

**Security Council**

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**Final report on the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission**

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to resolution 1762 (2007) and subsequent guidance by the Security Council, including the letter from the President of the Security Council to the Secretary-General dated 21 November 2007 (S/2007/680). The report seeks to provide a final account of the activities of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) since my last report to the Security Council, dated 27 September 2007 (S/2007/568) and the work accomplished to appropriately dispose of UNMOVIC archives and other property. It also reports on the relevant spending by the United Nations of funds encumbered to complete the liquidation process of UNMOVIC, in a manner consistent with resolution 1762 (2007).

2. UNMOVIC was established by the Security Council in its resolution 1284 (1999) of 17 December 1999 as a subsidiary body of the Council. UNMOVIC replaced the United Nations Special Commission and took over the latter's responsibilities with regard to verification of compliance by Iraq of its obligations relating to weapons of mass destruction and proscribed missiles under various Council resolutions beginning with resolution 687 (1991).

3. On 18 March 2003, prior to the commencement of armed action in Iraq on 19 March, all United Nations inspectors were withdrawn from the country by the Secretary-General. This resulted in rendering UNMOVIC inspection activities in Iraq inoperable. Shortly thereafter, the Council in its resolution 1483 (2003) reaffirmed that Iraq must meet its disarmament obligations and also took note of a letter dated 8 May 2003 from the Permanent Representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America to the President of the Council (S/2003/538) which contained an undertaking to ensure the complete disarmament of Iraq of weapons of mass destruction and means of delivery in accordance with Council resolutions.

4. Nevertheless, much work continued to be done in UNMOVIC in preparation for any future activities in Iraq, if directed by the Security Council, and to draw the lessons of many years of disarmament verification and monitoring activities in Iraq. The latter resulted in a comprehensive study, the compendium of Iraq's proscribed weapons programmes in the chemical, biological and missile areas, which was presented to the Council in June 2007, issued in summary form as a Council document (S/2006/420) and also made available on the UNMOVIC website ([www.unmovic.org](http://www.unmovic.org)). The training of inspectors on the UNMOVIC roster continued



with the cooperation of several Member States. Quarterly reports on the Commission's activities have been submitted to the Council since the inception of UNMOVIC. A complete list of these is also available on the UNMOVIC website.

5. On 29 June 2007, the Security Council, by resolution 1762 (2007), terminated immediately the mandates of UNMOVIC and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) under the relevant Council resolutions. The Council further requested the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures to provide for the appropriate disposition of the archives and other property of UNMOVIC under arrangements ensuring, in particular, that sensitive proliferation information or information provided in confidence by Member States is kept under strict control, and to transfer to the Government of Iraq through the Development Fund for Iraq, not later than three months from the date of the resolution, all remaining unencumbered funds in the escrow account established by resolution 986 (1995), after returning to Member States, at their request, contributions made by them pursuant to resolution 699 (1991). The Council also requested the Secretary-General to report within three months on steps taken with regard to the disposition of the UNMOVIC archives and other property.

6. In my previous report (S/2007/568), I outlined the steps taken by the Secretariat, as directed by the Council, to provide for the appropriate disposition of UNMOVIC archives and other property, the work that was still outstanding and an estimate of the time and human and financial resources required for the completion of the tasks assigned by the Council with regard to the disposition of the archives and other property.

7. By a letter dated 21 November 2007 to the Secretary-General (S/2007/680), the President of the Security Council conveyed the views of the Council members on the report of the Secretary-General. The Council, inter alia, approved the overall archiving procedure set out in my report (S/2007/568) and made suggestions regarding the period for which information in the UNMOVIC archives marked "strictly confidential" and "confidential" should be kept sealed, the conditions under which earlier (privileged) access to such documents might be permitted and the setting up of a mechanism to advise the Secretary-General and the Security Council on requests made for such privileged access. With regard to the latter, it was suggested that the Secretary-General nominate, with the approval of the Security Council, a three-person ad hoc committee to recommend in each case whether early (privileged) access should be granted.

8. The Security Council further requested (a) an update each quarter on relevant spending by the United Nations of funds encumbered to complete the liquidation process of UNMOVIC; (b) monthly updates on closing down UNMOVIC in a manner consistent with resolution 1762 (2007) — notably on the continuing efforts by the Secretary-General and Secretariat staff to appropriately dispose of the UNMOVIC archives and other property; and (c) a briefing on what steps the Secretariat was planning to provide for the enhanced physical security of the archives.

9. Since the adoption of resolution 1762 (2007), the principal focus of the radically reduced UNMOVIC staff has been on organizing and transferring the archives to the Archives and Records Management Section of the Office of Central Support Services of the Secretariat as the final repository of the UNMOVIC archives and also on disposing of the other property, which included both

non-sensitive and sensitive equipment situated in four locations. The aim was to complete these activities by 29 February 2008. This report provides the latest and final updates for the areas outlined in paragraph 8 above.

## **Records and archives**

10. UNMOVIC work relating to the disposition of its archives containing paper documents and multimedia material has been completed. More than 1,200 boxes containing some 8,500 folders were transferred to the Archives and Records Management Section. Each folder in the UNMOVIC archive has a description of its contents and each box has an inventory of the folders it contains. A database with those descriptions, inventories and associated software was established making it possible to locate boxes and the folders they contain. Since the closure of UNMOVIC, the Section has begun the process of bringing the 1,000 linear feet of UNMOVIC hard copy records and archives into full compliance with its archival and recordkeeping standards, and of providing secure storage for them. The archives have initially been placed in a secure area in the third basement of the Secretariat prior to being transferred to a custom-built storage area within the archival facility at 304 East 45th Street, New York, which is environmentally controlled.

11. The enhanced physical security of the archives involves two elements. First, as part of the Project Access Control programme of the Department of Safety and Security, the security of the outside perimeter of the building where the archival facility is located is being upgraded. The security enhancement will include the installation of improved perimeter monitoring, duress alarms, an increased number of closed-circuit television cameras, corrective actions related to building service access and an improved digital communications infrastructure. Secondly, a secure UNMOVIC storage area is being created within that archival facility. The secure storage area will have an additional layer of access which is strictly secured by means of locking devices, such as swipe cards or deadbolts; access will be restricted to authorized staff and controlled through an access log. To further prevent unauthorized access, it is planned to have the UNMOVIC storage area alarmed and equipped with closed-circuit television cameras, which will be incorporated into the main Headquarters security monitoring system and monitored by United Nations security staff. The records and archives are being stored in acid-free boxes to ensure their long-term preservation and a database comprising descriptions at the folder level is being created. The database will provide not only a full list of all of the records and archives but also a valuable search facility for any future access requests.

12. The Archives and Records Management Section has also taken custody of UNMOVIC electronic records stored in their Tower Records and Information Management (TRIM) record-keeping system. The system comprises metadata and, in many cases, associated electronic records. The system has been upgraded to the latest version of TRIM and will be stored on a secure non-networked storage device.

13. In addition, the Archives and Records Management Section has taken in from UNMOVIC 400 gigabytes of Geographic Information System (GIS) data and an e-mail server. The GIS data as archived include the consolidation of all remote sensing data, all GIS data and all mapping data collected into a project file for future access and use. The Archives and Records Management Section will keep the

information on a non-networked storage device. The non-networked storage devices are stored in an environmentally controlled secure vault at the Section's Long Island facility. The physical security of the perimeter of the Long Island facility is also being enhanced as part of the Project Access Control programme.

14. Documents and multimedia materials that have no archival or evidentiary value were designated and approved by the Archives and Records Management Section for destruction under strict security procedures. These comprise primarily numerous duplicates and copies of archived documents and videotapes of remote monitoring cameras operated by the Special Commission until 1998. The Archives and Records Management Section has overseen the secure erasure of all data on UNMOVIC servers and computer hard drives except for the electronic records, GIS data and e-mail server transferred to the Section.

15. In organizing the archives for transfer, every effort has been made, as directed by the Security Council in resolution 1762 (2007), to keep under strict control sensitive proliferation information and information provided in confidence by Member States. As suggested by the Council in the letter dated 21 November 2007 from the President of the Council to the Secretary-General (S/2007/680), this information has been classified into two categories, namely, "strictly confidential", to be kept sealed for a minimum period of 60 years, and "confidential", to be sealed for a minimum period of 30 years. It is proposed that both periods start from the day following the closure of UNMOVIC, namely 1 March 2008. At the expiration of these periods, the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the standing committee referred to in paragraphs 16 and 17 below, will review the "strictly confidential" and "confidential" information and make recommendations to the Council regarding the declassification of such information. Information not declassified will remain sealed and be subject to review and recommendations thereon by the Secretary-General to the Security Council every five years from the date of the previous review.

16. In the letter dated 21 November 2007 from the President of the Security Council to the Secretary-General, the Council had also suggested that the Secretary-General nominate a three-person ad hoc committee for approval by the Council, to review requests for early access to information in the UNMOVIC archives by Member States and relevant international organizations, such as IAEA, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The committee would consider such requests on a case-by-case basis, careful consideration being given to the reasons for such requests.

17. Accordingly, it is proposed that a standing committee composed of one senior-level representative each from the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Office of Legal Affairs and the Department of Political Affairs be established by the Secretary-General to consider any requests for early (privileged) access to the archives as set out above. It is also proposed that the committee assist the Secretary-General in conducting the declassification reviews following the expiration of the 30- and 60-year classification periods for "confidential" and "strictly confidential" information referred to in paragraph 15 above. The committee would submit its recommendations on these matters through the Secretary-General to the Security Council for its consideration and decision under a non-objection procedure.

18. Given the technical and specialized nature of the information contained in the UNMOVIC archives, the standing committee may require expert advice and

assistance in the conduct of its work. Accordingly, it is proposed that the committee be able to draw upon such expertise from the organizations of the United Nations system and, as necessary, from former personnel of UNMOVIC or the Special Commission and other outside experts. In doing so, the committee will ensure that access to the UNMOVIC archives by such experts would be granted only under conditions of strict confidentiality. Such access would be monitored by the Archives and Records Management Section to prevent unauthorized copying or removal of material from the archives.

19. A Secretary-General's Bulletin is in preparation by the relevant departments of the Secretariat governing the management, preservation, storage and use of and access to the UNMOVIC archives in accordance with the strict regime for access outlined by the Council in the letter from the President of the Security Council to the Secretary-General (S/2007/680). The Bulletin will be finalized once the Security Council has indicated its views on the recommendations made in the present report.

### **Other property**

20. At 31 December 2007, non-expendable property, valued at historical cost, was worth approximately \$1.2 million. It included inspection-related equipment that carried some kind of export restriction or end-user certificate. There were in addition many inert and non-hazardous artefacts, including remnants of proscribed items that United Nations inspectors had removed during inspections. The actions set out below have been taken to dispose of all UNMOVIC property.

### **Non-sensitive property**

21. Following a request by the Foreign Minister of Iraq on 27 August 2007, it was decided that Iraq would be offered a right of first refusal with respect to UNMOVIC property that is not sensitive or subject to export controls or other end-use restrictions. At Iraq's request, some furniture, satellite telephones and laptop computers from the UNMOVIC inventory, as well as other non-sensitive materials and properties located in Baghdad, were transferred to the Government of Iraq. Following the Iraqi decision to allow for the sale and return to stock of the remaining UNMOVIC property, the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) and the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) were asked to sell and dispose of UNMOVIC properties in Kuwait and Cyprus respectively. The remaining items of UNMOVIC office furniture and office equipment in New York have been returned to stock.

#### **(a) Iraqi artefacts**

22. Inert and non-hazardous artefacts were offered to other relevant United Nations departments and agencies. Artefacts located in Larnaca and New York that were not requested have been disposed of. Artefacts in Baghdad were moved to the United Nations offices in Kuwait where some will be sent to United Nations agencies and the remainder will be destroyed or disposed of under United Nations supervision.

**(b) Sensitive property**

23. Following unsuccessful attempts to sell export-restricted property back to the manufacturer, the United Nations Headquarters Property Survey Board allowed the sale or transfer to qualified United Nations organizations. All sensitive equipment has now been accepted or purchased by the Department of Safety and Security, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, UNEP or IAEA. The mobile chemical laboratory in Baghdad has been moved to the United Nations offices in Kuwait, and arrangements are under way to dispose of it expeditiously.

**Other developments**

24. Following the discovery of two packages with labels referring to hazardous substances in August 2007 while the UNMOVIC documents were being archived, I set up an independent fact-finding panel to inquire into the matter. The Panel reported on 19 October 2007 and concluded that the items in question contained no toxic chemicals, that is, no chemical warfare agents, and that at no time did they pose a serious risk to United Nations staff members. The Panel, however, made recommendations for policies to be established regarding occupational health and safety, handling of materials from field activities, handling of records from field activities and liaison arrangements with the host country.

**Human and financial resources**

25. At the time of my previous report (S/2007/568), the staffing level of UNMOVIC stood at 15 Professionals and 6 support staff. Over the ensuing months, there were reductions in staff so that, at the end of February 2008, the staffing level stood at 12 Professionals and 4 support staff.

26. All staff contracts terminated with effect from 29 February 2008, with the exception of three support staff members who would remain for three more months (charged to other sources of funds) to deal with residual issues of an administrative and financial nature, including the disposal of the remaining property.

27. In my report, I had indicated that \$12 million represented the estimated expenditure to complete the liquidation process, including facility and security upgrades, archival supplies and human resources, separation and after-service care costs, rent, security costs and costs incurred in connection with the disposition of UNMOVIC property. While noting the transfer of \$25.1 million unencumbered funds reported in that report, the President of the Security Council asked that any unspent portion of the \$12 million be transferred to the Development Fund for Iraq without delay. As a result, \$878,285 was transferred to the Fund on 28 February 2008, and an additional amount of about \$2 million is potentially transferable and will be transferred to the Fund as soon as the final disposition of the various inventory items including those referred to in paragraph 20 is completed.

**Conclusion**

28. Pursuant to Security Council resolutions and decisions, the Special Commission and UNMOVIC developed and made operational a unique United

Nations verification and monitoring mechanism in the area of weapons of mass destruction and long-range delivery systems. Overall, this has been acknowledged as a valuable contribution by the United Nations to international efforts to eliminate and counter threats of weapons of mass destruction. The Special Commission and UNMOVIC put into practice many innovative verification and monitoring procedures. Through its training programme, UNMOVIC has established a roster of inspectors comprising over 350 experts in the biological, chemical and missile areas drawn from more than 50 countries. They were trained and many of them acquired practical experience in carrying out on-site inspections on behalf of the international community in a professional and independent manner, and through their investigative and analytical work they have contributed to the preparation of reports to the Council. The international community could benefit if practical ways were found to preserve for appropriate future use the experience and expertise accumulated over the years of Special Commission and UNMOVIC operations.

29. This report would be incomplete if it did not acknowledge the professional and support staff of UNMOVIC and the Special Commission and all those who worked in Iraq, often in trying conditions, for their courage and dedication over a period of about 17 years. Appreciation is also due to the Executive Chairmen for the skill and enthusiasm with which they guided the Special Commission and UNMOVIC.

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