

# 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.

## Status of Verification Activities

After the resumption of activities in Iraq under its UNSC mandate on 27 November 2002, the Agency was able to conduct field activities until 17 March 2003, when its activities were suspended in view of the impending military action (Fig. 1). As of 17 March 2003, the Agency did not find in Iraq any evidence of the revival of a nuclear programme prohibited under United Nations resolutions 687 (1991) and 707 (1991). However, the time available to the Agency before inspections were suspended was not sufficient to permit it to complete its overall review and assessment.

On 22 May 2003, the UNSC adopted resolution 1483, in which it expressed its intention to revisit the mandate of the Agency under relevant resolutions. However, the Council did not take up the matter in 2003.

## Operations

During the three and a half months of operation, Agency teams carried out 237 inspections at some 148 locations, including 27 new locations. More than 1600 different buildings were inspected. Inspections were undertaken at State run and private industrial facilities, research centres, trading companies and universities. These were locations where Iraq's significant technical capabilities were known to have existed in the past or new sites suggested by remote monitoring and analysis or identified by other States. The Agency sought to determine if anything relevant to the revival of nuclear capabilities had occurred



FIG. 1. Briefing on Iraq for the United Nations Security Council in New York, 7 March 2003. Participating in the debate are (from left): Mr. Jack Straw, Foreign Secretary, United Kingdom; Mr. Colin Powell, Secretary of State, USA; Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei, Director General, IAEA; and Dr. Hans Blix, Executive Chairman, UNMOVIC.

in Iraq over the past four years during which inspections were interrupted. Important special activities included verifying the use of aluminium tubes in rockets and the disposition of certain high explosives, and clarifying the purpose of construction work at former sites of interest.

A broad variety of nuclear and non-nuclear material, environmental, soil and swipe samples (85 in total) were collected from various locations across Iraq. Previously installed air particulate samplers, removed from Iraq in December 2002, were refurbished and reintroduced in January 2003. Land and vehicle based surveys, as well as hand-held radiometric (gamma) screening, commenced in early December 2002, and over a period of 75 days the Agency conducted 125 surveys (separate from inspections) at State, industrial and military locations as well as in urban areas.

The Agency also implemented a programme aimed at understanding Iraq's procurement patterns. In addition to ad hoc inspections related to procurement activities, an Agency team of technical experts, customs investigators and computer forensic specialists conducted a series of inspections at private and government owned trading companies and at procurement departments within government manufacturing facilities. During these inspections, approximately 4000 pages were copied and 100 gigabytes of computer data retrieved.

## Analysis

During the first half of 2003, the Agency's activities were focused on the analysis and assessment of inspection findings, the generation of new inspection priorities and the consolidation of all information made available to the Agency, including that provided by Member States (the nature and extent of which remained limited).

Although the time available before inspections were suspended was not sufficient to permit it to complete its overall review and assessment, the Agency was able to significantly update its understanding of Iraq's remaining nuclear capabilities. It did not find any evidence or plausible indication of the revival

of a nuclear programme prohibited under UNSC resolutions 687 (1991) and 707 (1991).

In the second half of the year, the Secretariat office responsible for the implementation of the Agency's resolution-related mandate focused its activities on: analysing the wealth of additional information collected during inspections; consolidating its information assets and collecting and analysing a variety of new information, including satellite imagery, updating its knowledge of the formerly relevant facilities in Iraq; refining its plan for resumed verification activities in view of the many uncertainties of the evolving situation in Iraq; and evaluating lessons learnt through its past experience in Iraq.

## Export-Import Operations

Starting in May 2002 with the adoption of resolution 1409, the UNSC 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 was 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)<sup>1</sup>, to determine whether such items were either prohibited or required prior approval by the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) (the "Sanctions Committee"). Over 3200 applications were processed between January and May 2003, when the Council decided, in resolution 1483 (2003), to lift the sanctions, terminating that part of the Agency mandate. ■

<sup>1</sup> 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 UNSC resolution 1051 (1996), applies, as well as to Annex 3 of the Agency's Ongoing Monitoring and Verification (OMV) Plan approved in UNSC resolution 715 (1991), as updated in 2001 (S/2001/561).