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COMMUNICATION OF 15 SEPTEMBER 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

The text of a communication dated 15 September 1999 from the Permanent Mission of Iraq, attaching a letter from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iraq is herewith reproduced for the attention of the General Conference.

“The Embassy of the Republic of Iraq presents its compliments to the Office of the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency and is pleased to transmit herewith a letter from Mr. Mohamed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, to Mr. Mohamed ElBaradei, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

“The Embassy of the Republic of Iraq takes this opportunity of reiterating to the Office of the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency the assurances of its highest esteem.”

<p>For reasons of economy, this document has been printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of documents to meetings.</p>

**TEXT OF A LETTER
FROM THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF IRAQ**

“It is well known that Iraq has attached and still attaches importance to the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency and endeavours to pay its assessed and voluntary contributions in a timely manner. However, the comprehensive sanctions which were imposed on it on 6 August 1990 have completely paralysed its capabilities. Its foreign balances have been frozen and, against its will, every possibility of fulfilling its obligations has been blocked. Moreover, the continuation of those sanctions for more than nine years is preventing the allocation of funds for the payment of Iraq’s annual contributions to the International Atomic Energy Agency and other international organizations - not to mention the allocation of sufficient funds for the purchase of the basic necessities required for the free and decent life which the Iraqi people are longing and striving for, notwithstanding the oil for food and medicine programme, which meets no more than 27% of those basic necessities.

“I should like to draw your attention to General Conference resolution GC(42)/RES/4 regarding the criteria and guidelines for consideration of requests submitted by Member States for the restoration of voting rights contained in document GC(42)/10, and especially to the emphasis on the difficulties faced by the affected Member State in obtaining revenues and in meeting its domestic and international financial obligations, for numerous reasons, including circumstances beyond its control, with the consequent repeated submission of requests for the restoration of the right to vote.

“Accordingly, we request the restoration of Iraq’s voting rights on the grounds that the delay in the payment by Iraq of its financial contributions is due to compelling circumstances beyond its control. At the same time, we express the hope that you will support this request and that the General Conference, at its forthcoming 43rd session, will consider it objectively and impartially.”