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LETTER DATED 9 NOVEMBER 1990 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a statement made by an official spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq on 9 November 1990 concerning the tendentious allegations made by the Chairman of the United Nations Security Council Committee on sanctions, the representative of Finland on the Council.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdul Amir A. AL-ANBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Statement made in Baghdad on 9 November 1990 by an official
spokesman of the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs

On 7 November 1990, the news agencies reported the statements made by the Chairman of the United Nations Security Council Committee on sanctions, the representative of Finland on the Council, in which she alleged that Iraq had imported such large quantities of medicines that she was afraid there was a possibility that they might be used in the manufacture of biological and chemical weapons. The representative of Finland said that she had no clear proof that such had been the case, but that she was somewhat afraid that it had since Iraq had ordered what appeared to be sufficient quantities of drugs to last it for up to 10 years.

Iraq denies this infamous and tendentious allegation outright. It is a well-known fact that medicines cannot be stored for a long period of time and that the time-limits established for the expiry of their efficacy varies between one year and five years, which conclusively refutes the allegations made by the representative of Finland from the scientific point of view. We should like to state that there are a number of countries that have not yet allowed Iraq to purchase medicines. Some of the orders for which contracts were concluded before 2 August 1990 and for which Iraq had already paid have not been delivered by certain countries, in particular the United States of America.

This statement, based as it is on palpable deception, has the goal of placing additional restrictions on the supply of medicines to Iraq by certain benevolent persons and of absorbing humanitarian indignation against the measures adopted by the United States in order to withhold medicines from Iraq.
