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PRIME MINISTER

From: Nicholas Cannon  
Date: 15 March 2003

cc: Jonathan Powell  
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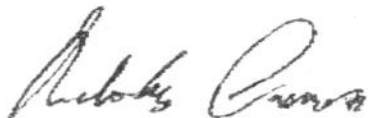
**IRAQ: UNMOVIC OPERATIONS, 1998-2002**

You asked for a note on UNMOVIC activities between 1998 and 2002.

From the end of 1998 until November 2002, there were no weapons inspectors in Iraq. The Iraqis maintain that no proscribed activities took place in that period. UNMOVIC therefore had no site inspections or Iraqi declarations to generate leads to investigate. It relied on intelligence material supplied by Member States, including overhead imagery, defectors' reports and communications intercepts. Areas of activity which were reported to UNMOVIC during that period were:

- Mobile BW agent production facilities.
- Underground facilities for research and production of CBW.
- Development of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), including those fitted with sprays for BW agents.
- Movements of proscribed materials and documents.

UNMOVIC reported a "surge of activity" in the missile technology field over the period, in particular the Al Samoud 2 (liquid propellant) and Al Fatah (solid propellant) missiles. Both were tested to a range exceeding that permitted under SCR 687. A wide range of other missile-related projects were started, including new missile systems, engines, spin motors, new guidance sectors, remote piloted vehicles, fuels and the upgrading of test facilities.



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