



International Atomic Energy Agency

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**COMMUNICATION DATED 27 JANUARY 1994 RECEIVED FROM THE
RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KUWAIT TO THE
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY
REFERRING TO DOCUMENT INFCIRC/425**

The letter, reproduced in the Annex hereto, from the Resident Representative of Kuwait to the International Atomic Energy Agency dated 27 January 1994, together with its attachment, is being circulated to Member States at his request.

PERMANENT MISSION OF KUWAIT
Vienna

No.: 3/45T-94

27 January 1994

Sir,

I refer to the letter of 27 December 1993 from the Alternate to the Resident Representative of Iraq to the International Atomic Energy Agency concerning a news report, circulated by the Egyptian Middle East News Agency (MENA) and attributed to a responsible Kuwaiti source in the Ministry of Public Health, stating that nuclear radiation had been detected in Iraqi military equipment left behind by the Iraqi army near the Ali Al-Salem Air Base in Kuwait. I should like to inform you that this report has no basis in fact. The competent department (the department responsible for protection of the environment) in the Kuwaiti Ministry of Public Health has denied any statement having been made by any responsible person in the Ministry to the effect that non-natural radioactive isotopes had been found in Kuwait. Immediately after the liberation of Kuwait, the above-mentioned department carried out measurements of radioactive contamination levels in the Iraqi military equipment destroyed during the liberation war. All this equipment was found to be uncontaminated from the scientific point of view, i.e. the measurements were within the internationally accepted limits (see attachment).

I should be grateful to you if you would circulate this letter as an official document of the Agency.

Accept, Sir, etc.

(signed) Faisal Rashed Al-Ghais
Resident Representative of Kuwait
to the International Atomic Energy Agency

H.E. H. Blix
Director General
IAEA, Vienna

Attachment

In connection with the news report circulated by the Egyptian Middle East News Agency on 30 November 1993, based on a responsible Kuwaiti source in the Ministry of Health, to the effect that nuclear radiation had been detected in Iraqi military equipment left behind by the Iraqi army in Kuwait, we wish to make the following clarification:

1. The authority responsible in the Ministry of Health for the protection of the environment from radiation is the Department for Protection Against Radiation. This Department did not make any statement reporting the presence of non-natural radioactive isotopes in Kuwait;
2. Furthermore, immediately after the liberation of Kuwait, the Department for Protection Against Radiation carried out measurements of radiation contamination levels in the Iraqi military equipment destroyed during the liberation war, all of which was found to be uncontaminated from the scientific point of view, i.e. the measurements were within the internationally accepted limits, and constituted no public health hazard;
3. The results indicated no internal or external exposure, nor any contamination of soil, the surrounding environment or within residential areas in general. The Department for Protection Against Radiation carries out round-the-clock measurements of radiation in the air and weekly measurements in the soil, in addition to measurements of radioactive substances in foodstuffs and water;
4. The subject was discussed with consultants specialized in environmental matters during their visit to Kuwait. They confirmed the correctness of the results obtained by the Department for Protection Against Radiation in this regard;
5. The statement about radiation exposure resulting from uranium comes from irresponsible sources and is inconsistent with the truth.

(signed) Dr. Yusuf Yaqub Baqir
Director, Department for
Protection Against
Radiation

19 January 1994