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MESSAGE FROM H.E. PRESIDENT SADAM HUSSEIN
OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
FOR THE PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN
THE PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY

The attached text is being circulated to Member States at the request of the Resident Representative of Iraq.

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MESSAGE FROM H.E. PRESIDENT SADAM HUSSEIN
OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
FOR THE PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN
THE PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY

On the occasion of the holding the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, I avail myself of this opportunity to express to the participants my sincere greetings and wishes for success in their noble mission.

This Conference, after such a long period of preparatory work, is being held today in a very complex international situation, marked by a feverish nuclear arms race between East and West, a massive accumulation of conventional and nuclear weapons, an intensification of international and regional tension and conflicts, and flagrant violation of laws, human norms and values and good neighbourly relations among nations. Furthermore, there are increasing tendencies to aggression, domination, expansion and non-respect of the independence of States and their free choices. This state of affairs compels many nations to work to secure the requirements for defending themselves against the threats facing them. This, in turn, leads to the exhaustion of their resources and wealth, which could otherwise be directed towards economic development, including the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for social and economic development.

As you are aware, nuclear energy is an important source of energy, needed by the world at large and the developing countries in particular because of the importance of its peaceful applications for economic and social development in most of these countries.

Proceeding from the principle of sovereign equality, it is the right of all countries to possess and use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes in accordance with their priorities, interests and needs under appropriate internationally agreed guarantees that would prevent all forms of nuclear proliferation without any discrimination.

Consequently, it must be stressed that a wide and unrestricted transfer of equipment, technology and information is inevitably necessary for the development of the peaceful applications of nuclear energy with maximum safety and minimum risks. Therefore, we hope that all participants in this Conference will work hard with the aim of creating an atmosphere conducive to the promotion of international co-operation without hampering the transfer of peaceful nuclear technology or exerting pressures on developing countries to prevent them from carrying on with their peaceful nuclear programmes.

On this occasion, we would like to highlight the responsibility of this Conference for supporting international efforts to find effective measures to protect nuclear installations against any deliberate armed attack which could lead to the release of deadly atomic radiation whose consequences are tantamount to the use of radiological weapons.

Such protection for nuclear installations is a necessity dictated by the international consensus to prevent the repetition of the kind of attack which was carried out on 7 June 1981 by Israel against Iraq's peaceful nuclear facilities, which are under the International Atomic Energy Agency's safeguards. This aggression was strongly condemned by the international community, the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly and the IAEA as a blatant violation of the UN Charter and of international norms of conduct, a grave threat to international peace and security, an attack on the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty and IAEA safeguards and an aggression against the inalienable right of States to develop and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

We also call upon this Conference to exert pressure on the racist regimes in Tel Aviv and Pretoria to comply with UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions calling upon them to submit their nuclear facilities to international safeguards and to undertake not to repeat any armed aggression against nuclear facilities.

I once more greet you and hail your efforts to promote international co-operation in this vital field for the sake of prosperity and development.