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KUWAIT/IRAQ: SECRETARY-GENERAL'S STATEMENTS.

SUMMARY

1. UN SPOKESMAN'S OFFICE ISSUE A CLARIFICATION OF A STATEMENT MADE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL IN LIMA.

DETAIL

2. A REUTER'S PRESS LINE, ISSUED ON 16 AUGUST, REPORTED THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AS SAYING THAT "MILITARY FORCE TO ENFORCE UN SANCTIONS ON IRAQ, WITHOUT SECURITY COUNCIL APPROVAL, WOULD BE A BREACH OF THE UN CHARTER" AND QUOTED HIM AS SAYING "ANY INTERVENTION, WHATEVER THE COUNTRY, WOULD NOT BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH EITHER THE LETTER OR THE SPIRIT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER."

3. FOLLOWING THIS, THE UN SPOKESMAN'S OFFICE ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

BEGINS

THE FOLLOWING IS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE SPOKESWOMAN FOR THE SECRETARY-GENERAL.

CONTRARY TO WHAT PRESS DISPATCHES MIGHT INDICATE, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S STATEMENT OF TODAY IN REPLY TO A QUESTION AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE IN LIMA IS CONSISTENT WITH WHAT HE HAS BEEN SAYING FOR SEVERAL DAYS. A "BLOCKADE" AS SUCH REQUIRES THE APPROVAL OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL SINCE IT FALLS UNDER ARTICLE 42 OF THE CHARTER. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AT NO TIME HAS USED THE TERM "BREACH OF THE CHARTER".

IN THAT CONTEXT, AS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL SAID TO THE PRESS ON MONDAY WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE "BLOCKADE",

"I UNDERSTAND THAT THE WORD 'BLOCKADE' FROM A UNITED NATIONS

POINT OF VIEW IS NOT THE RIGHT ONE. WHAT WE ARE SEEING IS THAT IN AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF SAUDI ARABIA AND KUWAIT, SOME DECISIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES, FRANCE, BRITAIN AND OTHER COUNTRIES - AND EVEN ARAB COUNTRIES - BUT NOT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS. ONLY THE UNITED NATIONS, THROUGH ITS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS, CAN REALLY DECIDE ABOUT A BLOCKADE. THAT'S WHY I THINK WE HAVE TO AVOID THE WORD 'BLOCKADE'.'

END OF TEXT

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