

**Summary of the UNMOVIC/IAEA Press Briefing
on Weapons Inspection Activities in Iraq
4 December 2002**

Dimitri Perricos, the leader of the UNMOVIC weapons inspection team and the Director of Planning and Operations of UNMOVIC, briefed the press on the team's action today by saying that his team had inspected Al-Mutanna, approximately 140 km north of Baghdad. This was the site where Iraq had had a chemical weapons (CW) warfare programme and thousands of CW shells and agents had been destroyed by the UN weapons inspectors. The team wanted to know if some shells containing mustard gas, which were left out at the site, were still stored there. Mr. Perricos said that in fact the team had found the shells stored at the site.

Jacques Baute, the IAEA Iraq Action Team leader, said that his team had conducted an inspection at the Tuwaitha site run by the Iraqi Atomic Energy Agency. The team inspected several major areas at the site for about five hours in order to review changes that had taken place since December 1998. Those changes included construction or rehabilitation of some buildings, movement of equipment, changes in areas of responsibility for site personnel. Most of the observed changes had been recorded in the backlog of semi-annual declarations that were submitted to the IAEA on 1 October. Mr. Baute added that the inspection team had been able to carry out all the activities it decided to conduct, with the cooperation of the Iraqi counterpart.

Asked about the Iraqi Foreign Minister's statement in which he expressed concern about the attitude of UN weapons inspectors, Mr. Perricos said that Iraq had accepted Security Council resolution 1441, and therefore that all sites in Iraq could be subject to inspection. This Presidential Palace was a presidential guesthouse and the team was looking for documents and other records used just for weapons of mass destruction.

In response to a question on the upcoming Iraqi declaration, Mr. Baute said that all Iraqi declarations were important. It would be one component of our knowledge. Other knowledge came from documents and additional information provided by others.

Responding to another question on the practicality of increasing the number of weapons inspectors, Mr. Perricos said that "we will be using a multiplicity of teams, utilizing multiple disciplines" to conduct weapons inspection in the coming weeks.

Asked about achievements so far, Mr. Perricos said that his team had conducted inspections for only one week so far, but that his team had implemented the original inspection plan. Mr. Baute also said that his team now had better knowledge in the areas of their concern and would accelerate their inspection activities with more inspectors. He said that the IAEA report to be submitted to the Security Council would be meaningful.

In response to a question on the report of the United States planning to compare the Iraqi declaration against its own intelligence report, Mr. Perricos said that national intelligence had more information, and that his team had not used that type of information yet.

Asked about the time frame after the 60-day report, Mr. Perricos went over the time frame indicated in Security Council resolution 1284, which should follow the time frame indicated in Security Council resolution 1441.

Hiro Ueki
Spokesman for UNMOVIC and the IAEA in Baghdad