



International Atomic Energy Agency

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**TEXT OF COMMUNICATION OF 21 AUGUST 2001
RECEIVED FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ
TO THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY
CONCERNING RESTORATION OF VOTING RIGHTS**

The text of a letter dated 21 August 2001 submitted by the Permanent Mission of Iraq and addressed to the Director General is reproduced herewith for the attention of the General Conference.

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.

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ
Vienna

21 August 2001

Sir,

Since Iraq joined the IAEA in 1959 it has played a prominent role in supporting and promoting the Agency's activities. It has always been one of the first States in fulfilling its financial obligations over the years and was never in debt to the Agency. But the unjust sweeping sanctions imposed on Iraq since 2 August 1990 and the freezing of its assets in international banks have rendered unavailable any sums to pay its financial contributions to the United Nations, the IAEA and other international and regional organizations.

These coercive measures, which are beyond Iraq's control, are still in place and prevent it from fulfilling its obligations towards the Agency. As the Minister of Foreign Affairs indicated in his two letters dated 2 September 1999 and 30 March 2000 concerning the restoration of Iraq's voting rights, the criteria and principles adopted by the General Conference at its 42nd session and reproduced in document GC(42)/10 allow States facing financial hardship beyond their control to have their voting rights restored, and since the conditions stipulated in paragraph 2 of the above document apply to Iraq, we take it that our request will be favourably received by the General Conference and that fair-minded States will distance themselves from the double standards which the United States and the United Kingdom attempt to impose on the Conference to the detriment of Iraq for political reasons. Restoring Iraq's voting rights will allow it to exercise its activities as an effective member of the Agency, especially since the question of restoration of voting rights has been dealt with objectively and fairly in the case of some States, contrary to what happened with Iraq.

In view of the above, we confirm our request that Iraq's voting rights be restored on the basis that its delay in paying its contributions results from conditions beyond its control. Iraq will pay all its arrears as soon as the conditions of total blockade imposed on it are removed. We know that you will support our request and that the 45th General Conference of the Agency will consider Iraq's request objectively and impartially.

We would appreciate your circulating this letter as an official document of the 45th General Conference of the Agency.

Accept, Sir, etc.,

(signed)

Chargé-d'Affaires a.i.
(seal)