



经济及社会理事会

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人权委员会
防止歧视及保护少数小组委员会
第五十届会议
临时议程项目 12

审查与小组委员会有关或可能有关的
各领域内新的事态发展

1998年6月9日伊拉克常驻联合国日内瓦
办事处代表团致小组委员会秘书处的
普通照会

伊拉克常驻联合国日内瓦办事处代表团谨向防止歧视及保护少数小组委员会第五十届会议秘书处致意，并荣幸地随信附上一份关于“在海湾战争期间对伊拉克人民使用贫化铀问题上英国政府的作用”的照会。*

谨请将上述文件作为小组委员会第五十届会议议程项目 12 下的正式文件散发为荷。

* 附件不译，原文照发。

在海湾战争期间对伊拉克人民使用贫化铀
问题上英国政府的作用

伊拉克共和国政府谨提请防止歧视及保护少数小组委员会注意，1998年4月30日英国外交部再次承认：参与1991年对伊拉克进攻的联军英国部队曾使用贫化铀，违反了《联合国宪章》以及关于禁止使用过度杀伤或产生不加区分后果的武器的各项国际条约和公约。在回答“人类救济基金会”的一项调查时，英国外交部中东司官员 A. N. King 先生指出：在海湾战争中，英军坦克奉英国国防部之命，曾发射贫化铀弹(A. N. King 先生的回答抄件一份附后)。这一新的承认是对较早时候许多英国和美国官方和非官方机构坦认事实的又一确认，即以美国为首的联军犯下了灭绝种族罪，应对此承担国际法责任。

英国前国防大臣大卫·里夫金德在1994年12月6日致英国国会议员 Malcolm Steel 爵士的一封信里已经承认：英军在进攻伊拉克时发射了88发贫化铀弹，而美军发射的数目远高于此。他的信件还指出：当贫化铀弹着落于硬平面时，就会散发出剧毒和危及健康的物质。科学调查报告和研究毫不含糊地确认：美国和英国在对伊拉克的军事行动中使用了贫化铀，因而使伊拉克的大片领土处于致命放射性污染中。据报告：出现了许多前所未见的病理现象，如先天性畸形、骨变形以及无法解释的脱发和奇怪的皮肤病例，而有关人员是在着弹区内染疾的。在儿童中，白血病发病率也有增加。

伊拉克提出这一问题，重申它有权要求公正的赔偿，因为使用这类武器对伊拉克人民、设施及环境造成了严重损害。

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Our reference: No. 284/001/98
30 April 1998
Human Relief Foundation
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Dear Sir/Madam,

We received a number of postcards (copy enclosed) from members of the general public in support of your campaign on Iraq. We have responded to all those who wrote.

You should know that we replied along the following lines (although not all correspondents have received this fuller version).

Firstly, you asked "what role did the British Government play in the use of depleted uranium against the Iraqi people?".

Depleted uranium (DU) tank ammunition was used by both United Kingdom and United States troops during the Gulf War. DU-based tank ammunition was brought into service by the Ministry of Defence because of its unique capability as a kinetic penetrator against the most modern types of main battle tank armour.

The MOD's current assessment is that United Kingdom forces fired fewer than 100 DU tank rounds against Iraqi military forces during hostilities. DU ammunition was not directed against Iraqi civilians. The quantity of DU ammunition fired by United States forces during the Gulf War was considerably greater than that fired by United Kingdom forces.

Some Iraqi personnel, both military and civilian, may have been exposed to the combustion of DU ammunition during, or immediately following, the Gulf War. DU is pyrophoric material. When a DU projectile strikes a hard target (such as a heavily armoured main battle tank), the uranium burns to form various oxides.

The Ministry of Defence advised that there are two types of hazard posed by DU: a radiation hazard, although DU is a low specific activity material as defined by the International Atomic Energy Agency, and a chemical toxicity hazard, which is similar to that posed by other heavy metals, such as lead. DU has the potential to cause adverse health effects if ingested, inhaled (for example, from DU dust in the vicinity of a target, such as a tank which has been hit by the DU projectile), or absorbed (for example, from embedded DU shrapnel). The British Government has no information regarding any Iraqi casualties which may have resulted from exposure to DU or its combustion products.

Your second question asked why the Government encourages the flouting of international law against Iraqi civilians and is linked directly to your third question on resolution 986. We have no argument with the people of Iraq and I can assure you that the Government has every sympathy for them. There should be no doubt about where the responsibility for their suffering lies - with Saddam Hussein. Sanctions are aimed at the Iraqi regime and not at the people. Food and medicine have never been subject to sanctions, so the Government which has supported maintaining sanctions against Saddam Hussein cannot be accused of starving the population. To quit war on want the totalitarian and repressive policies of the regime currently in place in Iraq remain one of the main obstacles to the development of the Iraqi people, unfortunately, Saddam Hussein has always preferred to spend Iraq's money on himself. Since the Gulf War, he has numerous luxurious presidential palaces. He has continued to spend money on trying to import weapons of mass destruction to replace those found and destroyed by the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM). It is difficult to escape the conclusion that Saddam Hussein had deliberately taken a cynical decision to allow the Iraqi people to starve in order to increase the pressure on the international community to give in and lift sanctions.

Since 1991 the United Kingdom has donated over £100 million in aid to Iraq, making us the second largest donor. We also co-sponsored the original Security Council resolution which set up the "Oil For Food" programme under which Iraq can sell oil to fund the purchase of humanitarian supplies despite wide separate reports to the contrary, a high proportion of the food and medicine supplies have been supplied and distributed to the Iraqi people. You may have noticed that the Council has also approved, again unanimously, another resolution to double the size of the "Oil For Food" Programme and so provide further immediate humanitarian relief to the Iraqi people. That resolution too was a British initiative.

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