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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Fiftieth session
Agenda item 12 (c) (i)

REVIEW OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN FIELDS WITH WHICH THE
SUB-COMMISSION HAS BEEN OR MAY BE CONCERNED: REVIEW OF
ISSUES NOT PREVIOUSLY THE SUBJECT OF STUDIES BUT WHICH
THE SUB-COMMISSION HAD DECIDED TO EXAMINE

Mr. Diaz Uribe, Mr. Eide, Ms. Hampson, Mr. Joinet, Mr. Khalil,
Mr. Maxim and Ms. Warzazi: draft resolution

1998/... Humanitarian situation in Iraq

The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, recalling its decisions 1996/107 of 20 August 1996 and 1997/119 of 28 August 1997 and its resolution 1997/35 of 28 August 1997, believing that measures such as embargoes should be limited in time and should be lifted even if the legitimate objectives of the measures have not yet been attained, affirming once again the need to respect the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on human rights, and the relevant provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the two Additional Protocols thereto, notes with grave concern the immense suffering endured by the Iraqi people, and by children in particular.

The Sub-Commission draws attention to the alarming accounts in numerous reports by the United Nations and specialized agencies concerning the situation of innocent people who are suffering an unacceptable decline in levels of health, nutrition, health care and employment and in agriculture. It points out in this regard that the Secretary-General stated in his report to the Security Council on the "oil for food" programme in February 1998 (S/1998/90) that infant mortality in Iraq is rising, that the water supply situation has continued to deteriorate, and that farm output will be able to meet only 10 per cent of required nutritional levels.

The Sub-Commission notes with satisfaction that many non-governmental organizations and personalities from a variety of countries, including the United States of America, have organized humanitarian convoys for Iraq, thus displaying their disapproval of the adverse consequences of an embargo that deprives an entire population of food, care and education.

Considering any embargo that condemns an innocent people to hunger, disease, ignorance and even death without attaining the objectives for which it was declared to be a flagrant violation of the economic, social and cultural rights of the people concerned and of international law, the Sub-Commission appeals to the international community and, in particular, to the Security Council for the embargo provisions affecting the humanitarian situation of the population in Iraq to be lifted. It also urges the international community and all Governments, including that of Iraq, to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi population, in particular by facilitating the delivery of food, medical supplies and the wherewithal to meet their basic needs.
