

Verification in Iraq Pursuant to UNSC Resolutions

Objective

To provide credible assurance that Iraq is complying with the provisions of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 687 (1991) and other relevant resolutions.

Operations

Upon resumption of inspections in Iraq, the main goals were to: re-establish rapidly the Agency's knowledge base of Iraq's nuclear capabilities; ensure that key facilities had not been reopened; verify the location of nuclear material and relevant non-nuclear material; and identify and begin interviewing key Iraqi personnel.

Key Issues and Highlights

- After the adoption of Resolution 1409 (the 'Goods Review List') in May 2002, the Agency started to review and assess all contracts for the export of goods to Iraq in the context of the United Nations 'Oil for Food' programme.
- Following a series of talks between Iraq and the United Nations and the adoption by the Security Council of Resolution 1441 on 8 November 2002, the Agency was able to resume its mandated activities in Iraq on 27 November 2002, after the suspension of its resolution related field activities for almost four years (Fig. 1).
- In 2002, extrabudgetary programme expenditures amounted to \$2 746 110.

During the first month of inspections good progress was made in re-establishing knowledge of Iraq's nuclear capability, with the bulk of the 80 inspections taking place at State-run or private industrial facilities, research centres and universities.

In carrying out on-site inspections, the Agency's inspectors employed a variety of tools to accomplish their mission. Taking advantage of the 'signature' of radioactive materials, Iraq's rivers, canals and lakes were monitored to detect the presence of certain radioisotopes. In addition, a broad range of environmental samples and surface swipe samples were collected. Carborne and hand held gamma surveys for the detection of undeclared nuclear material were also reinstated.



FIG. 1. Talks between the Agency, UNMOVIC and Iraq at the Agency's Headquarters in Vienna.

Resolution 1441 clearly gave the Agency and UNMOVIC the authority to determine modalities and venues for conducting interviews with Iraqi officials and other persons. In this context, scientists, managers and technicians were interviewed, primarily in the workplace and during announced inspections and in pre-arranged meetings. The information gained during the inspections has been helpful in assessing the completeness and accuracy of Iraq's declaration.

Analysis

As was the case in previous years, the Agency's analytical activities continued to include in-depth analysis of the extensive documentation acquired through the inspection process. This resulted in refinement — but not alteration — of its technically coherent picture of Iraq's clandestine nuclear programme and nuclear related capabilities as of December 1998.

The Agency also reviewed and assessed all available post-1998 information (for example, publications by Member States, open source data, and high resolution commercial satellite imagery). After Iraq provided its semi-annual declaration in early October 2002 and its

“Currently Accurate, Full and Complete Declaration” in early December 2002, analytical activities focused on the evaluation of these declarations, merged with all inspection findings, in order to accelerate the assessment of Iraq's nuclear threat and adapt the planned inspection programme to identified priorities.

Export–Import Operations

In Resolution 1409 (2002), the Security Council requested the Agency to evaluate applications submitted to the Office of the Iraq Programme (OIP) related to the export of products and commodities to Iraq. The Agency is responsible for identifying nuclear related items referred to in paragraph 24 of Resolution 687 (1991) or in Section D (Nuclear) of the Goods Review List (GRL)¹, to determine whether such items are either prohibited or require prior approval by the Security Council Committee established by Resolution 661 (1990) (the “Sanctions Committee”). Close co-ordination of efforts with UNMOVIC and OIP permitted the establishment of an efficient mechanism for performing this task. The Agency is required to complete its evaluation of each application within ten days. Over 6700 applications were processed between May and December 2002.

¹ The Goods Review List (GRL) (S/2002/515) is referred to in Resolution 1409 (2002). Section D of the GRL identifies the relevant nuclear related items. This section is identical to the list of nuclear related items to which the export–import mechanism, approved in Security Council Resolution 1051 (1996), applies as well as to Annex 3 of the Agency's Ongoing Monitoring and Verification (OMV) Plan approved in Security Council Resolution 715 (1991), as updated in 2001 (S/2001/561).