

**UNMOVIC IAEA Press Statement on Inspection Activities in Iraq
27 December 2002**

An UNMOVIC biological team inspected the Modern Chemical Industries in Hay Babil, Baghdad. This is a private company that produces industrial alcohol, medicinal-grade alcohol, arak, whiskey and gin from dates. The company is a declared and previously monitored site due to the presence of dual-use equipment. The site was closed for Christmas holiday but access was granted to the offices, production areas and a laboratory where keys were available and the team wanted to inspect.

An UNMOVIC chemical team inspected the Al Nasser Al Athim (Al Adheem) State Company, a facility for heavy engineering, located at Dawra district of Baghdad. The purpose of this inspection was to continue re-baselining. Although it was a Friday inspection, access to the facility as well as all the buildings designated for inspection was granted.

An UNMOVIC team of missile inspectors also went to the Al Nasser Al Athim (Al Adheem) State Company for inspection. The company undertakes a wide range of metal working for both civilian and military purposes. Some members of the team held discussions with site personnel, while some others inspected buildings on the site.

The IAEA continued its programme of interviewing key Iraqi scientists. Today's subject was a metallurgist from a high visibility state company. He provided technical details of a military programme. This programme has attracted considerable attention as a possible prelude to a clandestine nuclear programme. The answers will be of great use in completing the IAEA assessment.

There will be a press briefing at the Canal Hotel tomorrow, Saturday, 28 December, at 6:00 p.m.

Hiro Ueki
Spokesman for UNMOVIC and the IAEA in Baghdad