

# Verification in Iraq Pursuant to UNSC Resolutions

## Objective

To provide credible assurance to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) that Iraq is complying with the provisions of UNSC Resolution 687 (1991) and other relevant resolutions, through the implementation of a system of verification able to detect, in a timely manner, prohibited equipment, materials and activities.

## Status of Verification Activities

Since 17 March 2003, the Agency has not been in a position to implement its mandate in Iraq under the relevant UNSC resolutions. In resolution 1546 (2004), the UNSC reaffirmed its intention to revisit the Agency's mandate in Iraq.

During the year the Agency focused its activities on:

- Conducting investigations of sensitive and often contaminated items that have been exported from Iraq;
- Analysing the wealth of additional information collected during inspections;
- Consolidating its information assets, collecting and analysing a variety of new information, including satellite imagery, and updating its knowledge of the formerly relevant facilities in Iraq (Fig. 1);
- Refining its plan for resumed verification activities in view of the many uncertainties concerning the situation in Iraq;
- Evaluating lessons learned through its past experience in Iraq. ■



FIG. 1. An example of satellite imagery used for change detection analysis, which involves comparing a site on two different dates in order to update the Agency's knowledge with regard to the site infrastructure and contents. The picture on the left is from the QuickBird satellite at an altitude of 450 km, while the image on the right is from the Ikonos satellite at an altitude of about 680 km (copyright: QuickBird DigitalGlobe; and Ikonos Space Imaging).