

The Security Council decision of March 22, 1991, and Resolution 687 of April 3, 1991, marked a relaxing of the sanctions against Iraq, by allowing foodstuffs to be sold or supplied to the country by simply notifying the Committee created by Resolution 661 (1990), allowed products and supplies essential to the civilian population, other than medicine and medical supplies, subject to the simplified and accelerated procedure of tacit approval, and authorized related financial transactions. Security Council resolutions have always exempted the sale and supplying of medicine and medical supplies to Iraq.

Although the UNIR make no exception to the exporting of medical supplies, food, products essential to the civilian population or products that meet humanitarian needs, Section 9 of the UNIR allowed the SSEA on March 27, 1991, to issue Blanket Certificate No. 4 to authorize the sending of gifts to Iraq of medical supplies and foodstuffs. Since that time, proposals for commercial sales of foodstuffs and medical supplies may also be authorized case by case through a certificate issued by the SSEA. The same applies to the supplying or sale of products and supplies that are essential or are designated as meeting humanitarian needs.

However, Resolution 687 (1991) states that:

"all States shall continue to prevent the sale or supply, or the promotion or facilitation of such sale or supply, to Iraq by their nationals or from their territories or using their flag vessels or aircraft:"

of arms and military materiel, spare parts and components and their means of production, chemical and biological weapons, nuclear weapons or materials that might be used in making them, subsystems or components, ballistic missiles having a range exceeding 150 km and any components for them, personnel or materials for training or technical support. As it has done so far, Canada will continue to fulfill its international obligations by strictly applying the provisions of the UNIR and those of the Export and Import Permits Act.