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LETTER DATED 27 AUGUST 1990 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the statement dated 25 August 1990 by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics concerning the Security Council resolution on measures to implement the sanctions imposed against Iraq in the wake of its aggression against the State of Kuwait.

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

(Signed) Y. VORONTSOV

Annex

Statement dated 25 August 1990 by the Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics concerning the Security
Council resolution on measures to implement the sanctions imposed
against Iraq in the wake of its aggression against the State of
Kuwait

The Soviet Union's vote in favour of Security Council resolution 665 (1990) reflects our profound concern at the situation that has developed in the Persian Gulf region and our desire to eliminate, as soon as possible, the extremely dangerous threat to international peace and security.

In this situation we have acted, and we continue to act, in accordance with the requirements of the Charter of the United Nations, consistently upholding the principle of collective efforts within the Security Council and of settling the crisis at hand through political means.

Let me say that our country's political leaders and Soviet diplomats have worked throughout the past days with maximum effort, helping to bring about international agreement and an adequate response by the international community to the events in the Persian Gulf region.

From the outset of the crisis, we have consulted closely with the other permanent members of the Security Council - China, France, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Our co-operation with the United States has been of an unprecedented nature. The "telephone bridge" between Moscow, Washington and Wyoming (where James Baker, the Secretary of State, has been in recent days) was in constant operation. Regular contacts were maintained with the European Community and its current President, the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. de Michelis. There was an active exchange of views with the Vice-Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr. Genscher, and with the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Dumas, who is now in Moscow and with whom we intend to have a thorough discussion about the events taking place in the Middle East.

We have kept the leaders of the countries members of the Warsaw Treaty informed and have transmitted information to the Governments of many neighbouring countries which are friendly to us, including India, Yugoslavia, Turkey and Iran.

We have attached particular attention to a political dialogue with the Arab countries and the leadership of the League of Arab States and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Our contacts with Iraqi leaders were not interrupted for even one day. Apart from political problems, we also discussed with them practical problems relating to the evacuation of Soviet citizens from Kuwait and the departure of women and children from Iraq.

Here we met with understanding on the part of the Iraqis.

All this work was focused on finding a way out of the crisis created by Iraq's aggression and avoiding further use of force in the Persian Gulf region.

We believe that this can be achieved with the help of measures to ensure the effectiveness of the sanctions set out in the Security Council resolution. That is precisely the aim of the Council's new resolution. I should like to emphasize that this resolution consolidates the Council's control over measures to implement the sanctions and provides for a co-ordinating role for the Military Staff Committee of the Security Council. These are very important elements of the resolution which has been adopted.

The results of the vote on Security Council resolution 665 (1990) - adopted by 13 votes with two abstentions - reveal the Council's unanimity with respect to the measures which must be taken in the current circumstances.

We hope that the leaders of Iraq will draw the appropriate conclusions, take steps to de-escalate the crisis and act in accordance with the provisions of the resolutions that have been adopted. This is our advice to the leaders of Iraq. It was frankly expressed in a personal message sent to Baghdad by the President of the Soviet Union the day before the meeting of the Security Council.

We expect that Iraq's leaders will take it into account.

We should like those in Iraq to know that the Soviet Union wishes the people of Iraq only well and is prepared to contribute to a peaceful settlement of the crisis.

Today the utmost responsibility and the greatest political wisdom are required of all sides. The situation is already overheated, and any aggravation of the confrontation may lead to an explosion.

The resolution adopted by the Security Council is a measure aimed at preventing events from taking a more dangerous turn. If all sides are guided by common sense, adopt a balanced and responsible approach and abide by the letter and the spirit of the resolution which has been adopted, this will further a political settlement and peace in the Middle East.

The unity demonstrated in the principal organ for the maintenance of peace and security and especially by its permanent members - the USSR, the United States, China, the United Kingdom and France - is a historical and unprecedented phenomenon in modern politics. It provides a unique opportunity for the creation of effective mechanisms to uphold law and justice in international relations.