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**COMMUNICATION RECEIVED ON 15 MARCH 1999 FROM  
THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ  
TO THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

The text of a letter from the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the Agency received on 15 March 1999 is - as requested - herewith reproduced for the attention of the General Conference.

For reasons of economy, this document has been printed in a limited number.  
Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of documents to meetings.

**TEXT OF A LETTER RECEIVED ON 15 MARCH 1999  
FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ  
ADDRESSED TO THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

“Thank you for your letter No. N3.31.2-IRAQ dated 5.2.1999. I have the honour to point out that the Security Council, in its resolution No. 661-1990 has imposed a comprehensive regime of sanctions and embargo led to deprive Iraq from all its financial resources, froze all its assets abroad, and prevented it from providing the essential finance sources. And thus hindered it not only to meet its commitments towards international organizations, but also from buying and providing food and medicine.

“Iraq is one of the members who established the United Nations, and first participants in establishing other organizations related to the UN. Iraq was and still is very keen to pay its contributions regularly, and had made several donations to several United Nations organizations. What prevents Iraq today from meeting its commitments to your Agency’s budget is a force majeure beyond its control. It is the very cause that prevents it from providing milk to its children.

“The aggressive war launched by the American-led coalition forces against Iraq in January 1991 led to a total destruction of Iraq’s infrastructure. And the long years of the comprehensive embargo had abolished what was left. Consequently this situation led to stopping the entire process of economic development in all Iraq.

“Explaining these facts and realities and referring in this respect to paragraph (A) of article 19(XIX) of the International Atomic Energy Agency Statute which states:

The General Conference may, nevertheless, permit such a member to vote if it is satisfied that the failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the member.

“I hope you would kindly understand Iraq’s situation, and adopt a positive attitude in its favour to restore its right to vote, till these exceptional circumstances are abolished, where it could be able to pay all its compiled arrears to your Agency and to resume donations and contributions supporting other United Nations Organizations.”\*

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\* It is suggested that, in line with past practice, this request be referred to the General Committee for initial consideration.

