

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
7 February 2001
English
Original: Arabic

Letter dated 6 February 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission 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 a letter dated 5 February 2001 from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, to which is appended a series of excerpts from a book by Mr. Giandomenico Picco entitled *Man Without a Gun*. In his book, Mr. Picco discloses the facts concerning the collusion of Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar, former Secretary-General of the United Nations, in a deal for the release of the Western hostages in Lebanon in exchange for his publishing a report assigning responsibility for initiating the Iraq-Iran war to Iraq, thus violating the mechanisms established by Security Council resolution 598 (1987).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed **Al-Humaimidi**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex to the letter dated 6 February 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

One result of the emergence of the so-called new world order is the use of international mechanisms, and specifically the United Nations, to advance the political objectives of certain internationally dominant parties. Iraq was among the first victims of the unlawful use of such international mechanisms. Since early 1990, Iraq has been calling attention to the dangers this policy poses to the credibility of the United Nations and to the principle of the rule of law, and it has called for the repudiation of opportunistic and sordid policies that run counter to the trend of history.

The passage of time and subsequent events have confirmed the error of policies from which the international community has reaped nothing but further disasters and further manifestations of hegemony and of the use of brute force to the detriment of international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

As an example of the unlawful exploitation of international mechanisms, I should like to present to you and, through you, to the States Members of the United Nations, the case described hereunder.

1. On 20 July 1987, the Security Council adopted its resolution 598 (1987), on the conflict between Iraq and Iran. Iraq accepted it, and Iran rejected it for almost an entire year. When Iran finally did accept the resolution, it became the basis for a political settlement between the two countries. In paragraph 6 of the resolution, the Security Council:

“Requests the Secretary-General to explore, in consultation with Iran and Iraq, the question of entrusting an impartial body with inquiring into responsibility for the conflict and to report to the Council as soon as possible.”

Between 1987 and 1991, no attempt was made to discuss mechanisms for “entrusting an impartial body with inquiring into responsibility for the conflict” because there were urgent tasks to be undertaken that related to the enforcement of the ceasefire, the withdrawal of the forces of each party from the territory of the other, the exchange of prisoners and the normalization of relations between the two countries.

2. On 9 December 1991, a few days before the expiry of his term of office, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, issued a further report on the implementation of resolution 598 (1987) that contained a conclusion on his part assigning responsibility for initiating the conflict to Iraq (see document S/23273).

3. Iraq responded to the Secretary-General’s conclusion with a letter dated 22 December 1991 from its Minister for Foreign Affairs addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/23311, annex and enclosure) stating that paragraph 6 of resolution 598 (1987) had concerned the question of entrusting an impartial body with inquiring into responsibility for the conflict in consultation with Iraq and Iran; that the Secretary-General had not been authorized by the resolution to publish such a conclusion; and that his report had been linked to the deal made by the Secretary-General with Iran for the release of the American hostages in Lebanon.

4. In 1999 former Assistant Secretary-General Giandomenico Picco published a book entitled *Man Without a Gun*, and in it he provides evidence and facts that indicate that the report of former Secretary-General Pérez de Cuéllar holding Iraq responsible for initiating the conflict with Iran was indeed the price paid to Iran in exchange for facilitating the release of the American and European hostages being held in Lebanon. In his book, Mr. Picco presents details of the Secretary-General's contacts, through him, with Iran, Lebanon and Israel for the purpose of closing this deal to Iraq's detriment and in violation of the mechanisms established by resolution 598 (1987).

Accordingly, the report of former Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar dated 9 December 1991 is to be considered null and void and inoperative.

I am transmitting to you herewith excerpts from Mr. Picco's book documenting these events.

(Signed) Tariq **Aziz**
Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs

Enclosure

[Original: English]