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SECURITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED BY RESOLUTION 661 (1990)
CONCERNING THE SITUATION BETWEEN IRAQ AND KUWAIT

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 158th MEETING (CLOSED)

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 27 June 1997, at 3.30 p.m.

Chairman:

Mr. MONTEIRO

(Portugal)

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The meeting was called to order at 4.05 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

PRESENTATION BY LLOYD'S REGISTER

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Russ Kemp and Mr. Howard Earnshaw (Lloyd's Register) took places at the Committee table.

Mr. KEMP (Lloyd's Register) said that in its cargo examination operations at Port Aqaba since 1994, Lloyd's Register had been meeting its objectives quietly and efficiently, with minimal impact on port operations. It had been obtaining a high level of cooperation from the United Nations, the Aqaba Port Corporation and the Jordanian customs authorities. While the free zone at Zakho remained a potential weak spot, Lloyd's Register viewed the overall operation as successful and satisfactory to all parties. There had been a slight increase in the bulk cargo tonnage passing through the port since 1994, accompanied by a larger increase in the number of freight containers handled there.

Mr. EARNSHAW (Lloyd's Register) said that the transit of goods at the border checkpoints at Zakho, Trebil and Umm Qasr seemed to be proceeding more quickly. The continued presence of Turkish troops at Zakho was no longer hindering truck movements across the border, and the number of trucks requiring inspection had increased considerably during the previous week. Documentation problems continued to arise at Trebil with regard to consignments originating in Jordan, leading to delays in the authentication process, but the Secretariat was attempting to resolve the situation with the Jordanian authorities. A problem in the computer database which had been affecting authentication amounts was also being solved.

Mr. BROWN (United States of America) expressed concern at the continuing documentation problems at Trebil and asked the Chairman to raise the issue in his upcoming discussions with the Jordanian authorities.

Mr. Kemp and Mr. Earnshaw withdrew.

OTHER MATTERS

The CHAIRMAN said that he had received clarification regarding the classification of medicines and medical supplies urgently needed in Iraq and would discuss that information with members of the Committee at its next meetings. A proposal to enlist the services of a pharmaceutical consultant to assist the Committee in evaluating requests for medicines would also be discussed at that time. He had yet to receive any communication regarding Iraqi proposals for new oil prices and contracts. Lastly, a vessel which had been discussed in an informal meeting of the Committee remained in an Iraqi port, unable to load its cargo. He requested the advice of members of the Committee as to how to proceed.

Mr. STEPHANIDES (Secretary of the Committee) said that it would be necessary to seek the advice of the Saybolt overseers of the oil export monitoring process, with whom a meeting was scheduled for the following week. For the present, it appeared that the Committee had exhausted all means at its disposal for resolving the matter and that the Iraqi authorities and the company concerned would have to find a solution on their own.

Mr. BROWN (United States of America) said that if Committee members agreed that the cargo to be loaded on the vessel in question was a cargo to which Security Council resolution 986 (1995) applied and that the proceeds from the sale of the cargo were to be spent on goods covered by that resolution, the Chairman should so inform the Iraqi authorities.

Mr. OKANIWA (Japan) said that to avoid cancellation of oil contracts and consequent financial losses to purchasers, there was a need to expedite the extension of Security Council resolution 986 (1995). His delegation felt that similar situations should be avoided in implementing Security Council resolution 1111 (1997) and it would consult with other interested parties on that issue.

Mr. STEPHANIDES (Secretary of the Committee), responding to an inquiry from Mr. GALEY (France) regarding the distribution plan, said that the Iraqi authorities had indicated to the Secretary-General that they hoped to complete the plan shortly. Representatives of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs were working in Iraq to complete arrangements for the northern region. In the interests of the humanitarian objectives of Security Council resolution

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986 (1995), the Committee could play a constructive role in facilitating the earliest possible completion of the distribution plan.

The meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.