



GC

International Atomic Energy Agency

GENERAL CONFERENCE

GC(XXXVI)/1014
3 September 1992

GENERAL Distr.
Original: ENGLISH

Thirty-sixth regular session
Item 24 of the provisional agenda
(GC(XXXVI)/1001)

IRAQ'S NON-COMPLIANCE WITH ITS SAFEGUARDS OBLIGATIONS (GC(XXXV)/RES/568)

1. On 18 July 1991 the Board of Governors, after considering a report by the Director General on non-compliance by Iraq with its obligations under its safeguards agreement with the Agency (INFCIRC/172), adopted a resolution (contained in document GOV/2532) in which it inter alia requested the Director General to keep the Board and the General Conference informed of progress in the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 687 (1991).
2. On 20 September 1991 the General Conference adopted resolution GC(XXXV)/RES/568, in operative paragraph 5 of which it requested the Director General inter alia to report to the Board and to the thirty-sixth General Conference on his efforts to implement Security Council resolutions 687 and 707 (1991).
3. Pursuant to the above-mentioned resolutions, the Director General has informed the Board continuously about the Agency's activities in Iraq and copies of the inspection mission reports transmitted by the Agency to the Security Council have been circulated to the Board and to the Agency's Member States.
4. The appended Note by the Director General on the "The Agency's activities concerning Iraq in 1991-92 under United Nations Security Council resolutions 687, 707 and 715 (1991)" has been prepared with a view to updating the information provided last year to the General Conference in document GC(XXXV)/INF/299. The Note, in the form of a chronology, gives an overview of major events occurring during the period September 1991 - August 1992, with references to the relevant documents. It is also being transmitted to the Board of Governors (in document GOV/2608).

**THE AGENCY'S ACTIVITIES CONCERNING IRAQ IN 1991-92 UNDER UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 687, 707 AND 715 (1991)**

Note by the Director General

1. The Agency's activities in Iraq under United Nations Security Council resolutions 687 and 707 (1991) - and also Security Council resolution 715 (1991) - continued in the period under review. As requested by the Security Council, the Agency is reporting, through the Secretary-General, to the Council on the fulfillment of the tasks placed upon it. The Director General has informed the Board of Governors continuously about the activities carried out in Iraq. Agency inspection mission reports, containing detailed descriptions of inspectors' work and findings, have been circulated to the Board of Governors and to the Agency's Member States.
2. The attached chronology gives an overview of major events that occurred during the period September 1991 - August 1992, with references to relevant documents. It provides an updating of document GC(XXXV)/INF/299, which was submitted last year to the thirty-fifth regular session of the General Conference and described - inter alia - the activities during the first four inspection missions carried out by the Agency under Security Council resolution 687 (1991).

CHRONOLOGY

1. The fifth Agency inspection mission under Security Council resolution 687 took place from 14 to 20 September 1991. It was essentially devoted to the completion of activities initiated during previous inspections. Gram quantities of plutonium, which had been clandestinely produced from diverted uranium and later declared to inspectors, were packaged and removed from Iraq. Large numbers of samples were taken for analysis. An attempt was made to learn more about the Iraqi chemical enrichment programme. A report on the fifth inspection mission can be found in document GOV/INF/628.
2. At its thirty-fifth regular session, on 20 September 1991, the Agency's General Conference adopted resolution GC(XXXV)/RES/568 strongly condemning Iraq's non-compliance with its nuclear non-proliferation obligations, including its safeguards agreements with the Agency; demanding Iraq's immediate and full compliance with these obligations; commending the Agency for its efforts in implementing Security Council resolutions 687 and 707; and requesting the Director General to report the views of the General Conference to the Secretary-General and to report to the Board of Governors and to the thirty-sixth General Conference on his efforts to implement Security Council resolutions 687 and 707.
3. The sixth Agency inspection mission under Security Council resolution 687 took place from 23 to 30 September 1991. It yielded conclusive evidence that Iraq had had a major programme to design and develop nuclear weapons, closely integrated into its programmes to produce enriched uranium. This information was contained in documents discovered at the Iraqi Atomic Energy Commission's Design Centre and at the headquarters of the Petrochemical 3 (PC3) project (a code name for the weaponization programme), both located in downtown Baghdad. These documents indicated the existence of organized, highly secret theoretical and experimental work aimed at designing implosion-type nuclear weapons. Serious confrontations between the Agency team and the Iraqi side took place at the Design Centre on 23 September 1991, when documents taken by the inspectors were forcibly removed from the United Nations vehicles (and only in part returned to the team at its hotel the following night) and when the team was detained (for four days, 24-27 September) in the parking lot of the PC3 headquarters before being allowed to leave with a selection of documents taken from the building. A report on the sixth inspection mission can be found in document GOV/INF/630.

4. On 11 October 1991 the Security Council adopted resolution 715 (1991), in which it inter alia approved the Agency's plan for the future ongoing monitoring and verification of Iraq's compliance with the requirements of resolutions 687 and 707 and requested the Director General to carry out the plan, with the assistance and co-operation of the Special Commission.
5. The seventh Agency inspection mission under Security Council resolution 687 took place from 11 to 22 October 1991. The Iraqi side acknowledged the existence of the weaponization programme, stating that the programme had aimed at identifying the requirements for designing a workable weapon but that the political decision to proceed to the actual development and assembly of a weapon had not been taken. The Al Atheer-Hatteen site was identified by the team as Iraq's primary nuclear development site. It was admitted that work had been done at the Al Qa Qaa site on explosive lens development. Iraqi scientists had conducted experimental research on the gaseous diffusion uranium enrichment process, trying to develop suitable barriers. These studies had begun in 1982 and had been phased out - it was stated - in 1987, when the research effort was reoriented towards centrifuge enrichment.
6. On 21 October 1991 the Director General addressed the United Nations General Assembly. He presented the Agency's Annual Report, which included a detailed account of the Agency's actions in Iraq under Security Council resolution 687, and elaborated on the lessons learned in Iraq and the progress of the non-proliferation regime.
7. The eighth Agency inspection mission under Security Council resolution 687 took place from 11 to 18 November 1991. The main activities concerned the identification of manufacturers of key equipment procured by Iraq for its uranium enrichment programme (with persistent efforts by Iraq to conceal such information); initiation of the systematic destruction of components of the electromagnetic isotope separators and other basic equipment relevant to the electromagnetic isotope separation (EMIS) and the centrifuge enrichment programme; completion of the verification of the nuclear material at Tuwaiha; and discussion with the counterpart to clarify discrepancies in the nuclear material balance. A report on the eighth inspection mission can be found in document GOV/INF/641.
8. On 15 and 17 November 1991, in the course of the eighth inspection mission, all fresh highly enriched uranium of Soviet origin, containing a total of 11.3 kg of U-235, was removed from Iraq in two consignments with the full co-operation of the Iraqi authorities. The airlifting operation was arranged through a contract between the USSR Ministry of Atomic Power and Industry and the Agency.

9. On 20 November 1991 the Iraqi authorities handed over to the Baghdad office of the Special Commission a set of five tables in Arabic (52 pages in all) with information relevant to the long-term monitoring plan which was required of Iraq under resolution 715. A supplement to the fourth table presented on 13 January 1992 to the Chief Inspector of the ninth Agency inspection team updated the information on the number of radioactive sources located at Tuwaitha. Finally, on 14 January 1992 a sixth table listing nuclear equipment was handed over to the Agency by the Iraqi authorities. An assessment of the translated tables led to the conclusion that the requirements under resolution 715 had been only partially fulfilled and that additional information was needed. This fact was brought to the attention of the Iraqi authorities, who promised to provide the necessary additional information by the summer of 1992. This information was still due at the end of August 1992.

10. On 5 December 1991 the Director General transmitted to the Secretary-General the first semi-annual report on the implementation by the Agency of the plan for the destruction, removal or rendering harmless of the items specified in paragraph 12 of resolution 687; such reports have to be submitted every six months after the adoption of resolution 699 of 17 June 1991. A copy of the Director General's report can be found in United Nations document S/23295 of 17 December 1991.

11. The ninth Agency inspection mission under resolution 687 took place from 11 to 14 January 1992. It was prompted by information supplied to the Agency by the German Government concerning materials and equipment procured by Iraq from German companies. The Government authorities noted that large quantities of stock materials and components needed in the manufacturing of gas centrifuges for the production of enriched uranium had been shipped to Iraq in the late 1980s. This information was discussed with Iraqi counterparts who, subsequent to the discussion, admitted that most of the items in question had been procured but insisted that they had been destroyed before the beginning of nuclear inspections in Iraq under resolution 687 - and therefore did not need to be declared. In addition, they declared 100 tonnes of special high-strength steel (maraging steel), sufficient for the production of several thousand centrifuge rotors and rotor internal fittings. It was stated that the special properties of this steel had been altered by melting before the beginning of the nuclear inspections and that the Iraqi side had therefore felt no obligation to declare it. These admissions added missing pieces to a still incomplete picture of the centrifuge separation programme, and contributed to a better understanding of this part of the enrichment programme. Also, they illustrated the fact that inspection teams are still in the discovery phase of implementing resolution 687 and that the Iraqi authorities have not yet revealed all aspects of Iraq's nuclear programme. A report on the ninth inspection mission can be found in document GOV/INF/647.

17. On 11 April 1992 the Director General transmitted to the Secretary-General a report on the implementation of the Agency's plan for future ongoing monitoring and verification of Iraq's compliance with paragraph 12 of resolution 687; such reports have to be submitted whenever requested by the Security Council, and in any event at least every six months after the adoption of resolution 715. A copy of the Director General's report can be found in United Nations document S/23813.

18. The twelfth Agency inspection mission under Security Council resolution 687 took place from 26 May to 4 June 1992. The destruction of key technical installations and equipment at the Al Atheer-Al Hatteen site was completed. Three more buildings, with a combined surface area of approximately 11 000 square meters, and some remaining equipment items were destroyed. At the request of the inspection team, the Iraqi side began preparations for the destruction of selected buildings at the Tarmiya and Ash Sharqat EMIS sites. Related actions associated with the dismantling of utilities and ventilation systems and the reduction in delivered electrical power to the sites were also carried out. More than 50% of the necessary work had been done by the end of the mission. As had been the case at the Al Atheer-Al Hatteen site, the Iraqi side provided all equipment, materials and manpower necessary for ensuring efficient fulfillment of the destruction plan under the supervision of the Agency team. Despite repeated requests for information by inspection teams, the Iraqi side was clearly implementing a Government decision not to identify the suppliers of the materials and components related to Iraq's centrifuge programme. The Agency Action Team will have to seek information concerning this "grey area" through other avenues. The work of identifying the machine tools and gaining a better understanding of the overall capabilities existing at the facilities declared by the Iraqi side to have been involved in the Iraqi Atomic Energy Commission's programme was completed; it related directly to establishing the basis for the longer-term monitoring programme. The figure for undeclared nuclear material processed in a safeguarded fuel fabrication facility, in violation of the safeguards agreement between Iraq and the Agency, was revised upwards by the Iraqi side - from 19 kilograms to approximately 60 kilograms of natural uranium dioxide. The Agency's Board of Governors had been informed of the non-compliance in question in July and August 1991. The last quantity of fresh highly enriched uranium fuel remaining in Iraq (473 grams of U-235 of French origin) was removed by the twelfth inspection team. Through written questions, meetings and interviews, some clarification of issues related to Iraqi work on weaponization and uranium enrichment and to Iraqi nuclear material declarations was obtained. Open issues relating to the centrifuge enrichment programme and the extent of the chemical enrichment work remained. The Iraqi side's co-operation in implementing destruction plans at Al Atheer-Al Hatteen, Tarmiya and Ash Sharqat cannot be faulted and should be noted. However, in the course of the twelfth mission there was a definite stiffening

in the Iraqi attitude to working with the inspection team. There were numerous attempts to prohibit or limit the taking of photographs and the placing of seals. Meetings, transportation and other activities were often slow to be organized. The Iraqi explanation was that the active co-operation extended during previous inspection missions had not resulted in an improvement in the sanctions situation. A report on the twelfth inspection mission can be found in document GOV/INF/662.

19. On 4 June 1992 the Chief Inspector of the twelfth Agency team was given a copy (in Arabic) of a revised version of the "full, final and complete" report on the Iraqi nuclear programme before and after the adoption of resolution 687; an English version was later provided to the Chief Inspector of the thirteenth Agency team. While a full assessment of the contents of this report is not yet completed, there still appear to be lacunae regarding certain areas of the programme and some inconsistencies in the nuclear material balance. It is hoped that further consultations with the Iraqi side will help to fill in what is missing.
20. On 5 June 1992 the Director General transmitted to the Secretary-General the second semi-annual report on the implementation by the Agency of the plan for the destruction, removal or rendering harmless of the items specified in paragraph 12 of resolution 687. A copy of the Director General's report can be found in United Nations document S/24110 of 17 June 1992.
21. The thirteenth Agency inspection mission under Security Council resolution 687 took place from 14 to 21 July 1992. Work begun during the previous mission on destroying key installations at the Tarmiya and Ash Sharqat EMIS sites was largely completed. Eight buildings (four at each site) were destroyed, including the buildings intended to house the 600-mm EMIS units (i.e. beta stage separators). The Iraqi side was requested to complete the few remaining activities before the end of August for verification by the fourteenth Agency team. The maraging steel pieces stored at Iskandariya were individually identified and photographed; they will be transported to a foundry near Basra, where the pieces will be re-melted and diluted with equal amounts of carbon steel during a future mission. Additional technical data and contract numbers necessary for identifying or confirming the identities of manufacturers/procurement routes of the centrifuge-related furnaces and the electron beam welders were collected. As had been the case during previous missions, the Iraqi side provided all equipment, materials and manpower necessary for ensuring efficient implementation of the destruction plan under the supervision of the Agency team. A report on the thirteenth inspection mission can be found in document GOV/INF/663.

22. At the time this report was being prepared, the fourteenth Agency inspection mission under United Nations resolution 687 was scheduled for 31 August - 7 September 1992.