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NOTE VERBALE DATED 23 AUGUST 1990 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Permanent Mission of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and has the honour to inform him, with reference to his note SCPC/7/90(1) of 8 August 1990, of the measures adopted by the Soviet Union to implement Security Council resolution 661 (1990).

Even before the said resolution was adopted, the Government of the USSR decided to halt supplies of weapons and military technology to Iraq, as announced on 3 August 1990 at a press conference in Moscow by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the USSR, Mr. E. A. Shevardnadze.

Immediately after the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 661 (1990), the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs transmitted the text of the resolution to the Governments of the various Republics of the Union and to the ministries and departments responsible both for the conduct of commercial, economic and financial relations with Iraq and Kuwait and for monitoring of the Soviet Union's external economic activities. It advised them of the need to make changes in the overall structure of mutual relations with those countries, for the purpose of bringing them into line with the requirements of the Security Council.

Under an ordinance issued by the President of the USSR on 8 August 1990, an interdepartmental working group was established with Mr. I. Byelousov, Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, as its Chairman. This working group was given the task of considering and taking decisions on all questions related to the complication of the situation in the region caused by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, including the adoption of measures provided for in Security Council resolution 661 (1990).

An ordinance adopted by the Council of Ministers of the USSR on 16 August 1990 contains the following provisions:

"In accordance with the adoption by the United Nations Security Council of resolution 661 (1990) concerning the suspension of certain forms of commercial, economic, financial and credit relations with Iraq, the implementation of which is, under the Charter of the United Nations, obligatory for all States Members of the United Nations;

"1. Ministries and departments responsible for the conduct of commercial, economic, financial and credit relations with Iraq and Kuwait shall:

"(a) Take appropriate measures to implement the corresponding provisions of Security Council resolution 661 (1990);

"(b) Elaborate specific means by which to reduce to a minimum the losses suffered by the country as a result of suspending certain forms of commercial, economic, financial and credit relations with Iraq and Kuwait.

"2. Ministries and departments responsible for commercial, economic, financial and credit relations with Iraq and Kuwait shall, at the request of the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs, provide information on measures adopted in the USSR to implement Security Council resolution 661 (1990).

"On the basis of these details, the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall transmit general information to the Secretary-General of the United Nations as and when he requires.

"3. The interdepartmental working group presided over by Mr. I. S. Byelousov, Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, which was established by an ordinance of the President of the USSR dated 8 August 1990, shall be responsible for monitoring the implementation of this order."

As a result of the measures adopted, Soviet ministries and departments have entirely halted deliveries of goods through export-import channels, including military supplies and equipment, materials, spare parts and other goods required for work on invested installations.

All forms of commercial contact with Iraq and Kuwait have been halted: visits by economic delegations, talks on the conclusion of new contracts, payments, the provision of loans or other remittances of funds, the admittance of specialists for studies in the USSR, etc.

Not a single ship with goods or other products for Iraq and Kuwait has left any Soviet port since the resolution was adopted. Measures have been taken to ensure that various cargoes earlier dispatched to Iraq are turned back. A ship carrying military equipment for Iraq and Kuwait has been sent back from the Persian Gulf region.

Military equipment is no longer being accepted for repair in the Soviet Union and subsequent return to Iraq.

Missions by Soviet specialists to co-operative projects in Iraq have been halted.

On 21 August, the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, Mr. N. I. Ryzhkov, affirmed in the course of a conversation with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister S. Hammadi that the USSR would "observe the régime of sanctions established by resolution 661 (1990) until such time as the crisis was over".

The Permanent Mission of the USSR to the United Nations would be grateful if the Secretary-General would transmit the text of this letter to the Committee established in accordance with paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 661 (1990) and circulate it as a document of the Security Council.

