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IRAQ'S COMPLIANCE WITH UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

COMMUNICATION

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

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other relevant UNSCRs, better enables the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people to be met while denying p9olitical or military benefits to the Baghdad regime.

Flight control regime

UNSC resolutions are open to competing interpretations regarding intentional flights to Baghdad. The UNSC has so far unsuccessfully attempted to reach a consensus agreement on new procedures for international flights. In the absence of an agreement, we continue to press for adherence to existing Sanctions Committee procedures, which allow for Committee approval of flights with a demonstrable humanitarian purpose. Most flights have complied with those procedures.

Northern Iraq: Kurdish reconciliation

The Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) continue their efforts to implement the September 17, 1998, reconciliation agreement.

They work together effectively in a number of areas, including joint efforts to bring the needs of their region to the attention of the UN and the international community, and within the larger Iraqi national democratic opposition movement. The situation in northern Iraq is not settled, however, and we continue to look for ways to encourage the parties to make greater progress toward resolving their differences.

The human rights situation in Iraq

The human rights situation in Iraq continues to fall severely short of international norms. UNSCR 688 expressly notes that the consequences of the regime's repression of its own people constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region. It also demands immediate access by international humanitarian aid organizations to all Iraqis in need in all parts of Iraq. Yet, for over 9 years the Iraqi Government has refused to allow the UN Human Rights Commission's Special Rapporteur for Iraq to visit the country. UN human rights monitors have never been allowed in. On April 18, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights strongly condemned "the systematic, widespread, and extremely grave violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law by the Government of Iraq, resulting in an all-pervasive repression and oppression sustained by broad-based discrimination and widespread terror."

Human rights NGOs and other interested voices continue to call for creation of an international tribunal to address the war crimes and crimes against humanity of the Iraqi leadership. United States Government policy supports this view: the leadership of the Iraqi regime should be indicted and prosecuted by an international criminal tribunal or by a national court that can properly exercise jurisdiction over the Iraqi leadership's abuse of resources for personal enrichment and attempts to manipulate the "oil-for-food" program continued unabated. Due to higher world oil prices, Iraq has more revenue available to it to address the humanitarian needs of its people via the "oil-for-food" program. The Iraqi leadership's command of illicit revenue has also risen sharply for the same reason.

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encourage and support those Iraqis working for the day when Iraq rejoins the family of nations as a responsible and law-abiding member under a new government that serves its people, rather than represses them.

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