



Security Council

Distr.: General
24 May 2001

Original: English

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Security Council the fifth quarterly report of the Executive Chairman of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC), which is submitted in accordance with paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 1284 (1999) of 17 December 1999 (see annex).



Annex

Fifth quarterly report of the Executive Chairman of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission under paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 1284 (1999)

Introduction

1. The present report, which is the fifth^a submitted in accordance with paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 1284 (1999), covers the activities of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) during the period from 1 March to 31 May 2001. As will be seen from this report, UNMOVIC has continued during this period to prepare itself for work in Iraq, in particular by training staff, by seeking to identify issues that will need special attention through monitoring and inspection, and by consolidating the archives inherited from the Special Commission.

Briefings and consultations by the Executive Chairman

2. In the period under review, the Executive Chairman has continued his practice of providing monthly briefings to the respective Presidents of the Security Council. He has also kept the Secretary-General informed of the preparatory activities of UNMOVIC. In addition, he has visited several capitals, including Oslo, Ottawa, Paris, Stockholm and Washington, D.C., for consultations with senior government officers. He has also held talks with members of the Political and Security Committee of the European Union and representatives of relevant European Union institutions and officials of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Brussels and Vienna, respectively.

Recruitment

3. The Commission's core staff has, by and large, been recruited. It will have to be much expanded when activities in Iraq are to begin. The current staff complement, in the professional grades, is 45 persons of 22 nationalities. To strengthen the Commission's analytical capabilities in specialized areas, it has also engaged the short-term services of a few experts. The input of additional outside experts will help increase

the Commission's understanding of Iraq's proscribed weapons programmes. UNMOVIC has also engaged specialized outside experts as chief instructors for its training.

Training

4. As forecast in the Commission's last report (S/2001/177), the third month-long UNMOVIC training course ended in Vienna on 23 March. A total of 52 persons took part.

5. The fourth basic UNMOVIC training course commenced in Ottawa on 28 May and will end on 29 June 2001. There are 61 participants, encompassing some 26 nationalities. As with previous courses, the current training course covers general lectures on the mandate of UNMOVIC, its rights and obligations, the proscribed weapons programmes of Iraq and discipline-specific training. In addition, in conformity with paragraph 6 of resolution 1284 (1999), participants in the course were provided with training regarding the history, religion and culture of Iraq. With the completion of the fourth training course, UNMOVIC will have a roster of nearly 180 persons trained for work in Iraq. The experts on the roster are kept up to date with developments in respect of UNMOVIC through a newsletter and through material on the UNMOVIC web site.

6. UNMOVIC has also embarked on a series of more specialized training courses. On the basis of UNMOVIC guidelines, both existing staff and a number of persons from the roster of trained experts (30 in total), were selected to undertake detailed practical exercises in sample-taking in all three weapons disciplines (biological, chemical and missile) that could be used during inspections in Iraq, and were given briefings in sample preparation for transport and analysis. The second specialized training undertaken by UNMOVIC is an advanced missile training course. The 23 participants in the course received training in the preparation and conduct of missile monitoring inspections, including practical exercises. The participants in this week-long training course were

selected from within the existing UNMOVIC staff and the roster of experts who have undergone basic UNMOVIC training. More such specialized training is envisaged.

7. The Commission wishes to place on record its appreciation for the support provided to its training by the Governments concerned.

Other activities

8. The principal focus of work of the Commission's current staff has remained the identification of "unresolved disarmament issues". This concept was recognized in paragraph 2 of resolution 1284 (1999). The methodology and approach taken in this work was discussed with the College of Commissioners at its fourth session in February. The work aims at enabling the Commission to be as far advanced as possible in identifying the issues to be addressed in Iraq through the reinforced system of ongoing monitoring and verification called for by the Council. The work will also form a substantial part of the basis for the identification of the "key remaining disarmament tasks" which UNMOVIC must present to the Security Council for approval as part of the work programme to be carried out in Iraq. It calls for a comprehensive examination and analysis of material taken over from the Special Commission and engages a large number of the Commission's weapons experts and lawyers.

9. The completion of both the inventory of unresolved disarmament issues and the identification of the key remaining disarmament tasks will only be possible after the Commission's experts have commenced work in Iraq and have been able to assess what changes may have occurred during almost two and a half years when there have been no on-site inspections or monitoring in Iraq. Nevertheless, the Commission's experts are able to make considerable progress with this work through analysing and assessing the large volume of material taken over from the Special Commission, and other information acquired since the withdrawal of inspectors from Iraq in December 1998.

10. In accordance with the views expressed at the fourth session of the College of Commissioners in Vienna in February, the Commission's experts have added to their analysis assessments of the significance of the issues, and where possible, indications of ways

in which these issues might be resolved or otherwise remedied in the future with Iraq's cooperation.

11. The Commission's staff has now completed the major part of the draft handbook for inspectors. Valuable advice has been obtained from the College of Commissioners for this work. The handbook aims at providing staff with practical guidance on many inspection and other operational issues. It sets out the procedures to be used by the Commission's staff in Iraq in respect of the various weapons disciplines for which the Commission is responsible. Common formats for field reporting and Iraq's declarations are included. Codes of conduct for staff and their responsibilities are also covered. The handbook provides inspectors with the texts of the Security Council's decisions and other sources of the mandate of UNMOVIC, and sets out the rights of inspectors and the corresponding duties and obligations of Iraq. For Iraq, which under resolution 1284 (1999) is called upon to cooperate in all respects with the Commission, the handbook may serve as upfront guidance on what may be required both of Iraq and of the Commission.

12. The Commission's experts have completed their review of the criteria for the classification of inspection sites and facilities throughout Iraq. They have also prepared common layouts and formats for the reporting of site inspections to allow greater consistency and thus a clear basis for analysis.

13. As required by paragraph 8 of resolution 1284 (1999), the Commission's staff have continued to revise and update the lists of dual-use items and materials to which the export/import monitoring mechanism, approved by the Security Council in resolution 1051 (1996), applies. The Commission's experts held consultations with representatives of interested Member States on the suggested revisions to the missile list in New York on 25 April. A second, and final, meeting on suggested revisions to the chemical and biological lists was held in New York on 8 and 9 May. In accordance with resolution 1330 (2001), the updating of the lists will be completed by the end of phase IX of the "oil-for-food" programme, early in June 2001.

14. The Commission's experts continue to make progress to link the IAEA and UNMOVIC databases, in particular with respect to information relevant to the operation of the Joint Unit established to implement the export/import monitoring mechanism for Iraq. The new

system will also integrate information held by IAEA and UNMOVIC on sites and facilities subject to inspection in Iraq. The Commission aims at developing an integrated data management system optimizing current technologies that will facilitate data retrieval, analysis, interpretation and reporting. To this end, a number of commercial packages have been procured, for example, tools to allow analysts to quickly search the entire collection of UNMOVIC documents and other systems that facilitate the scanning and subsequent electronic storage of documents. A Geographic Information System has also been in use for some time. This allows images to be geo-referenced to digitalized maps, and the subsequent linking of the standard databases. Resources beyond those of UNMOVIC are needed for specific software development efforts. This was recognized at an early stage and UNMOVIC has been seeking professional advice from a number of sources so as to enable it to utilize the optimal technologies currently available.

15. The Commission is aware of the need to ensure that the system under development is capable not only of meeting the current, more limited, activities of UNMOVIC, but also capable of anticipating and handling the situation which will arise once full activities are under way in Iraq and the flow of information to and within the system will be greatly increased.

16. The Commission has engaged short-term archivist consultants with previous experience of IAEA to advise on the creation of a work plan for the systematic indexing and storage of material taken over from the Special Commission, to facilitate its further use.

College of Commissioners

17. The fifth plenary session of the College of Commissioners was held in New York, on 21 and 22 May 2001. As on previous occasions, in addition to the members of the College, observers from the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons attended.

18. The Executive Chairman gave the Commissioners an oral report on the work of UNMOVIC since the last session of the College in February 2001. In addition, the Commissioners received briefings on the progress

in the revision and updating of the lists of items and technologies to which the export/import monitoring mechanism approved by resolution 1051 (1996) applies and on the consultations held with interested Member States on suggested revisions to the lists. The Commissioners were also briefed on the UNMOVIC training programme.

19. The principal document before the Commission was a report on the ongoing work to identify unresolved disarmament issues. The examples given in the report which was before the College in February were revised in the light of comments made by Commissioners. In addition, the Commissioners had before them drafts of chapters of the UNMOVIC handbook completed since the previous session of the College. These chapters cover: incident and accident response procedures; procedures for the disposition of proscribed items or un-notified dual-use items; air operations and management of confidentiality and security within UNMOVIC.

20. The College welcomed the efforts of the Commission's staff in their ongoing work to identify unresolved disarmament issues. The College encouraged continued efforts, including assessing the significance of unresolved issues as well as examining ways in which such issues may be resolved, including through the operation of a reinforced system of ongoing monitoring and verification. The Commissioners agreed that a briefing by Commission staff on the scope and form of a reinforced system of ongoing monitoring and verification at the next session of the College would be useful. At that session, there could also be a discussion of the criteria for identifying key remaining disarmament tasks. With respect to the UNMOVIC handbook, it was broadly considered to be a useful document and that it was appropriate for the Commissioners to have been kept apprised of its development by the Secretariat. At the same time, a view was expressed that it was premature for the College to discuss the handbook pending the outcome of consultations on an agreed mode of implementing Security Council resolution 1284 (1999).

21. The College decided to hold its next session in New York on 28 and 29 August 2001.

22. In accordance with paragraph 5 of resolution 1284 (1999), the Commissioners were consulted on the contents of the present report.

Other issues

23. The Divisions of Information and Technical Support and Training have moved to an additional office that the Commission has acquired in a nearby building. This move has provided the staff of those divisions with a proper working environment. It has further allowed the relocation and better management of much of the Commission's large archive.

24. During the period under review, the Commission has been audited by an external panel from the United Nations Board of Auditors. Their report is awaited.

Conclusions

25. UNMOVIC was established to carry out the Security Council's decisions with respect to Iraq's weapons of mass destruction programmes. It has not yet been able to conduct work in Iraq. Until it can do so, it undertakes as much preparatory work as is possible, without incurring major financial commitments and without employing a large number of staff.

26. With the work completed to date, UNMOVIC is ready to take up the full tasks mandated to it by the Council. Only then will UNMOVIC be able to assess fully the disposition of Iraq's now proscribed weapons of mass destruction programmes through the operation of the reinforced system of ongoing monitoring and verification the Council has called for.

Notes

^a The Commission's four previous quarterly reports were issued as documents S/2000/516, S/2000/835, S/2000/1134 and S/2001/177.
