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Stop the sanctions against Iraq

ON the occasion of the 32nd anniversary of the National Day of Iraq, I would like to pay tribute to the Malaysian Government and Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his colleagues for their tireless effort in extending help to Iraq.

The Iraqi people are indebted to Malaysia for highlighting the truth about the suffering to Iraqis caused by the unjust sanctions which have lasted more than 10 years now. We are grateful for the support and understanding displayed at the Security Council where Malaysia occupies a Asian seat.

It is true that real friends are those who stand firm in difficult times by providing a helping hand.

My tribute goes to the Malaysian people who have shown sympathy and moral support to their brothers and sisters in Iraq, and by trying all means available to them to extend their assistance in a demonstration of solidarity with Iraq.

Ever since I arrived in Kuala Lumpur a year ago, we have managed to achieve a lot of good things. The major one was the visit of Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali and her goodwill delegation of 10 respected women to Iraq in March this year.

This visit reflects fully the true feeling of Malaysian Government and Malaysian people towards Iraq and it gave the delegation a very good picture of the suffering of the Iraqi people. Their testimonies were used in many regional and international fora.

The second achievement was the convening of the joint commission in Baghdad in June 2000 after 10 years of idleness. This meeting was significant in terms of drawing a framework for the economic co-operation between the two brotherly countries in order to boost economic relations to a higher level to match the excellent relationship of the leaders of the two countries.

There are a lot of things that could be said here but I will confine myself to these two examples only.

Iraq has been subjected to severe sanctions for more than 10 years now, despite the fact that Iraq complied with the all the Security Council resolutions.

Any fair person, fair government in this world would admit to this fact and that the continuation of the sanctions has become inhuman, unjustified and a criminal genocide against the Iraqi people. This is demonstrated by the thousands of children, women and elderly people who die monthly because of the lack of adequate food and medicine and other human basic needs.

This genocide against Iraq must be stopped. The Americans and their tail, the British, are the only members of the Security Council who stand against any action by the council to lift sanctions on Iraq.

The policies of those two government aimed openly and without shame, the removal of our patriotic leadership in flagrant violation of International Law and the Charter of the United Nations in which Iraq is a founding member.

I call on all honest people and Governments in this world to condemn this policy of aggression and genocide against my country and to call on the United States administration and the government of the United Kingdom to stop the genocide against the Iraqi people who contributed to the

world's earliest civilisation (more than 8,000 years ago).

I would like to take this opportunity to explain to Malaysians why Iraq rejected the UN Security Council Resolution No. 1284 (1999). This resolution adopted in December 1999 is a completely new one and contradicts the previous resolutions, especially Resolution 687. It is also worded to deny Iraq the lifting of the sanctions.

1. Iraq sincerely stresses that she has fulfilled during the nine years all the requirements of the Security Council resolutions particularly and without additional restrictions or conditions. The resolution which was adopted does not meet Iraqi's legitimate demand to lift the embargo.

2. The real purpose of the US and Britain being behind the resolution is not to lift the embargo, but to deceive the world's public opinion. This is because the suspension (deception) mentioned in the American-British resolution confronts a long and complex series of new and ambiguous conditions that bear various explanations, making in effect, even this vile resolution empty of any guarantee of the suspension.

Moreover, the timing contained therein is artificially long and exaggerated in such a manner that makes it consistent with the internal situation of America in the election year.

3. All these circumstances and conditions of this resolution make it a resolution of dubious political objectives. Furthermore, the resolution, in essence and format, is a re-writing of Resolution 687 in a tendentious and illegal manner. This means that the Security Council does not implement these resolutions and does not implement its obligations under these resolutions, although Resolution 687, which Iraq implemented, was one of the most unjust and abusive resolutions adopted by the Security Council (in its history) against Iraq.

4. The resolution aims at bringing back the Special Commission in a new disguise to Iraq in order to resume its intelligence activities.

5. The idea of suspension contained in the resolution is something strange and aims at misleading the international public opinion and has nothing to do with Security Council Resolution 687 which stipulates on paragraph 20 on the lifting or reduction of sanctions, while (suspension) does not mean lifting or reduction of sanctions.

6. The other dangerous element included in the resolution also that the Security Council can halt suspension upon receiving a report from the executive chairman of UNMOVIC (the new body that will replace the previous Special Commission). Accordingly, the executive chairman has the power to act as an absolute ruler and the Secretary-General is just a consultative party, with what the executive chairman says goes.

7. The resolution comes up with a dangerous question which is the foreign investment in the oil sector. It requests the Secretary-General to establish a group of oil experts to submit recommendations involving foreign oil companies in Iraq's oil sector including investment. This means a return to the pre-Nationalisation era.

8. When comparing 1284 with all Security Council Resolutions we find that in spite of all which Iraq has implemented over a period of nine years and the aggression against it and the catastrophe inflicted on its population because of the continuation in all its forms, Iraq will not want anything other than suspension.

9. Resolution 1284 is an American-British attempt to rewrite the relevant Security Council Resolution especially 687 and also represents an attempt by the Security Council to renegade on its reciprocal commitments towards Iraq and resorting to trammel Iraq with further conditions.

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