



GC

GC(44)/INF/15
15 September 2000

International Atomic Energy Agency

GENERAL CONFERENCE

GENERAL Distr.
ENGLISH
Original: ARABIC

Forty-fourth regular session
Sub-item 5(c) of the provisional agenda
(GC(44)/1)

TEXT OF COMMUNICATION OF 8 SEPTEMBER 2000 RECEIVED FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY CONCERNING RESTORATION OF VOTING RIGHTS

The text of a letter dated 8 September 2000 submitted by the Permanent Mission of Iraq is reproduced for the attention of the General Conference

“Subject: Restoration of Iraq’s voting rights

“Iraq joined the Agency in 1959 and has played a “prominent” role in supporting and enhancing the Agency’s activities. Iraq was one of the principal States that over the years fulfilled their financial obligations towards the Agency and it did not previously have any financial debts to the Agency. However, since August 1990, following the unjust embargo imposed upon Iraq and the freezing of all its assets in international banks, it has been debarred by the Security Council’s unjust resolutions from transferring any amount in hard currency to pay its financial contributions to the United Nations and international organizations, including the International Atomic Energy Agency.

“The unjust embargo measures are still being applied. They are measures of force majeure nature that are beyond Iraq’s control and prevent it from fulfilling its financial obligations to the Agency. Since the suspension of its voting rights, Iraq has been requesting the Agency and the General Conference to restore those rights. Iraq’s Foreign Minister addressed a letter to the Agency’s Director General on 30 March 2000 on the restoration of Iraq’s voting rights; that was the second letter sent by the Minister, as he had already sent a letter on the subject dated 2 September 1999 during the forty-third session of the General Conference. Those letters clarified the real reasons why Iraq, as a result of the embargo, has been unable to fulfil its financial obligations to the Agency and other international organizations.

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“The criteria and the guidelines adopted by the Agency’s General Conference at its forty-second session, contained in document GC(42)/10, allow for the restoration of the voting rights of States facing financial difficulties as a result of force majeure circumstances. Since all the reasons contained in paragraph 2 of that document are applicable to Iraq, as clarified by Iraq’s Foreign Minister in the aforementioned letters, we hope that this request will be granted; that the General Conference will consider the matter objectively and impartially; and that the Conference will avoid applying the double standards which certain States used during the General Conference in the case of Iraq to deprive it of its voting rights, which it needs to defend its rights as a member of the Agency, while States in the same situation were dealt with differently.

“The delegation of Iraq would like this request to be granted and taken into consideration when the subject of restoration of voting rights is discussed by the General Committee during the forty-fourth session of the Agency’s General Conference.”
