



Security Council

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Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations
Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission

1. This is a further progress report on the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM); it follows my report of 9 May 1991 (S/22580).

Organizational aspects

2. Following the arrival of seven observers each from Senegal and Turkey, UNIKOM now has its full complement of military observers, as follows:

Argentina	7	Nigeria	7
Austria	7	Norway	8
Bangladesh	7	Pakistan	9
Canada	1	Poland	7
China	20	Romania	7
Denmark	7	Senegal	7
Fiji	7	Singapore	7
Finland	7	Sweden	7
France	20	Thailand	7
Ghana	8	Turkey	7
Greece	7	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	20
Hungary	7	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	20
India	8	United States of America	20
Indonesia	7	Uruguay	8
Ireland	8	Venezuela	7
Italy	7		
Kenya	8		
Malaysia	8		
		Total	299

3. Administrative and logistic support is provided by the following units:

Engineers (Canada)	293
Logistics (Sweden)	31
Movement control/postal (Denmark)	23
Helicopters (Chile)	50
Medical (Norway)	<u>50</u>
Total	447

Two fixed-wing aircraft from Switzerland are operated by civilians. In addition, UNIKOM has had the use of chartered aircraft for the movement of troops and equipment and for communications between Baghdad and Kuwait. The Government of Sweden provided free airlift at the beginning of the Mission.

4. Two infantry companies (Fijian, Nepalese) and one logistic company (Swedish) temporarily assigned from the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and one infantry company (Danish) from the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) have returned to their parent missions. Two infantry companies, one from UNFICYP (Austrian) and one from UNIFIL (Ghanaian), remain with UNIKOM; their combined strength is 217 all ranks. As a result, the overall strength of the Mission has been reduced to 963 all ranks.

5. Logistic support for the Mission is still difficult, given the lack of normal infrastructure in the area. However, thanks to assistance from the United States Army and forces of other Member States cooperating with the Government of Kuwait, UNIKOM is now able to meet its requirements as regards rations, vehicles and accommodation. Conditions in the field, however, remain austere, with all personnel living under canvas and subsisting largely on field rations. The situation is expected to improve gradually, with the provision of fresh rations and prefabricated accommodation.

6. UNIKOM headquarters has remained in a hotel annex south of Kuwait City, which was made available by the Government of Kuwait. By 15 June, the headquarters will be moved, as an interim measure, to the logistic base at Doha, pending completion of the necessary refurbishment of the premises at Umm Qasr, which still lack basic facilities such as electricity, water and sewerage.

7. UNIKOM has maintained contact with and provided logistic support to other United Nations missions working in Iraq and Kuwait.

Demilitarized zone

8. The situation in the demilitarized zone (DMZ) has been calm. It is sparsely populated; the main population centres are the towns of Umm Qasr and Safwan, both on the Iraqi side. South of Safwan, on Kuwaiti territory, some 5,000 displaced persons still live in the Abdali camp. They are being

assisted by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the League of Red Cross Societies. The camp is guarded by Kuwaiti police.

9. The Governments of Iraq and Kuwait, which are responsible for civil administration on their respective sides of the DMZ, have deployed border police to maintain law and order. Iraq currently has some 250 police in the DMZ. Kuwait is in the process of restoring its police presence and plans to rebuild and man some 30 police stations along the border. Both Governments have agreed to limit the armament of their police to sidearms.

10. Much of the DMZ is littered with unexploded ordnance and mines, particularly in the south. UNIKOM maintains maps delineating cleared routes; only on these routes is movement authorized.

Deployment and concept of operations

11. For operational purposes, UNIKOM has divided the DMZ into three sectors. Each sector has a headquarters and six observation posts, of which one in the southern sector has not yet been established. The Austrian security company has platoons in the central and northern sectors and at Umm Qasr; the Ghanaian security company has platoons in the southern sector, the Doha Logistic Base and at the temporary UNIKOM headquarters. The deployment of UNIKOM is shown on the attached map.

12. In addition to its fixed observation posts, UNIKOM deploys temporary observation points, mobile patrols (on land and in the air) and investigation teams. The temporary observation points are established from the fixed observation posts, either in areas of particular activity or where roads and tracks enter the DMZ. They are augmented by mobile ground patrols and by aerial reconnaissance. The latter is the only means of maintaining adequate observation of the Khor Abdullah waterway and the southern sector of the DMZ, where mines and unexploded ordnance severely limit UNIKOM's ability to carry out ground patrols. The security companies serve as a quick reaction force and maintain a high state of readiness in order to provide protection to the military observers.

13. UNIKOM maintains close liaison with the Governments of Iraq and Kuwait. Both have given the Mission all the support and cooperation necessary for it to carry out its mandate.

Violations and complaints

14. Since the DMZ was established on 9 May, there have been a number of instances in which personnel of the armed forces of both Iraq and Kuwait and personnel of the Saudi Arabian forces stationed in Kuwait were observed in the DMZ. These observations have been brought to the attention of the parties concerned, which have explained that the majority were due to errors of navigation or misunderstandings over the boundaries of the DMZ. UNIKOM has

posted signs on all major access roads and tracks leading into the DMZ and it is hoped that this will help to prevent future incursions.

15. UNIKOM has also observed a number of overflights of the DMZ by military aircraft. Most of them have been by F-15 and F-16 type aircraft flying along the Iraq-Kuwait border. UNIKOM has brought these overflights to the attention of the Government of Kuwait.

16. Since 9 May, UNIKOM has received two complaints from the Kuwaiti authorities and three from the Iraqi authorities. The complaints of Kuwait arose from reports of Iraqi policemen carrying rifles in the DMZ and of the massing of Iraqi military formations south of Basra. After investigation by UNIKOM both were considered unfounded. Of the Iraqi complaints, one concerned an air violation that could not be substantiated. Another concerned the alleged establishment of a Kuwaiti military checkpoint within the DMZ south of Safwan; this was in fact a police post. The last complaint was that weapons were being kept at the Abdali camp and flags were being flown in a provocative manner. This complaint has been brought to the attention of the Kuwaiti authorities for appropriate action.

Infantry companies

17. The task of the infantry companies temporarily assigned from UNIFIL and UNFICYP was to provide essential security for UNIKOM during the setting-up phase, in view of the uncertainties at that time and the potential risks that might arise (see S/22454, paras. 10 and 13). After 30 days in the Mission, these companies were reduced from 5 to 2. Major General Greindl, the Chief Military Observer, has now recommended that 1 company of some 150 all ranks continue to be assigned to provide security for the Mission; 1 platoon would be deployed to each of the 3 sectors, and 1 at the headquarters in Umm Qasr. This company would also provide the basis for expansion should this be required for security reasons. General Greindl has based his recommendation on his assessment that the area is still in transition and there remains, for the time being, a risk to UNIKOM personnel.

18. I have weighed the above recommendation most carefully. In addition to General Greindl's military assessment, I have taken into consideration the excellent cooperation received from all concerned in the area and the fact that the perceived threats to the security of UNIKOM personnel during the setting-up phase did not in practice materialize. I have also borne in mind the financial implications and the growing financial burden on Member States as a result of the expansion of peace-keeping activities. In the light of these considerations, I have decided not to recommend, in the present circumstances, that UNIKOM be provided with an infantry element on a permanent basis. I intend, however, to explore with Member States the possibilities of rapid reinforcement of UNIKOM in case of emergency. I will monitor developments carefully and revert to the Security Council on this matter, should it become necessary.

Observations

19. As will be apparent from the above report, UNIKOM is now established and fully able to carry out the tasks assigned to it by the Security Council. It only remains for it to occupy its headquarters at Umm Qasr, which will be done as soon as possible. The mission area has now entered the season of great heat and this will be a testing period for UNIKOM's personnel and equipment. In the light of its experience during the remaining months of the current mandate period, I will, in October, undertake a further review of its strength and make appropriate recommendations to the Security Council. Meanwhile I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the determination and professionalism which General Greindl and all under his command have shown in setting up UNIKOM in difficult circumstances.

