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TEXT OF COMMUNICATON OF 17 SEPTEMBER 2002 RECEIVED FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY CONCERNING RESTORATION OF VOTING RIGHTS

The text of a letter dated 17 September 2002 submitted by the Permanent Mission of Iraq and addressed to the Director General is reproduced herewith at the request of the Permanent Mission for the attention of the General Conference.

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ Vienna

17 September 2002

Sir,

I would like to refer to my letter to you regarding Iraq's request for the restoration of its voting rights based on the fact that Iraq's delay in paying its contributions is caused by compelling circumstances beyond its control as indicated in document GC(46)/INF/3 dated 24 June 2002.

Although Iraq has submitted similar requests to previous sessions of the General Conference, the Conference has failed to respond positively to those requests owing to obstacles raised by the United States of America and the United Kingdom as part of their aggressive policies against Iraq.

The decision made by the present session of the Conference on 16 September 2002 not to approve Iraq's request did not surprise us following the pressures exerted by the United States of America and the United Kingdom as part of their unjust campaign against Iraq. In view of Iraq's keenness to meet its financial obligations and to continue the prominent role that it has played since it joined the Agency in 1959, Iraq requests that it be allowed to pay its financial obligations towards the Agency in Iraqi dinars especially in view of the fact that the Agency could use these amounts to cover the costs arising from the resumption of its regular activities in Iraq in accordance with the safeguards regime in force since 1999.

We hope that you will support Iraq's request and submit this letter to the Conference for discussion during the current forty-sixth session so that a positive decision can be made regarding Iraq's request.

Accept, Sir, etc.,

Khalid Jassim Al-Shamari Chargé d'affaires a.i.