

Ban on Iraqi science heralds world dictatorship

by Joseph Brewda

The U.N. Security Council voted to effectively ban Iraqi science and modern industry, in a U.S.-imposed unanimous vote on Oct. 11. Purportedly enacted to deal with the supposedly dire threat of war-ravaged Iraq ever developing nuclear weapons, Resolution 715 gives the U.N. dictatorial powers over the Iraqi economy and scientific work of any kind, including basic research, for the indefinite future. The resolution, which threatens the use of military action if it is not complied with, is intended to set a precedent for application against any Third World state.

"It's the most intrusive and extensive inspection regime ever imposed on a sovereign state," a U.S. official gloated to the Sept. 27 *Baltimore Sun*, in reporting on the resolution's draft. "When it comes to their nuclear program, they have no sovereign rights at all."

Iraqi Ambassador to the U.N. Abdul Amir al-Anbari reported that the resolution is meant to "place Iraq under the permanent trusteeship" of the United Nations. Under its logic, he said, the chairman of the U.N. commission implementing the resolution ought to be termed "a political agent or high commission for Iraq, as in the old colonial days." If the plan is implemented, he added, other countries may also fall victim to "a new occupation by remote control."

Preparations for imposing the resolution predate the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, which established the pretext for the Gulf war. As far back as September 1989, CIA director William Webster defined Third World economic progress as a threat to U.S. national security, in an address before the Los Angeles World Affairs Council. Citing Iraq among other Third World states, Webster called for banning

exports which could help develop those states' nuclear and chemical industries. Since that time, the CIA formed an entire new directorate, the Fifth Directorate, to oversee covert operations against Third World nations' economies, and against any advanced sector nations, particularly Germany and Japan, inclined toward exports to the Third World.

The term coined by the Parisian daily *L'Express* for the policy behind the CIA reorganization, "technological apartheid," also aptly describes the policy behind the new U.N. resolution.

A new colonial occupation

Under the pretext that Iraq may yet develop nuclear bombs, the resolution grants U.N. nuclear inspectors the authority to "carry out inspections at any time, without hindrance, at any site," whether civilian or military, government or private, of restricted access or not, or industrial or even residential.

The officials will have the authority to remove or photograph any document or sample item found in such inspections, install any surveillance equipment, or interview any personnel. They will have the right to travel anywhere in Iraq, at any time, by land, sea, or air, to carry out such inspections. They will also have the right to "stop and inspect" any vehicles within Iraq, including military vehicles, upon demand, as well as "inspect imports or exports" of any material they deem fit, at any air-, land-, or seaport.

Moreover, the inspectors will have the authority of "unrestricted entry into and exit from Iraq" without need of visa, without being subject to customs inspection, or even in

evasion of normal state-defined border crossings. They will have the authority to “remove from Iraq” any material they desire, unimpeded by any Iraqi authority.

In addition to granting its agents such astonishing supra-national policing powers, the U.N. resolution also bans outright various industrial, military, and also scientific work or activity which the U.N. classifies as either aiding Iraq’s alleged nuclear bomb program, or potentially aiding that program.

Under this same heading, the U.N. bans whole classes of materials and technologies supposedly either actually or potentially applicable to military, or military-industrial, uses. These technologies and materials, otherwise necessary for any modern economy, include: lasers, mass spectrometers, superconducting magnets, computers with the power to perform 12 million operations per second, high-temperature furnaces, high-strength steel, tungsten, lithium, titanium, high-purity calcium, and the like.

The U.N. also specifically bars the “import, construction or use of [nuclear] research and power reactors of any kind,” since such reactors supposedly can aid a nuclear bomb program. All nuclear fusion scientific research is banned, and all research reactors of whatever capacity, are ordered shut down, at any university or any other site. Similarly, the import or construction of “neutron sources,” “electron accelerators,” “particle accelerators” and the like are banned, or any scientific research in “radiation physics and chemistry, and on the physical and chemical properties of isotopes.”

This is the first known instance where the U.N. Security Council banned basic scientific research on pain of military action.

On Oct. 11, the Tunisian-based Arab Atomic Energy Agency denounced the U.N. resolution as unacceptable. The destruction of Iraq’s nuclear reactors, they said, would be to “destroy part of the Arab national scientific heritage.”

The only nuclear material or research henceforth deemed permissible in Iraq relate to the use of isotopes in medicine, and selected industrial-diagnostic work, and even there only with the prior case-by-case approval of the United Nations.

Moreover, the U.N. Security Council, in a display of its commitment to the principles of what it calls democracy, requires that the Iraqi parliament enact legislation declaring illegal all of the industrial and research activities that the U.N. has ordered banned. Under the wording of the resolution, the refusal of the Iraqi parliament to enact such legislation would be judged an act of war.

Eliminating scientists too

One of the most important, if implicit, components of the new resolution is the harassment or even execution of Iraqi scientists involved in any leading edge of Iraqi science—civilian or military. That the elimination of Iraqi scientific and industrial capacity is not conceivable without eliminating its intelligentsia was stressed in an Oct. 13 article in the *New*

York Times, entitled “Saddam’s Nuclear-Weapons Dream: A Nightmare Come True.” “Perhaps most chilling of all,” the paper reported, “officials believe the Iraqi nuclear program is still functioning. Its key ingredient is not the hardware that the Iraqis acquired but rather the thousands of skilled, dedicated scientists and technical workers employed in the project.”

Evidence that the U.S. government might be contemplating such clandestine actions first emerged publicly in early September, when a team from the U.N.’s International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), led by David Kay, tried to remove the personnel records of Iraq’s nuclear scientists from an Iraqi ministry, records including such data as the ages of the scientists’ children. The brief effort by the Iraqi government to block Kay, a former State Department official, from removing the records, led to overt threats of military action by the United States, France, Great Britain, and Russia, all permanent members, with China, of the Security Council.

While the Iraqi government’s claims that Kay, a former State Department employee, was a CIA agent, were ridiculed by the White House, even U.N. Special Commissioner Rolf Ekeus has subsequently admitted that Kay had been covertly in contact with the U.S. government, by secure satellite-telephone, on the contents of the Iraqi files, and without U.N. knowledge. Despite this admission, Ekeus reported that on the next U.N. mission, inspectors will be detailed to “track down” Iraq’s nuclear scientists in “house to house” searches for the nuclear bomb program’s alleged “mastermind.”

House to house searches for what? According to the Egyptian newspaper *Misr al-Fatah*, the U.S. government is currently profiling 150 nuclear scientists from Morocco, Algeria, Egypt, and Iraq—and according to other sources also from Pakistan—who have been employed in the Iraqi nuclear program. Citing high-level Arab sources, the paper says these scientists are targeted for liquidation by the CIA or the Israeli Mossad.

Earlier victims of the U.S. and Israeli policy of preventing the Arab world from “possessing the means of mastering modern science,” according to Iraqi Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, include Yayha al-Mashad, an Egyptian nuclear engineer killed in Paris in 1980; Abd-al-Rahman Abd-al-Rasul, an Iraqi engineer poisoned in Paris in 1980; and Salman Rashid, an electrical engineer poisoned in Geneva, Switzerland in 1981. In March 1990, well before the war, Gerald Bull, a Canadian scientist then believed to be in the employ of Iraq’s weapons program, was shot to death in Brussels, Belgium.

Nor will the harassment of scientists and foreign governments stop there. According to Agence France Presse, the personnel data collected by Kay’s team has established that Iraq’s nuclear program was aided by personnel and equipment from China, Argentina, Brazil, and the former Yugoslavia—all targets in different ways of the new world order. The press agency projects further U.N. and related measures to prevent such industrial and scientific aid in the future.