

**Statement by Mr. Satyabrata Pal, Acting Permanent Representative of India on Situation between Iraq and Kuwait at the Security Council on June 28, 2001**

Mr. President,

We thank you for calling this meeting. Let me also put on record our appreciation for your contribution to the Council's work, and for the cooperation you and your indefatigable team have extended to all delegations.

India has always opposed sanctions that have a humanitarian impact, and, as External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh has said in Parliament, "the sanctions imposed on Iraq are unjust, unwise and detrimental to large numbers of innocent Iraqi men, women and children". We have repeatedly called for these sanctions to be lifted in tandem with Iraq's compliance with the relevant Security Council resolutions.

We believe that the No Fly Zones are not sanctioned by any aspect of the Council's resolutions. We have always disapproved of unilateral armed action against Iraq and we believe attempts to undermine Iraq's territorial integrity - attempts which we reject - could have unforeseen and destructive geo-political implications for the region.

The sanctions on Iraq have also caused acute economic and financial hardship to other countries, India among them. Unfortunately, our request for relief under Article 50 is still pending with the Sanctions Committee. To ease the serious strain imposed on our economy by these sanctions, we have also informed the Council about a counter-trade arrangement with Iraq which will let it import food from India against the export of crude oil and oil products.

India has a vital interest in the peace and prosperity of the Gulf, which is part of our neighbourhood. We have, therefore, supported every initiative to defuse the crisis over Iraq, and believe it would help promote the security and stability of the region if Iraq is brought back into the mainstream of regional and international affairs. We hope diplomatic efforts will be resumed under the auspices of the UN. We see the need to develop fresh ideas and new mechanisms to serve the purpose of the United Nations. We hope the Council will act urgently to end the long nightmare of the people of Iraq.

**[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)**