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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL
FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR
REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT
COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Note verbale dated 19 February 1993 from the Permanent Mission
of Iraq to the United Nations Office at Geneva
addressed to the Centre for Human Rights

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations Office at Geneva presents its compliments to the Centre for Human Rights and has the honour to enclose herewith a memorandum related to the serious violations of human rights to which the entire population of Iraq is subjected as a result of the continuation of the economic blockade of Iraq, which constitutes a flagrant violation of human rights in living and purposeful disregard of the principle of correlation between man's civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights.

The Mission would be grateful if the Centre kindly regard this note as an official document of the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-ninth session under agenda items 12 and 24.

The Mission wishes to enclose herewith the aforementioned document in Arabic, English and French, and hopes that it is published at present in these three languages with a view to circulating them during the discussion of the two aforementioned items.

Annex

Document presented by the Iraqi Delegation
before the forty-ninth session of the Commission
on Human Rights under agenda items 12 and 24

Iraq would like to draw the attention of the Commission on Human Rights to the serious violations of Iraqi human rights, as a consequence of the continuation of the economic blockade, proceeding from the principle of correlation between the civil, political, social and cultural human rights, as underlined by the UN resolution, the last of which being the General Assembly resolution no. 47/137.

A simple review of the figures listed in this document will undoubtedly clarify the systematic violations of the right of the Iraqi individual in living, as a result of serious shortage of food and medicine- an issue that constitutes a contribution in committing real crime of genocide.

We trust that this document will serve as a starting point for the Commission on Human Rights to shoulder its responsibilities in putting an end to these violations that are practised in the name of the International Community and International Law.

1. Effects of the economic blockade on the therapeutic services for patients and on medicine.
 - A. Therapeutic and diagnostic services were largely affected due to the economic blockade, as a result of the shortages in medicines and other medical requirements such as equipment, X-ray film, laboratory equipment. It is noteworthy that 90 percent of the existing equipment are out of order due to shortage of spare parts. All this has led to inferior level of therapeutic services, which was negatively reflected on the patient and led to a huge number of mortalities, where upon (98669) patients died up to 1991, and the occupied beds and those prepared to receive patients fell by 50% than that before 02/08/1990. Despite the adoption of the Security Council and Compensation Committee resolution that permit Iraq to use its frozen assets in world banks for the purchase of medicine and food, yet, most of the countries keeping such assets did not allow their banks to accept the credits which were opened by the Central Bank of Iraq for the purchase of medicines and medical requirements, whose value for 1991 alone amounted to approximately US\$ 265. (Iraq imported US\$ 600 worth of medicines annually before the Gulf war). In consequence the balance of medical material declined in such a manner that huge numbers of mortalities fell victim to this economic blockade.
 - B. The economic blockade resulted in halting all shipments of medicines and medical requirements which were contracted between the international manufacturers and the Iraqi Ministry of Health prior to 02/08/1990. Part payments of these medical purchases were been remitted in advance to the supplier before 02/08/1990 but they were not delivered, which contributed largely to the shortages.

- C. The Coalition aggression and the subsequent acts of rioting inflicted gross damage on the buildings and properties of the medical institutions as a result of the hostile bombardment. The damaged institutions amounted to (429) hospitals and health centres, equal in value to 250 million Iraqi Dinars, equivalent to US\$ 750 millions. The damage included buildings, medicines, medical and service equipment, ambulance automobiles, other medical service vehicles, medical furniture and other vasic medical equipment.

The aggression also inflicted damage on the basis infrastructures related to the improvement of environment, including sewer projects and purification of waste water plants, resulting in the spread of epidemics and diseases such as Cholera, Typhoid, Malaria and Dyzantry... etc. The estimated value of combating these diseases amounted to approx. US\$ 120 millions.

2. Figures on the rate of children in Iraq's society and the risks of future effects posed by the blockade.

No demonstration of serious effects of the economic blockade on the Iraqi society can be objective unless supported by statistics on child rate in the Iraqi society in order to be able to perceive the danger posed by the economic blockade on the society as a result of children malnutrition and rising mortalities among them.

Estimated no. of Iraqi children according
to age category for the years 1987-1995.

| Age Category | 1987 | | 1992 | | 1995 | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|------|--------------------|------|--------------------|------|
| | No. of children | % | No. of children | % | No. of children | % |
| 0-1 | 566447 | 3.5 | 736000 | 3.9 | 775000 | 3.9 |
| 1-4 | 2198386 | 13.5 | 2208000 | 12.0 | 2325000 | 11.9 |
| 5-9 | 2468250 | 15.1 | 2688000 | 14.6 | 2777000 | 13.9 |
| 10-14 | 2148409 | 13.2 | 2462000 | 13.4 | 2616000 | 13.1 |
| Total | 7381492 | 45.3 | 8094000 | 43.9 | 8493000 | 42.5 |
| Total Iraq population | 16335199 | | 18422000 | | 19997000 | |

It is concluded from the estimated table above that the rate of of children in the Iraqi society accounts for a high rate compared to other countries. The rate amounts to approximately half of the countries population. When this huge part of the society is inflicted with malnutrition and growing mortality rates it clearly demonstrates the intentional designs to annihilate the growth of the Iraqi society. By further adding to the children rate of 43.9% the elderly rate of 5.5% of Iraq, along with the rate of women over 15 years amounting to 28% of Iraq's population, the total rate of children, women and the elderly amounts to 77% of the population. This total rate provides a clear picture of the extent of the serious future damage inflicted on the population of Iraq as a result of the blockade, particularly, women, elderly and children. This is a situation asserting the intention of those countries, that insists on the continuation of the blockade, of committing a genocide crime against the people

of Iraq as defined in the International Convention on the
Prevention and Punishment of Genocide Crimes of 1948.

Effects of the economic blockade on the nutritional conditions of Iraqi children below the age of 5 years.

| Type of condition | 1990 | | | | 1991 | | | | 1992 | | | |
|---|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------|--|--|--|
| | no. of conditions | monthly average | no. of cases conditions | monthly average | times increase from 1990 | no. of conditions Dec-June | monthly average Dec-June | times increase from 1990 | | | | |
| malnutrition | 485 | 41 | 12796 | 1066 | 26 | 6730 | 1122 | 27.3 | | | | |
| emaciation due to malnutrition | 5139 | 433 | 96186 | 8015 | 18.5 | 53363 | 8894 | 20.5 | | | | |
| other types of malnutrition (deficiency, albumin, calories, vitamins) | 96809 | 8067 | 947974 | 78998 | 9.8 | 539955 | 89992 | 11.15 | | | | |
| Total conditions | 102487 | 8541 | 1056956 | 88079 | 10.3 | 600048 | 100008 | 11.7 | | | | |

3. Effects of the economic blockade on prices and standard of living.

Iraq is an oil producing country, whose economic structure was built dependant on imports that have played a decisive role in securing the requisited of economic balance.

The blockade targeted, in a direct manner, the prevention of Iraq from exports, with a view of denying it the foreign currency revenues, as well as freezing its assets abroad and depriving it from receiving loans, credit and facilities for the Iraqi private and state organizations, thus, rendering Iraq unable to import due to the non-existence of financing resources, to such extent as to deprive it from benefitting from the facilities allowed by the Security Council for the importation of foodstuffs and medicine.

The GDP has decreased by nearly 54% for all the sectors in 1991, compared to 1990. This decrease is not only linked to the halting of exports, such as oil, phosphate and sulphur, but as a result of the significant shortage of raw and semi-manufactured material which Iraq counts for their imports from abroad. For the same reason, the capabilities of building and construction became limited. It is expected that such drawback of the 1992 production activity will continue, with the continuation of deferred demand on replacement, causing maintenance and spareparts for the different types of equipment and transport means.

The local production fulfils only a tiny part of the demand. All efforts made to increase the production collide with the blockade obstacles. Agriculture in itself requires imported seeds, and local fertilizers are insufficient to cover the requirements of the agricultural production increase. Moreover, the machinery, tools and spareparts required by agriculture cannot be provided locally and are easily subject to breakdowns.

On the foregoing basis, it is expected that the food gap, especially the grain will remain widened. Moreover, and due to shortage of fodder and veterinares requirements, the animal production has plunged deeply. White meat production witnessed a decrease from 2.1 million tons in 1990 to 0.33 million tons in 1991. Table egg production also declined from 1631 to 399 million eggs for the same period.

The decline in the production activities level has also increased unemployment among new graduates and decreased work opportunities in general and for women in particular. The logical result for the decline of import and domestic production is the sharp reduction of the offered commodities which inevitably leads to a continuous rise in general price level, hence the rise of speculation, which in turn contributes actively to spiraling inflation. It is not noteworthy that halting foreign currency flow to Iraq and the freezing of its assets have rendered the competent authorities incapable of interfering in the exchange market, leaving the foreign exchange rates to sky-rocket in an imaginary manner against deep-plunging of the Iraqi dinar's value. Therefore, the inflationary waves have always started with the prices of imported commodities and their local alternatives to encompass the whole economy, only to serve once more the increase of demand for the foreign currency in the exchange market and to re-feed the vicious circle of inflation.

The prices of basic commodities have become far beyond the reach of most of the Iraqi families, particularly those of limited or semi-limited incomes. This can be well perceived when examining the following up-to-date table of basic commodities prices and compare it to a college graduate who receives a starting salary of about 165 Iraqi dinars.

PRICE IN IRAQI DINARS

| <u>Commodity</u> | | <u>June 90</u> | <u>Dec. 92</u> | <u>Increase</u> |
|------------------|------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Mutton | 1 kg | 7.0 | 75 | 1000% |
| Chicken | 1 kg | 2.4 | 60 | 2500% |
| 30 Eggs | | 2.5 | 50 | 1016% |
| Powder milk | 1 kg | 4.5 | 250 | 5000% |
| Tomato paste | 1 kg | 4.3 | 15.8 | 367% |
| Tea | 1 kg | 2 | 80 | 4000% |
| Sugar | 1 kg | 0.4 | 12 | 3000% |
| Wheat flour | 1 kg | 0.1 | 8 | 8000% |
| Gas cooker | | 204 | 4800 | 2300% |
| Car battery | | 22.5 | 1000 | 4500% |
| Car tire | | 21.9 | 2000 | 9000% |
| Cotton cloth | | 3.2 | 30.4 | 637% |
| Air cooler | | 145 | 5000 | 3500% |

One can imagine the extent of the Iraqi individual's suffering with the living requirements. The prices shown in the above table are largely typical. The prices of certain commodities increased in a sharper pattern. For example, the rear tire of a medium size agricultural tractor costs about 150ID in June 1990. Now its price has exceeded 5000ID. Prices of certified seeds increased in a similar pattern, perhaps more. Inflation has its effects on production costs. Thus the state has been obliged to increase the price of purchasing agricultural crops at similar rates in order to maintain production incentives.

The rationing voucher system (state distribution) has contributed in providing minimum level of sufficient food-stuffs at the prices prevailing prior to the blockade. Similarly, costs of electricity, medicine, purified water and petroleum products remained without increase. The Iraqi society would, otherwise, have suffered total collapse.

Even so, the general average of consumer prices and that of food stuffs reached in July 1992, 508% and 614% respectively compared with 1990, which demonstrates the intensity of the negative effects of the blockade, despite the states efforts to maintain the variety of the aforementioned commodities and services.

It is worthwhile to say that payment of workers salaries and wages from the national economy as a whole increased in 1991 by 32.6% compared to 1990, while the general average of consumer prices increased by 255% for the same year. This means that the real purchasing power for the total salaries and wages decreased by 65% for that year alone. Thus we can imagine the extent of suffering in the last quarter of 1992, and how conditions will develop under the continued blockade.

4. Losses inflicted on facilities.

The economic blockade imposed upon Iraq since August 1990 has directly affected all sectors of Iraq's economy. The most severe losses were the virtual or partial breakdown in the facilities and operating them at higher costs, as well as discontinuation of oil exports and oil products imports and interests accrued on foreign loans and investments, together with the delay in the execution of the development plan projects. Total losses for the period 01/03/1991-01/04/1992 amounted to 12460076392 ID (1 Iraqi dinar = US\$ 3.280) as illustrated in the following tables:

Losses incurred due to the blockade
1.3.1991-1.4.1992

Table no. 1

Complete breakdown of facilities

| | | Iraqi Dinars | |
|----|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Source of loss | 1.3.91-1.1.92 | 1.1.92-1.4.92 |
| 1- | Salaries and wages paid | 200 996 413 | 32 920 269 |
| 2- | Interests paid | 3 635 812 | 1 932 436 |
| 3- | Rent | 1 300 229 | 742 086 |
| 4- | Depreciation | 124 011 841 | 16 244 062 |
| 5- | Maintenance | 28 662 827 | 8 530 939 |
| 6- | Other expenses | 58 338 162 | 11 035 396 |
| 7- | Profit | 307 231 860 | 44 088 779 |
| | TOTAL | 724 177 144 | 115 493 967 |
| | | | 839 671 111 |

Losses incurred due to the blockade

1.3.1991-1.4.1992

Table no. 2

Partial breakdown of facilities

| | | | |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Source of loss | 1.3.91-1.1.92 | 1.1.92-1.4.92 | 1.3.91-1.4.92 |
| Difference in revenues | 1 776 970 552 | 643 891 363 | 2 420 861 915 |

Losses incurred due to the
economic blockade
1.3.1991-1.4.1992
Table no. 3

Operation costs more

| | | Iraqi Dinars | | |
|----|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Source of loss | 1.3.91-1.1.92 | 1.1.92-1.4.92 | 1.3.91-1.4.92 |
| 1- | Increase in prices of production requirements | 129 197 871 | 200 305 268 | 329 503 139 |
| 2- | Increase in wages | 51 172 811 | 17 799 187 | 68 971 998 |
| 3- | Other expenses | 59 010 556 | 8 455 539 | 67 466 095 |
| | TOTAL | 239 381 238 | 226 559 994 | 456 941 232 |

Losses incurred due to the
economic blockade
1.3.1991-1.4.1992
Table no. 4

Crude oil and imports of oil products.

| | | Iraqi Dinars | | |
|----|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Source of loss | 1.3.91-1.1.92 | 1.1.92-1.4.92 | 1.3.92-1.4.92 |
| 1- | Discontinuation of crude oil exports | 6 034 775 962 | 1 783 885 308 | 7 818 661 270 |
| 2- | Cost of importing oil products | 3 456 183 | - | 3 456 183 |
| | TOTAL | 6 038 232 145 | 1 783 885 308 | 7 822 117 453 |

Losses incurred due to the
economic blockade

Table no. 5

Interests accrued on foreign loans and investments
Iraqi Dinars

| | 1.1.91-1.3.92 | 1.1.92-1.4.92 | 1.3.91-1.4.92 |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Origin of loss | | | |
| interests on loans | 91 837 330 | 24 952 728 | 116 790 058 |
| interests on deferred payments | 37 570 689 | 21 686 430 | 59 257 119 |
| interests accrued due to non-marketing of oil | 3 190 878 | 1 146 699 | 4 337 577 |
| interests and delay interests due on credits | 18 281 045 | 1 142 822 | 9 423 867 |
| interests on foreign investments | 44 346 136 | 15 698 114 | 60 044 250 |
| TOTAL | 195 226 078 | 64 626 193 | 259 852 871 |

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