respect Iraq's sovereignty, security and dignity and would not allow the use of its mechanisms to fabricate crises, for provocative purposes or for spying, have greatly contributed to confidence-building. We confirm our willingness to co-operate in all areas in order to avoid any problems in implementation like those that occurred with the previous Special Commission.

Mr. Hans Blix
Executive Chairman
United Nations Monitoring, Verification and
Inspection Commission

Mr. Mohamed ElBaradei
Director General IAEA

3. I should also like to point out that we proposed that you bear the costs of the services, equipment, escorts and protection, as well as other support activities to be provided by Iraq to UNMOVIC and the IAEA, because we believe that if these services are paid for they will be efficient and expeditious. This would in turn facilitate the work of both organizations and expedite the fulfilment of their tasks. Both sides would benefit because the services involve activities undertaken by persons and agencies from the private sector, and by persons and agencies from the State sector that are self-funded. I should like to mention in this regard that the proposed salaries for the work done by persons and for services provided by the Iraqi side would be paid from the revenue derived from Iraqi oil exports. I should also like to point out that we submitted this view as a proposal and not as a condition.
4. With regard to the security of the UNMOVIC and IAEA air operations, I should like to mention that the military acts of aggression waged by the American and British air forces in the two illegitimate no-fly zones make it impossible, from a practical point of view, to guarantee the safety of the air operations of the two organizations in those two zones that have been imposed by the United States and Britain in contravention of the relevant Security Council resolutions. If the two illegitimate no-fly zones are abolished, there will be no problem in guaranteeing the safety of the air operations of the two organizations in the whole of Iraq's airspace. The last paragraph in the joint press statement of 1 October 2002 constitutes an accurate summary of our position.

In conclusion, I should like to recall that our initiative to allow the return of the inspectors to Iraq unconditionally, as indicated in the letter of 16 September 2002 from the Iraqi Minister of Foreign Affairs to the United Nations Secretary-General, was an expression of our desire for the full implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions and the agreements, obligations and arrangements adopted previously and was based on the statement by the United Nations Secretary-General to the General Assembly on 12 September 2002, in which he pointed out that such a decision by the Government of the Republic of Iraq would be an indispensable first step towards providing assurance that Iraq no longer possessed weapons of mass destruction, and an equally important step towards finding a comprehensive solution that includes the ending of the sanctions imposed on Iraq and the implementation of other provisions in the relevant Security Council resolutions in a timely manner.

The Secretary-General, in his message to the Security Council on 16 September 2002, stressed those principles, as well as the commitment of the Security Council and of all Member States of the United Nations to all the objectives and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant Security Council resolutions.

Accept, Sirs, etc.,

(signed) Dr. Amir Hamoudi Al-Saadi Adviser
Presidency