

able to reach a compromise with the UN, and agreed each to place six helicopters at the disposal of UNIIMOG for short-notice overflights over their own territory carrying UN observers. In practice, the aircraft did not always respond to requests for overflights in a timely manner. In a few cases, requests for overflights have been ignored completely. The fixed-wing transport aircraft at UNIIMOG's service were also limited in terms of where they could fly.¹⁸

UNIKOM

Created even more recently, the United Nations Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM) is charged with monitoring Kuwait's border with Iraq. In addition to ground patrols, the Mission is assisting Kuwait in such areas as the removal of mines and other war debris from its territory. The air unit of UNIKOM consists of six Chilean Bell 205 helicopters and 2 SWISS V/STOL aircraft. In addition to their transport and logistics functions, these aircraft engage in observation patrols of the Iraq-Kuwait border area.

UNSCOM

A final example of the use of aerial monitoring for observation in the Middle East is in the process of being created. When the Persian Gulf war ended, Iraq accepted a UN Security Council resolution¹⁹ which called upon it to disband all of its nuclear and chemical weapons research programmes and place the materials under the supervision of the UN for destruction. The resolution called for the creation of a Special Commission to oversee this process, and gave the Commission wide powers for on-site inspections. Following the destruction of all of Iraq's stocks of chemical and nuclear materials, the Commission is to engage in long-term monitoring of Iraq's promise to never again acquire these materials.

The UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) has made extensive use of aerial surveillance techniques in both the destruction and future compliance phases of its work. Helicopters have been used to transport UNSCOM inspectors to sensitive sites in Iraq and to observe those sites from the air.²⁰ In addition, a U-2

¹⁸ ibid. See also Smithson, A., and Krepon, M. "Strengthening the Chemical Weapons Convention Through Aerial Inspections" Occasional Paper Number 4; The Henry L. Stimson Centre (Washington, Henry L. Stimson Centre, April, 1991) p. 31.

¹⁹ UN Security Council Resolution 687, 3 April, 1991.

²⁰ The Iraqis did try to prevent the use of helicopters for this purpose, but finally bowed to UN pressure in October of 1991. See Smithson, "Open Skies Ready for Takeoff" op cit.