

ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAQ

The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on August 2, 1990, and the continued illegal occupation of the latter led the UN Security Council to take exceptional measures to constrain the Iraqis to pull out of Kuwait. Security Council resolutions 661 (1990) of August 6, 1990, and 670 (1990) of September 25 established an unprecedented series of economic sanctions against Iraq, application of which was binding on the Member States.

On the basis of Resolution 661 (1990), Canada adopted the UN Iraq Regulations (UNIR) on August 7, 1990, under Section 2 of the United Nations Act, in order to honour its international obligations. The UNIR were amended on October 1, 1990, following the adoption of Resolution 670 (1990), of September 25, 1990, to prohibit the transportation of products by air, and on March 6, 1991, to lift the sanctions against Kuwait, now liberated, pursuant to Resolution 686 (1991) of March 2, 1991. These regulations placed a freeze on Iraqi assets and prohibited:

- the exporting of merchandise to Iraq;
- the importing of merchandise originating in Iraq and exported from it after August 6, 1990;
- the sale or supplying of merchandise originating in Iraq and exported by it after August 6, 1990;
- the sale or supplying of merchandise to Iraq;
- financial transactions with Iraqi interests;
- the use of aircraft registered in Canada to transport commodities issuing from or destined for Iraq;
- the use of an aircraft by any person in Canada who is cognizant that the latter will be used to transport goods issuing from or destined for Iraq;
- the use of an aircraft over Canadian territory if the aircraft is to land in Iraq, unless an inspection has shown that it is not carrying commodities that contravene the measures taken by a state;
- the entry into a Canadian port of ships registered in Iraq which are being used or which have been used in contravention of measures taken against Iraq by a state, except where such entry is required to safeguard human lives; all such vessels entering a Canadian port must be immobilized.