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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Letter dated 30 July 1991 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 decision No. 241 of 21 July 1991, issued by the Revolution Command Council of the Republic of Iraq, which accords a general and comprehensive amnesty to Iraqis who are fugitives for political reasons either inside Iraq or abroad, as well as to Iraqi prisoners and detainees who have been convicted for political reasons.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the text of the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under item 99 of the provisional agenda.

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

* A/46/150.

ANNEX

Decision

As Iraq embarks on a new phase of its political development, to wit, a phase which expresses the extent of popular participation and the basis of authority invested in the people by expanding political pluralism and representative elections at all levels, because God Almighty has ordered us to forgive whenever to do so is possible and beneficial (saying as He does in His clear and noble Book: "To forego is nearer to piety"),

And with a view to permitting even the vestiges of patriotism in a perverted mind the opportunity to reconsider such perverse behaviour in order that we may initiate a new phase of our national life and our sacred struggle, in which all are helping to build and defend Iraq, our ranks closed as a bracelet encircles a wrist to protect our beloved, potent and flourishing Iraq, which holds fast against its enemies and stands out as a beacon for its friends and fellow-members of the community,

Pursuant to the provisions of article 42, paragraph 1, of the Constitution,

The Revolution Command Council has decided as follows:

1. A general amnesty shall be accorded to:

(a) Those Iraqis who are fugitives for political reasons. Legal proceedings against them shall be definitively suspended, regardless of whether they are inside Iraq or abroad;

(b) Iraqi prisoners and detainees who have been convicted for political reasons. They shall be released from prison immediately unless they have been convicted of other crimes;

(c) Every citizen, official or public servant shall be granted amnesty from any legal consequence that has devolved or may devolve upon him by reason of his participation in combating, confronting or remedying any of the crimes mentioned in this decision. Actions brought for such reason shall be closed and the courts shall be barred from hearing any action brought against those mentioned in connection with any of the acts stipulated in this decision.

2. This decision shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall be considered as in effect from the date of its promulgation.

Saddam HUSSEIN
Chairman of the Revolution Command Council
