

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 23 December 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the documents handed over to Kuwait by Iraq in October 2002 under United Nations supervision and in the presence of a team from the League of Arab States.

We should like to state in this connection that the relevant Kuwaiti authorities have, as agreed, examined the documents received in accordance with the handover schedules that were signed and that explicitly stipulated that Kuwait would have a period of 60 days in which to authenticate and assess the significance of the documents returned. Our examination has shown that the documents returned consist of routine papers and correspondence between State ministries and of application forms and that they do not in any way amount to what might be regarded as the archives of the State.

It should be recalled that in a letter addressed to you and circulated in document S/2002/1275, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kuwait, responding to a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq (S/2002/1237, annex), notified you on a tentative basis that from a preliminary examination made by the agencies concerned, and despite the fact that they included files belonging to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Office of the Amir, it had become evident that the documents consisted of commonplace and routine correspondence.

We therefore call upon you to continue your sustained efforts and, through the high-level Coordinator, Ambassador Yuli M. Vorontsov, to intervene with the Iraqi Government and urge it to return all of the documents that represent the State's archives and institutional memory, especially those of the Office of the Amir, the Office of the Heir Apparent, the Council of Ministers and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as all other property, in implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions, namely resolutions 686 (1991), 687 (1991) and 1284 (1999).

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

(Signed) Mansour Ayyad Sh. A. **Al-Otaibi**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.