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COMMISSION DES DROITS DE L'HOMME  
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Point 9 de l'ordre du jour provisoire

**QUESTION DE LA VIOLATION DES DROITS DE L'HOMME ET DES LIBERTÉS  
FONDAMENTALES, OÙ QU'ELLE SE PRODUISE DANS LE MONDE**

Note verbale datée du 3 juillet 2001, adressée à la Haut-Commissaire des Nations Unies  
aux droits de l'homme par la Mission permanente de la République d'Iraq  
auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève

La Mission permanente de la République d'Iraq auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies et des autres organisations internationales à Genève présente ses compliments à la Haut-Commissaire des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme et a l'honneur de lui transmettre ci-joint une note du Gouvernement de la République d'Iraq concernant l'agression aérienne perpétrée récemment par les États-Unis et la Grande-Bretagne contre l'Iraq. Dans la matinée du 19 juin 2001, les agresseurs ont bombardé un stade de football à Talaafar dans le nord de l'Iraq. Vingt-trois jeunes gens ont été tués et des dizaines d'autres personnes ont été blessées.

Dans sa note, le Gouvernement de la République d'Iraq exprime l'espoir que la Haut-Commissaire aux droits de l'homme condamnera ce crime odieux et demandera aux États-Unis et à la Grande-Bretagne de mettre fin aux agressions en série qu'ils lancent contre le peuple iraquien dans le nord et dans le sud de l'Iraq sous prétexte de protéger les zones d'exclusion aérienne. Ces zones sont illégales et illégitimes. Les auteurs du crime de Talaafar devraient être déclarés coupables par les tribunaux internationaux et se voir infliger une peine appropriée pour avoir commis des crimes de guerre contre des enfants innocents.

La Mission permanente de la République d'Iraq saurait gré à la Haut-Commissaire de bien vouloir faire distribuer la présente note et son annexe\* comme documents officiels de la cinquante-huitième session de la Commission des droits de l'homme.

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\* Reproduite telle quelle, en arabe et en anglais seulement.

## **Annex**

### **Note from the Government of the Republic of Iraq addressed to Mrs. Mary Robinson, the High Commissioner for Human Rights**

On 19 June 2001, United States and British aircraft launched a criminal attack on a football stadium in the Talaafar area of northern Iraq as a result of which 23 children and young men at that stadium were killed and dozens wounded.

For more than 10 years, the children of Iraq have been subjected to deliberate programmed murder and intimidation, initially through the devastating war orchestrated by the United States of America and the United Kingdom which targeted their lives and their future and exposed them to conditions of violence, deprivation and loss of life, and subsequently through the comprehensive embargo, which deprived them of their right to life, health, education and a secure childhood, and the ongoing aerial bombardments of civilian institutions in which civilians are killed at random. All this reconfirms the heinous nature of the crimes which those two States have persistently committed in flagrant violation of the principles of international law and the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and the obligations embodied in the Optional Protocols of 1977, the Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989 and the Optional Protocol thereto of 25 May 2000. Moreover, the acts of aggression which those two States are committing against the children of Iraq run counter to the endeavours that the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the General Assembly and the Security Council are making to protect children and ensure a better world for them through the holding of the Special Session of the General Assembly on Children in September 2001. These acts of aggression also run counter to the reports of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Security Council on the effect of armed conflicts on children, in which he has emphasized the need to accord the highest priority to child victims of wars.

The ongoing United States-British military aggression against the people of Iraq, and particularly its children, illustrates the moral vacuity of those two States and their contempt for the fundamental rules of international humanitarian law. Accordingly, immediate action is required to put an end to those crimes that are being committed before the eyes of the international community, which is standing helpless in the face of this tragedy, being hesitant to adopt a fair and equitable position for fear of angering two dominant States which are imposing their policy on the other States of the world in total disregard of international law and the principles of human rights.

In the light of this massacre of innocent children by the United States of America and the United Kingdom, the Government of the Republic of Iraq trusts that the High Commissioner for Human Rights will condemn that odious crime and call upon the United States Administration and the British Government to refrain from the commission of further crimes against the Iraqi people in the northern and southern regions of Iraq on the pretext of protecting the illegitimate and illegal air exclusion zones and to refer the persons responsible for that odious crime to international tribunals so that just retribution can be imposed on them for that war crime involving the deliberate murder of innocent children.

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