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REQUEST BY THE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ

The attached clarification by a spokesman of the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs is being circulated for the information of Member States pursuant to a request made by the Resident Representative of Iraq.

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**CLARIFICATION BY A SPOKESMAN OF THE
IRAQI MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

Baghdad, 2 April 1990

A spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued the following clarification:

The British authorities are preparing once more - and this time in co-operation with the American authorities - to unleash a tendentious campaign of slander with the object of discrediting Iraq and providing justification for aggression against it, thereby no doubt rendering a direct and clear service to the aggressive Zionist designs against Iraq and the Arab Nation.

As to the clarification issued by us on 29 March, we preferred to wait for a few days until the full scope of the tendentious campaign in the British and American media was known, so that Arab and world public opinion should be fully aware of all the facts.

The matter around which this sham uproar started was nothing but a small, ordinary contract between an Iraqi institution and a British commercial firm for the procurement of material to be used by the University of Technology in Iraq for purely scientific purposes, the value of the contract being \$10 500.

As will be clear from the details of the transaction which we have given in the annex to this clarification [*], the American authorities, in co-operation with the British authorities - and this has been admitted by those parties themselves - deliberately planted an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in the guise of a Sales Manager in the American firm supplying the material in order to attribute to this small, ordinary transaction a biased intelligence angle, the purpose being to prepare a false accusation to the effect that Iraq was trying to acquire, in the American market, equipment for nuclear use. The report annexed to this statement shows that the Iraqi authorities concerned were not taken in; they objected, as their primary desire was to obtain material for scientific use. What confirms mala fides and premeditation is the open communications which the FBI agent, masquerading as the American firm's Sales Manager, addressed to the Iraqi authorities blatantly offering - on his own initiative and not in response to a request by the Iraqi authorities - to sell material for nuclear use, with a view undoubtedly to luring and implicating them.. Anyone who knows: the United States is fully aware that all telephone and telex communications between the United States and countries abroad are under constant advanced electronic surveillance by the American National Security Agency. How is it possible for the Sales Manager of an American firm to offer materials for nuclear use in an open telex message unless the matter was conceived, planned and implemented in collaboration with the American security authorities?

[*] See INFCIRC/380, Attachment 2 and 3.

The British and American authorities directed the operation, issuing statements and explanations which contained accusations against Iraq. It is against these authorities themselves that accusations should be made - of scheming to implicate and to besmirch the reputation of Iraq.

The facts connected with this operation cannot be isolated from the organized and continuous campaign of slander which has been conducted for some time with a view to damaging Iraq's reputation and paving the way for aggression against it and attacks on its scientific and industrial installations. Nor can they be isolated from the case of the spy Bazoft and the violent, tendentious and deliberate campaign stirred up by Britain's official circles and media, by the American media and by Western media under the influence of Zionism.

The purpose of this is clear - to blockade Iraq and to prevent it by various means from continuing to exercise its natural right to scientific progress and the acquisition of technology, and then to perpetuate aggression against it. It is not Iraq alone which is the target, but the whole Arab Nation. The objective of the colonialists and of Zionist circles is to maintain Israel's supremacy over the Arabs as a whole. And the end result is the continuation of Israeli occupation of Arab land, Western-Israeli hegemony over the region, and denial of the rights of the Palestinian Arab people and its just cause.

It has also been demonstrated through this affair that Iraq acts by legitimate means, abiding in its quest for scientific and technological progress by the norms of international law and the rules of intercourse between States conscientiously and in good faith. It is worth mentioning here that Iraq is a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and complies with it; the International Atomic Energy Agency, which carries out regular visits to its facilities, is a witness thereto. Israel, on the other hand, has not signed NPT and refuses to sign in spite of repeated resolutions of the United Nations and other bodies urging it to do so. Moreover, all reports, including reports from American and other Western sources, confirm that Israel possesses nuclear weapons, and there has been no outcry against this on the part of those who pretend to shed tears over security in the region... unlike the furore raised against Iraq about a trumped-up affair.

We wish to emphasize that Iraq, and with it the whole Arab Nation, will not yield to the persistent attempts to exert pressure and to blackmail of which it has been the subject, and will continue to exercise its natural right to progress. It is fully aware of the nexus between these attempts and the associated tendentious media campaigns and plans for launching attacks against it.

Iraq is fully on the alert against such attempts, and those who are preparing plans for attack should know - as we have stressed repeatedly - that Iraq has the will and possesses the means to counter-attack and to teach the aggressor a telling lesson.