



Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/21871
11 October 1990
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 11 OCTOBER 1990 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
KUWAIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Further to our correspondence concerning the inhuman practices being applied by the Iraqi occupation authorities in Kuwait, we transmit herewith the text of an article by Mr. John Cassidy, published in the Sunday Times of 7 October 1990, which contains an account of some of the practices being applied by the Iraqi occupation authorities with a view to the physical and moral liquidation of the Kuwaiti people and Kuwaiti institutions. We have already furnished you with precise details concerning these practices in our letters, particularly those issued as documents S/21843, S/21815, S/21798 and S/21713.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad A. ABULHASAN
Permanent Representative

Annex

BACK TO YEAR ZERO

Saddam eradicates Kuwait but Bush must hold fire
First they took the BMWs - now the Iraqis are looting
vital medical equipment. Yet as Kuwait dies, writes
John Cassidy,
Saddam remains unchecked

London Sunday Times - Oct. 7, 1990

UNTIL two months ago, Entertainment City was the Disneyland of the Middle East, an oasis of American kitsch 12 miles west of Kuwait City. Tourists from all over the Gulf used to visit Future World, International World and Arab World to ride on the "space needle", the "moon orbiter" and the "atom smasher".

Now the Kuwaiti government-funded \$120m pleasure complex, which took six years to build and aped Disneyland in California lies looted an eerie symbol of what has happened to Kuwait since August 2.

Amid the scaled-down models of Big Ben, the Eiffel Tower and the leaning tower of Pisa, there is no sign of life. Entertainment City's Pakistani workers have fled to Jordan; the roller-coasters, carousels and miniature trains have been dismantled and trucked to Baghdad.

Quite what Saddam Hussein wants with the "moon orbiter" is unclear. But it has become war booty, along

with the traffic lights, the lamp posts and crazy-paving stones, the art treasures, newspaper printing presses, forklift trucks, kidney machines, incubators and almost everything else that can be ripped out of the desert kingdom.

Kuwait has fallen victim to the most systematic looting since the 16th century Spanish plundered the New World. According to exiled Kuwait government officials, American experts and other Kuwaiti exiles interviewed by the Sunday Times, the city state is now a mere shell.

Saddam's forces have effectively stripped, depopulated and dehumanised a country which only ten weeks ago vied with Switzerland for the title of the world's richest. They have also terrorised the remaining Kuwaiti population into submission by carrying out mass arrests and executions at the slightest sign of resistance activity.

Possibly the most inhumane incidents reported were the removal of incubators - after the babies in them had been taken out and left to die. Iraqi soldiers reportedly entered the Al Adan hospital in Al Ahmadi, near the Saudi Arabian border, and unplugged incubators supporting the lives of 22 babies many of whom later died.

The facts of that alleged incident remain undocumented, but another was recounted in convincing detail in London last week.

Dr. Mohsin Yousof, professor of medicine and cardiology at Kuwait hospital who escaped from Kuwait just after the Iraqi invasion said that twin premature baby boys born to a Kuwaiti woman who had tried for 15 years to become pregnant died after being removed from their incubators by Iraqi soldiers.

Yousof said that a doctor known to him had stated in writing that he witnessed the incident at a maternity hospital. "The mother was told to take the babies home," said Yousof. "The day after, the babies died". He said the information was given to him during a meeting with the Kuwaiti doctor in Bahrain.

Yousof said the removal of incubators and other advanced medical equipment such as kidney dialysis machines was part of a move by Saddam to "pillage the country." The Iraqi have also taken x-ray machines, surgical equipment, blood banks and radiotherapy machines needed to treat cancer patients. "Doctors are now having to act under the orders of Iraqi soldiers. The military

has now taken over all the country's hospitals," Yousof said.

Another exiled Kuwaiti doctor produced a written testimonial from a colleague who recounted what happened when he tried to help a young member of the Kuwaiti resistance who has been taken to hospital with multiple injuries.

"The Kuwaiti doctor realised that the boy was gasping for breath - obviously somebody had switched off his oxygen. He quickly switched it back on and the boy improved a little as he sat beside him. An Iraqi doctor observed him doing that. He was taken to a side room and was told quite blatantly, I advise you not to spread this information to any of the news media, or you will face serious consequences."

"Next morning the Kuwaiti doctor went into the hospital and found the boy dead. The oxygen had been switched off again."

For George Bush, grappling now with tough domestic problems as well as the Gulf crisis, such horror stories are a terrible test of his resolve not to move his troops against the Iraqis in Kuwait until all economic and diplomatic efforts to remove them have been exhausted.

His critics complain that by the time he does go to the rescue the last shred of Kuwaiti national identity will have vanished. And Brent Scowcroft, Bush's national security adviser, said last week that "there is no question that what is happening inside Kuwait affects the timetable" for deciding whether sanctions have failed.

This comment set off a frenzy of press speculation about whether Bush was on the verge of turning to the military option. But "Scowcroft's comments were not intended to signal a departure from our basic policy," said a senior American official. "That remains the same". As revealed in The Sunday Times last week, the White House's strategy is to try to outlast Saddam while sanctions take effect.

Bush's speech at the United Nations last week was interpreted as a further clear indication of his own reluctance to adopt the early use of force. The president told the UN he wanted a peaceful outcome to the crisis, and he raised the prospect of an Arab Israeli settlement if Saddam withdrew from Kuwait.

This was intended as a minor concession to Saddam and a spur to diplomacy, and it was echoed later in the week by Douglas Hurd.

Despite the disastrous situation in Kuwait, Bush's advisers see the next few weeks as a period when diplomacy will be given its head. They consider it exhaust all non-military possibilities before looking at other options.

Even if Bush wanted to consider using force, he could not do so for some time yet. "D-Day", the date at which Bush will have all his military options available, is slipping back by the week.

A month ago, the Pentagon said it would be ready by October 15. This date has now been put back a month, and some are saying no offensive action could be taken before December 1, the date by which the British and French forces will be fully deployed and acclimatized.

The only action likely to be taken against Saddam in the near future is a UN resolution calling for reparations to be paid to Kuwait after any settlement, an idea proposed by Margaret Thatcher in New York last week. But, according to British officials, this resolution will not mention the possible use of military force. If it did, they fear, it would be vetoed.

The Iraqi dictator seems very pleased with the

situation. Visiting Kuwait last week for the first time since the invasion, he publicly taunted the American president "Bush can't do what he says," he told his troops, brushing off threats of an American invasion. "Have you seen anybody walking around here who looks like an American?"

Saddam's portrait appears on most public buildings, and a large statue of him greets visitors at the gateway to Kuwait City - a roundabout just west of the business area.

While his men strip Kuwait of its economic identity, his soldiers and secret police have terrorised the population into submission. According to an Amnesty International report released last week, Saddam's forces are guilty of "widespread arrests, interrogation under torture, summary executions and mass extrajudicial killings."

Kuwaiti officials say the Iraqi resorted to brute force because the Kuwaiti resistance, aided by covert American and Saudi Arabian operations, was initially highly successful each responsible for distributing food and attacking Iraqi forces in its area. According to Kuwaitis they originally fought door-to-door battles.

inflicting heavy casualties on the Iraqis. But in the past few weeks the Iraqis have turned their tanks on any building from which guns are fired, and have started randomly executing youths from resistance areas. At one point, resistance workers were discovering up to a dozen Kuwaiti bodies each morning, most shot at close range.

Hundreds of Kuwaitis have also been arrested and tortured. According to Amnesty International: "Some have been given electric shocks or suffered prolonged beatings. Others had their limbs broken their finger and toe nails pulled out, and were threatened with sexual assault or execution."

These Iraqi terror tactics led local leaders to appeal to the exiled Kuwaiti government to call off the resistance attacks because of the reprisals they were provoking, and last week it agreed to order a radical reduction in activities.

Iraqi forces are arresting not only those suspected of armed attacks, but also any men, women and children found with Kuwaiti literature. The Iraqis have ordered each Kuwaiti family to hang a picture of Saddam in its home. Refusal to comply is in some cases being treated as a capital offence.

Iraq's actions have reduced Kuwait's population from 1.9m before the invasion to about 500,000. Some 250,000 of the kingdom's 600,000 citizens have fled, along with the vast majority of the 1.3m foreign residents.

About the only things still working in Kuwait City are the water and electricity plants. Factories and offices are at a standstill. The Kuwaiti currency, the once mighty dinar, is no longer legal tender. Kuwaiti driving licenses, identity cards and car license plates have all been cancelled. Kuwaitis must obtain Iraqi citizenship before the end of this but little recognisable left of Kuwait anyway.

The pillage of Kuwait took place in two stages. In the aftermath of the invasion, Saddam's troops sacked the obvious targets, including the royal palace, the Treasury, the Central Bank, and the Kuwait National Museum. They also raided department stores and luxury car showrooms.

In the past month, according to Kuwaiti officials and exiles, the looting has become a systematic dismembering of the private and public institutions that used to make Kuwait a modern technological society.

Schools, research institutes, libraries and

hospitals have been carried. Kuwait University has been turned into the headquarters of the Iraqi secret police. According to Amnesty International, the campus has become the execution ground for scores of people suspected of opposing the invasion.

Factories have been looted, as have many office blocks. Kuwait City's seven newspapers - five Arabic and two British - were stripped of printing presses, computers and newswire machines. Local television and radio stations received the same treatment. As a result, there are no news media in Kuwait. Most residents rely on broadcasts in Arabic by the BBC World Service.

About the only significant industrial structures that have not been plundered are the Kuwaiti oil wells. But there are unconfirmed reports that they have been fitted with plastic explosives in case of an American attack.

With little left to steal that is not nailed down, the Iraqi have turned their attention to Kuwait's fixtures and buildings. According to Kuwaiti sources, at least one oil pot is being steadily stripped.

Meanwhile, thousands of Iraqi and Palestinian families are streaming south to fill vacant Kuwait City

apartments.

The exiled government, based in Taif, Saudi Arabia, has a complete copy of its citizenship records but it would still have great difficulty ejecting the "new" Kuwaitis if it ever returned to power. An act of physical and social engineering also means that nothing short of the total reconstruction of the country will be necessary.

"It will be like starting from zero," said Al Massar, the secretary-general of the Kuwaiti cabinet. "It will take a hell of a lot of time, effort and goodwill to put the country together again." That is for the future. In the meantime he is waiting to hear if the "moon orbiter" appears in Baghdad. "It will be interesting to see where it springs up," he said.

