Press Release

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SECURITY COUNCIL WARNS IRAO NOT TO INTERFERE WITH OR THREATEN SECURITY OF AIRCRAFT AND PERSONNEL OF SPECIAL COMMISSION DURING OVERFLICHTS

The President of the Security Council, Sambarashe Simbanenduku Mumbengegwi (Zimbabwe), issued the following statement to the press this evening, following consultations of the Council:

The members of the Security Council have learnt with grave concern from the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission of recent developments which appear to call for a halt in and constitute a threat to the safety and security of the Special Commission's aerial surveillance flights over Iraq. The members of the Council wish to point out that the surveillance flights are carried out under the authority of Security Council resolutions 687, 707 and 715 (1991).

Reaffirming the right of the Special Commission to conduct such aerial surveillance flights, the members of the Council call upon the Government of Iraq to take all the necessary steps to ensure that the Iraqi military forces will not interfere with or threaten the security of the flights concerned and to comply with its responsibilities to secure the safety of the Special Commission's aircraft and personnel while flying over Iraq. The members of the Council warn the Government of Iraq of the serious consequences which would ensue from any failure to comply with these obligations.

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