
Letter to Foreign Ministers

'Iraq is only the first victim of Bush's so-called new world order'

Iraq's Foreign Minister Ahmed Hussein addressed a letter to his counterparts in all countries on Oct. 24, on the occasion of the 46th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations.

Today marks the 46th anniversary of the foundation of the United Nations. It was on this day, the 24th of October 1945, that the U.N. Charter came into effect, and Iraq was amongst the founding member-states which had attended the San Francisco Conference and signed the Charter on June 26, 1945.

Recalling the principles of the United Nations, Iraq reiterates the necessity of the fair and unbiased implementation of the provisions of the Charter and the resolutions of the United Nations, so that the U.N. would not end up in a situation in which a single member-state or a group of member-states dominate the organization, control its affairs and determine its policies from a position of power and through the exertion of all sorts of pressure to influence its decisions.

The special discriminatory status given by the Charter to the big powers, the victors of the Second World War, granting them permanent membership with the right of veto in the Security Council, has been abused and has failed to achieve its goal of ensuring the responsibility of preserving international peace and security. During the Cold War, for instance, the United States of America used its right to veto dozens of times, to prevent the Security Council from adopting such resolutions as would have ensured the right of self-determination to the Palestinian people. The Security Council has adopted more than 170 resolutions on this issue of Palestine, the Middle East, and the occupations of land by force, while the General Assembly has passed more than 400 such resolutions, recognizing in some of them the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. The United States objected to, and treated with disrespect, all these resolutions, thus emphasizing the double-standard criteria it adopts in dealing with the resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly, in a manner compatible only with U.S. interests and

political objectives.

In view of the rapid developments currently witnessed in the world, the Security Council has become an easy tool in the hands of the big powers, the permanent members of the Security Council, especially the United States of America, to issue resolutions serving the interests and political objectives of these countries which have used the United Nations as a cover of international legitimacy for those resolutions.

If the developing countries were victims of the conflict witnessed by the international community under the Cold War, they are today victims of the so-called new world order. Directions have emerged in the attitudes of the member states of the Non-Aligned Movement and the developing countries emphasized these facts in the speeches delivered by the heads of their delegations to the General Assembly of the United Nations during the current session. The Tenth Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement which was convened in Accra during the first week of September, stressed these facts in its final report which will be put before the Tenth Summit Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement to be held in Jakarta in 1992. The Non-Aligned Movement has underscored the fact that a world of unipolarity is emerging with new elements which may lead to situations in which no adequate importance is given to the needs and interests of the non-aligned countries and indeed of the developing world in general. The Movement stressed the necessity of expediting the unbiased implementation of all U.N. resolutions and especially the resolutions of the Security Council. The Movement also stressed the necessity of reforming the United Nations in a manner that would allow democracy and transparency to prevail over the adoptions of resolutions in the United Nations and in the Security Council in particular. The existing number of the members of the Security Council should also be reviewed to accommodate the increase in the membership of the United Nations and thus ensure a fairer and more balanced representation of the U.N. membership.

Furthermore, the annual report presented by the Secretary General of the United Nations during the current session of

the General Assembly points out that the measures taken to use force were not carried out strictly in accordance with Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter, for the Security Council authorized the use of force on a national and coalition basis rather than by the United Nations itself. The Secretary General also stressed in his report the necessity that the rule of proportionality in the employment of the armed forces be observed, and that the rules of humanitarian law applicable to armed conflicts be complied with. The Secretary General stressed the importance that the human effect of economic sanctions on the population of the state subject to such sanctions needs to be carefully borne in mind.

Iraq wishes to reiterate the warnings it has voiced on past occasions that the features so far observed in the so-called new world order highlight nothing other than flagrant practices of interference in the internal affairs of other countries, a gross disregard of the rights of the developing countries, as well as the perpetration of selective policies allowing certain states to acquire all sorts of weapons, including nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, while imposing a total embargo on other states. International indifference to these practices and policies will render the principles and provisions of the U.N. Charter pointless.

The United Nations is currently facing a major test in the maintenance of the basic principles upon which it was founded, particularly the principles of preserving international peace and security, respecting the equal sovereignty of all states, non-interference in the internal affairs of others, and guaranteeing a life of freedom and dignity for all peoples.

Iraq has been subjected, in the name of international legitimacy, to full-scale destruction, targeting all facilities of life, including its economic infrastructure and its civilian residential centers. The United States of America led a non-stop air aggression for 43 days, sparing none of its cities and villages. The aggression destroyed Iraq's electric power generation and transmission plants, oil refineries, bridges and irrigation facilities, water purification centers, sewage treatment plants, civilian factories, hospitals, schools, mosques and churches, baby-milk factories, grain silos, and even civilian shelters. The Amiriya civilian shelter witnessed a most heinous crime in which 319 civilians, mostly women, children, and elderly, were killed. War planes dropped nearly a hundred thousand tons of explosives onto the cities and villages of Iraq.

Was it amongst the objectives of the United Nations that a country be entirely destroyed under the pretext of implementing international legitimacy? Is it amongst the principles of international legitimacy that thousands of Iraqi soldiers be buried alive in their trenches? Is it compatible with the principles of human rights that an inhuman blockade be continuously imposed against the people of Iraq despite Iraq's compliance with its obligations in accordance with the resolutions of the Security Council?

The aggression, injustice, and bullyism to which Iraq has

been subjected and the inhuman blockade imposed upon its people are totally alien to the principles and objectives of the U.N. Charter. Despite the fact that the U.N. and other non-governmental international missions to Iraq have all conducted field studies of the situation and prepared reports, some submitted to the Security Council, emphasizing the enormity of the human calamity suffered by the people of Iraq, especially the women and children, the United States and its allies who continue to raise the slogans of liberty, democracy and human rights, insist on the continuation of the blockade and the prevention of food, medicine and other basic civilian needs from being reached to the Iraqi people, in order to achieve suspect political objectives totally contrary to the provisions of the U.N. Charter, the rules of international law and the aspirations of the peoples of the world to independence, freedom and a life in dignity.

Contrary to the proposals made by these missions to meet the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people and alleviate their suffering, the United States of America saw to it that two more oppressive and aberrant resolutions are adopted by the Security Council, namely resolutions 706 and 712, to impose such unjust economic restraints upon Iraq, as have neither been preceded in the history of international relations nor have any basis of support in the provisions of the U.N. Charter.

It is no longer a secret that the goal of these American policies, contrary as they are to the rules of international law and international norms which stipulate respect for the sovereignty of states and non-intervention in their internal affairs, is to achieve political purposes by changing the system of government in Iraq and subjecting the people of Iraq to the will of the American administration. The President of the United States himself has made this objective clear in a press conference on Oct. 4, 1991. In my letter of Oct. 8, 1991 to the President of the Security Council, I underscored both the dangers involved in such statements and their flagrant breach of the provisions of the U.N. Charter, particularly Paragraph (2) of Article (1) and Paragraph (7) of Article (2). I also pointed out that it was regrettable to see silence prevail towards such grave statements made by the President of a superpower and a permanent member of the Security Council, and that silence over such policies which are contradictory to the principles of the U.N. Charter and international law, shall bring grave consequences to world peace and security and to the United Nations Organization itself.

If the objective is to make Iraq the first victim of the so-called new world order, Iraq will not be the only such victim. The countries of the Third World and smaller states in general will fall victim to the American imperialist policy of hegemony through which the United States seeks to impose this new world order. Unless the international community realizes the dangers posed by this policy and puts an end to it, then the long struggle fought by the peoples of the world for independence, sovereignty, and a life of freedom and dignity will have been in vain.