



S-0043-0002-158-00003

Expanded Number **S-0043-0002-158-00003**

External ID

Title

Item-in-KAA: DPA- Security Council Matters - General (Oct - Dec) 2001

Date Created

Date Registered

Date Closed

17/11/2006 at 11:17 AM

17/11/2006

Primary Contact

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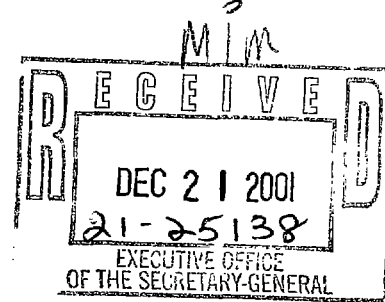
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. S. Iqbal Riza
A: Chef de Cabinet
Executive Office of the Secretary-General

DATE: 20 December 2001

THROUGH:
S/C DE:

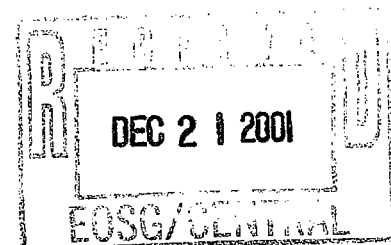
FROM: Joseph Stephanides
DE: Director
Security Council Affairs Division



SUBJECT: Summary of the proceedings of the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) concerning the situation between Iraq and Kuwait

Attached, please find for the information of the Secretary-General a summary of the proceedings of the above-mentioned Committee at its 228th meeting held on 19 December 2001.

cc: The Deputy Secretary-General
Mr. Prendergast



**SECURITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED
BY RESOLUTION 661 (1990) CONCERNING
THE SITUATION BETWEEN IRAQ AND KUWAIT**

Summary of the 228th meeting, Wednesday, 19 December 2001

1. The first item discussed was a letter from the United Nations Treasurer regarding proceeds from the sale of illegal Iraqi oil cargoes. The Treasurer explained that despite the many oil tankers diverted by the Multinational Interception Force (MIF) and the obligation of Member States under the operative Security Council resolutions to transfer proceeds of illegal Iraqi oil cargoes to the United Nations 778 Escrow Account, only two such money transfers had taken place this year. The United Kingdom suggested that the Committee write to all Member States to remind them of their obligation. China, France, and Singapore suggested a more targeted approach at this stage while waiting for more information from the MIF concerning the number of ships seized or diverted and the names of the States to which the ships were diverted. All members agreed that the MIF should be requested to provide more regular reporting on its activities to the Committee; Bangladesh, in addition, suggested that a model letter could be devised to remind the countries concerned to transfer proceeds from illegal Iraqi oil to the 778 Escrow Account. The Committee decided to write to the Coordinator of the MIF, initially to request a report covering the year 2001. China also suggested that the Treasurer's office prepare a briefing note on the origin and status of the 778 Escrow Account.
2. The second item discussed was a letter from OIP regarding illegal Iraqi oil discovered in the ESSEX. OIP requested the Committee's confirmation of its understanding of the outcome of the Committee's consideration of the issue at its previous meeting: that no action could be taken on this matter pending the completion of the investigation by the Dutch authorities and that the Committee remained seized of the matter. The Committee concurred with OIP's understanding in this regard.
3. Concerning a letter from Oman providing assurances to the Committee related to its earlier request to establish a marine service route to Iraq, the United Kingdom, supported by the United States, stated that Oman could not be permitted to establish such a route as long as the United Arab Emirates (UAE) continued to abuse a similar permission issued to it by the Committee in 1997. Other Committee members disagreed, stating that Oman and the UAE were different cases and that Oman's request should be considered on its own merits, including the fact that the letter contained the necessary guarantees the Committee had asked for in the first place and that the purpose of the marine service route was purely humanitarian in nature. The Committee decided to continue consideration of this issue at its next meeting.

4. The following item on the agenda concerned a letter from the United Kingdom drawing the Committee's attention to two German press articles regarding the possible involvement of an India-based company in Iraq's weapons programme. Other States (Malaysia and the UAE) were also mentioned in connection with alleged involvement in transshipment. Committee members debated whether to send a letter to India only or to the other countries involved as well. Singapore suggested that the Committee first write to Germany to verify the information contained in the article, which allegedly came from Germany's Federal Intelligence Service. The Chairman suggested that the Committee could first write to India and Germany, and then possibly to Malaysia and the UAE if necessary. Since some members would have to seek further instructions, this issue would remain on the agenda at the next Committee meeting.
5. All Committee members agreed in principle to a UK request for permission to return two pieces of stolen artefacts to Iraq. China and France expressed the wish to have additional information on the circumstances through which the items had been stolen and later recovered. The UK representative promised to convey the request to his capital. The issue would thus be taken up again at the following Committee meeting.
6. With regard to a letter from OIP providing statistics on applications on hold, France proposed that the Committee should thank the OIP for its information, express its support for the recent measures it has implemented, and request OIP to provide the Committee with more regular assessments of the situation of holds, including its recommendations for improving the situation. China and Russia supported the French proposal. The United States rejected the French proposal and asked for greater understanding from the Committee, while the United Kingdom, supporting the US position, said that the adoption of the proposed Goods Review List would help alleviate the problem. The Committee decided to continue consideration of this item during informal consultations.
7. Due to time constraints, the remaining items on the agenda were deferred to the next meeting.



D. Christensen
20 December 2001