

United Nations



Nations Unies

Executive Office of the Secretary-General
Cabinet du Secrétaire général

#1 PRIORITY

To: Deputy Secretary-General,

Please find attached for your approval, the thirty-second report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 14 of resolution 1284 (1999), related to the issues of the return of missing Kuwaiti and third country persons, property and national archives.

The report covers recent efforts of the High-level Coordinator, Iraq and Kuwait to resolve the outstanding issues. Though both sides presented opposing views on the renewal of the High-level Coordinator's mandate, both Kuwait and Iraq have been cooperative and supportive in their efforts to achieve tangible and significant progress.

Progress has been slow in regards to the search for the Kuwaiti national archives and no credible information about its whereabouts has emerged to date. Nonetheless, Iraq has formed a committee to coordinate the search for Kuwaiti national archives and duly report to the UN. Iraq and Kuwait have made better progress in the search for missing persons and property, in the framework of the Tripartite Commission and its Technical Subcommittee. In order to build upon the existing momentum towards the implementation of paragraph 14 of resolution 1284 (1999), it is recommended that the SC extend the financing of the Coordinator's mandate for an additional six months until 30 June 2012.

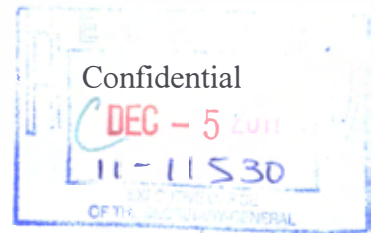
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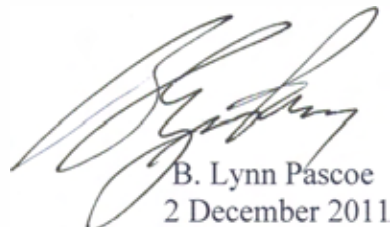
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Note to Mr. Nambiar



**THIRTY-SECOND REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
PERSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 14 OF RESOLUTION 1284 (1999)**

1. Please find attached for the Secretary-General's approval the thirty-second report pursuant to paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution 1284 (1999). The report deals with the issues of the return of missing Kuwaiti persons and property.
2. The report is submitted immediately after the High-level Coordinator's consultations with the Iraqi and Kuwaiti officials. In its 'Observation' section, the Secretary-General notes that the search for missing Kuwaiti and third country nationals in Iraq is on the right track. He calls on Iraq to continue to work with Kuwait in the spirit of trust and confidence in order to achieve tangible and significant progress in the resolution of this humanitarian issue. The Secretary-General welcomes the decision of Iraq to form a committee to coordinate the search for the Kuwaiti national archive, adding that he expects that the committee's activities will be duly reported to the United Nations.
3. The Iraqi FM had in two letters (on 21 June 2011 to the Security Council and on 5 July 2011 to the Secretary-General) called for the termination of the Coordinator's mandate, observing that the Tripartite Commission and its Technical Subcommittee (TSC) consisting of Iraq and Kuwait, as well as the existing Iraqi national bodies should be able to work effectively on missing Kuwaiti persons and property. On the other hand, the Kuwaiti FM in two letters (on 13 July and 13 November 2011) to the Secretary-General reiterated the need for Iraq to comply with all its Chapter VII obligations with regard to Kuwait and underlined the importance of the continuation of the High-level Coordinator's mandate.
4. Iraq and Kuwait had been cooperating in the search for missing persons in the framework of the TSC and under the aegis of ICRC. Iraq had also formed a committee to coordinate the search for the Kuwaiti national archive in accordance with the recommendation contained in the Secretary-General's June 2011 report. Therefore, on balance, the report recommends that the Security Council extends the financing of the Coordinator's mandate until 30 June 2012 in order to promote momentum towards the implementation of paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution 1284 (1999).
4. The High-level Coordinator is scheduled to present the report to the Security Council (Russian presidency) on 15 December.


B. Lynn Pascoe
2 December 2011

POC/04/006

Approved on
behalf of the SG.
[Signature]



Security Council

6/12/2011

Distr.: General
.. December 2011

Original: English

Thirty second report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 14 of Resolution 1284 (1999)

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 14 of Security Council Resolution 1284 (1999) and covers the developments on the issue of missing Kuwaiti and third country nationals and that of missing Kuwaiti property, including national archives, since my report of 20 June 2011(S/2011/373).

II. Recent activities with regard to the repatriation and return of all Kuwaiti and third-country nationals, or their remains

2. In my previous report, I had encouraged the Government of Iraq to expeditiously take further practical steps towards fulfilling its obligations under paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution 1284 (1999). Throughout the reporting period Ambassador Gennady Tarasov, the High-level Coordinator, has been actively engaged with both Iraq and Kuwait to assist them in further building mutual trust and confidence with a view to intensify the search for missing persons. Working in close contact with the members of the Tripartite Commission (TC) and its Technical Subcommittee (TSC), the Coordinator has consistently encouraged tangible practical

progress in this regard. His priority is to facilitate, within the framework of the TSC and under the aegis of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the sending of joint exploratory missions to sites on Iraqi territory where Kuwaiti and third country persons may have been buried. Three such missions have been conducted up to date: to Nassiriah, Southern Iraq – in December 2010, and to a near-by site of Khamissiah – in June and September-October 2011. Although no human remains have been discovered, in the view of the participants these missions represent a promising format for their further work on the ground. These missions have the potential to become an effective functional mechanism to fully probe the fate of missing persons.

3. During 19 - 22 September 2011 the Coordinator visited Kuwait. He met Mr. Khaled Al Jarallah, the Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who stressed that the Coordinator's humanitarian mandate should be insulated from the influence of other political and regional factors and emphasised the need for Iraq to fulfil its commitments under the relevant Security Council resolutions. He hoped that Kuwait and Iraq would be able to close this painful chapter with the assistance of the United Nations.
4. Between 14 - 16 November 2011 Ambassador Tarasov travelled to Geneva where, on the sidelines of the Tripartite Commission meeting, he met Mr. Mohammed S. Al-Sudaney, Iraq's Minister of Human Rights as well as the Kuwaiti delegation.
5. Minister Al-Sudaney underlined a firm commitment of the Government of Iraq to the search for missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals. He briefed the Coordinator on the progress achieved so far by the TSC joint exploratory missions and outlined Iraqi efforts to gather relevant information and expand the database on potential sites containing mass graves. He also noted that his

Ministry had prepared a plan of action for 2012 that accorded priority to more investigations at Khamisiyah, Ramadi and Hilla in Iraq. The Minister indicated that Iraq has received the equipment purchased from the Kuwaiti grant of \$ 974,000 which will be used for excavations of mass-graves and identification of missing persons. The Iraqi side noted the need for working with the United Nations on this file within a specific timeframe.

6. The head of the Kuwaiti delegation Dr. Ibrahim M. Al-Shaheen, the Acting Chairman of the Kuwaiti National Committee for Missing Persons and Prisoners of War Affairs, while giving a positive assessment of the Iraqi efforts, referred to the need to focus on obtaining more specific information about potential gravesites in keeping with the Kuwaiti Action Plan of 2009 (S/2010/300). He also spoke in favour of an advance planning on an annual basis for the future TSC missions in Iraq.
7. According to a press release issued by the ICRC on 17 November 2011 following the Tripartite Commission meeting, the members of the Commission decided to step up the information gathering process on the possible burial sites. They also agreed to work out a concrete Plan of Action in both Iraq and Kuwait for the year 2012.
8. During his visit to Kuwait on 21 - 22 November 2011, on the sidelines of an international ministerial conference held there, the Coordinator was received by the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Khalid Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. The Minister voiced his hope that Ambassador Tarasov would help promote a comprehensive solution enabling the closure of this humanitarian file by urging Iraq to expedite substantive progress in clarifying the fate of missing Kuwaitis. He reaffirmed support for the extension of the Coordinator's mandate to continue his efforts in this regard.

9. The Coordinator also met Mr. Mohammad J. Al-Dorki, the Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The latter stressed the determination of his Government to constructively work with Kuwait in the search for missing persons and properties. He also indicated that the political priority for Baghdad continues to be the termination of the remaining Chapter VII provisions.
10. On 18 September 2011, I discussed in New York with the visiting Prime Minister of Kuwait, Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the issue of missing Kuwaiti persons and national archives. The Prime Minister stressed the need for Iraq to comply with all its Chapter VII obligations with regard to Kuwait and underlined the importance of the continuation of the High-level Coordinator's mandate.
11. In a letter of 13 November 2011 addressed to me, the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Khalid Al-Hamad Al-Sabah pointed out that no progress had been made since 2004 in discovering the fate of the persons who remain on the missing list (369). He hoped that the cooperation shown by the Government of Iraq would continue and intensify in the coming phase of implementing the action plans and programs agreed upon within the TC and its TSC, which remain the primary body for dealing with the issue of missing Kuwaiti and third country nationals from the 1990-1991 Gulf War. The Minister emphasized that Kuwait supports the extension of the mandate of the High-level Coordinator in order to achieve substantive results that would help put a closure to this humanitarian file.
12. In an earlier correspondence, in a letter dated 5 July 2011 (S/2011/568) the Foreign Minister of Iraq Mr. Hoshiyar Zebari, stressing full Iraqi cooperation in the search for both missing Kuwaiti persons and properties, informed that his Government did

not see the need to extend the Coordinator's mandate after 31 December 2011, since the Tripartite Commission and its Technical Subcommittee as well as the existing Iraqi national bodies should be able to work effectively on the humanitarian file for the benefit of Iraq and Kuwait.

13. The then Deputy Prime-Minister, Foreign Minister of Kuwait, Sheikh Mohammed Al-Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, in a letter dated 13 July 2011 (S/2011/428) stated that Kuwait supported the continuation of the High-level Coordinator's mandate in order to ensure implementation of Security Council resolution 1284 (1999).
14. In a related development, 32 sets of remains of Iraqi military personnel, discovered earlier this year by a TSC mission along 'Highway 80' in Kuwait, were handed over to the Iraqi authorities last July. A similar mission went to northern Kuwait at the end of November. Thus, the activities of the TSC have in fact become "a two-way street", dealing with missing persons both from Kuwait and Iraq.

III. Recent activities with regard to the return of Kuwaiti property

15. I remain concerned that no substantial progress has been made in the search for the Kuwaiti national archive, and that no credible information about its whereabouts has so far emerged.
16. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kuwait, in a letter on 13 July (S/2011/428), welcomed the press release issued by the Council on 22 June 2011, which urged the Government of Iraq to establish an effective national body to lead and coordinate efforts with regard to the Kuwaiti national archive and report the results to the United Nations.

17. In a letter to the President of the Security Council dated 15 November 2011 (S/2011/721), the Permanent Representative of Iraq stated that the Iraqi Government has implemented the recommendation contained in my report of June 2011. He informed that the Iraqi authorities had approved the establishment of a committee to coordinate efforts relating to the Kuwaiti national archive. It would consist of representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Chair), the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers, Ministries of Defence, Interior, Finance, Justice, Higher Education and Scientific Research, and the Central Bank of Iraq at the rank of Director-General.
18. In the same letter the Permanent Representative of Iraq said that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iraq had sent a letter to the Kuwaiti Embassy in Baghdad about 136 microfilm cassettes found in Iraq that included materials belonging to the official newspaper '*Kuwait Today*'. Similar letters were sent to the Coordinator.

IV. Observations

19. It appears that the search for missing Kuwaiti and third country nationals in Iraq is on track. I welcome the cooperation shown by the Government of Iraq in this respect and encourage it to take further practical steps towards fulfilling its obligations under paragraph 14 of Security Council Resolution 1284 (1999). I would like to acknowledge the support provided by the Government of Kuwait.
20. The emerging format of joint exploratory missions in Iraq within the framework of the TSC and under the aegis of ICRC appears to represent a suitable mechanism to speed up the search for missing persons. It enjoys strong support of Iraq, Kuwait and the other members of the TSC and holds out a prospect of gradually producing tangible results. While three exploratory missions carried

out inside Iraq up to date have not uncovered any remains of the missing persons, their efforts have established confidence that serious engagement is underway. Concrete progress will require strong commitment, constructive collaboration and sustained professional effort.

21. I commend the determination and contribution of the members of the Tripartite Commission and its Technical Subcommittee to the task of resolving the issue of missing persons. I appreciate the leading role of the ICRC in this endeavour.
22. Now that the basic organizational and logistical aspects of the search for missing persons have been put in place, the attainment of significant practical results on the ground must become an operational priority. I call on Iraq to continue to work with Kuwait in the spirit of trust and confidence in order to achieve significant progress in the resolution of this humanitarian issue. This outcome, along with other necessary steps by Iraq to comply with its obligations under the relevant Security Council resolutions, would enhance the momentum to enable the Council to take up my report of 27 July 2009 pursuant to paragraph 5 of Resolution 1859 (2008) (S/2009/385).
23. I welcome the decision of Iraq to form a committee to coordinate the search for the Kuwaiti national archive. This step is consistent with the recommendation contained in my June 2011 report on the subject supported by the members of the Security Council. I look forward to the intensification of efforts to clarify the whereabouts of the archives by this newly established body and expect that its activities will be brought to the attention of the United Nations.
24. In view of the potential for progress that lies ahead, I recommend that the Security Council extend the financing of the Coordinator's mandate until 30 June 2012 in order to continue to build upon the

existing momentum towards the implementation of paragraph 14 of the Resolution 1284 (1999).

25. I would also like to thank Ambassador Gennady Tarasov, the High-level Coordinator, for his assiduous efforts and determination to resolve the issues which are the subject of this report.



Security Council

Distr.: General
.. December 2011

Original: English

Thirty second report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 14 of Resolution 1284 (1999)

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 14 of Security Council Resolution 1284 (1999) and covers ~~the~~ developments on the issue of missing Kuwaiti and third country nationals and that of missing Kuwaiti property, including national archives, since my report in June 2011(S/2011/373).

*Revised ??
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II. Recent activities with regard to the repatriation and return of all Kuwaiti and third-country nationals, or their remains

2. On 18 September 2011, I discussed in New York with the visiting Prime Minister of Kuwait, Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the issue of missing Kuwaiti persons and national archives. The Prime Minister stressed the need for Iraq to comply with all its Chapter VII obligations with regard to Kuwait and underlined the importance of the continuation of the High-level Coordinator's mandate.
3. In a letter of 13 November 2011 addressed to me, the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Khalid Al-

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Hamad Al-Sabah pointed out that no progress had been made since 2004 in discovering the fate of the persons who remain on the missing list (369). He hoped that the ~~constructive~~ cooperation shown by the Government of Iraq would continue and intensify in the coming phase of implementing the action plans and programs agreed upon in the Tripartite Commission (TC) and its Technical Subcommittee (TSC), which remain the primary body for dealing with the issue of missing Kuwaiti and third country nationals from the 1990-1991 Gulf War. The Minister emphasized that Kuwait supports the extension of the mandate of the High-level Coordinator in order to achieve substantive results that would help put a closure to this humanitarian file.

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4. In an earlier correspondence, in a letter dated 5 July 2011 (S/2011/568) the Foreign Minister of Iraq Mr. Hoshiyar Zebari, stressing full Iraqi cooperation in the search for both missing Kuwaiti persons and properties, informed that his Government did not see the need to extend the Coordinator's mandate after 31 December 2011, since the Tripartite Commission and its Technical Subcommittee as well as the existing Iraqi national bodies should be able to work effectively on the humanitarian file for the benefit of Iraq and Kuwait.
5. The then Deputy Prime-Minister, Foreign Minister of Kuwait, Sheikh Mohammed Al-Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, in a letter dated 13 July 2011 (S/2011/428) stated that Kuwait supported the continuation of the High-level Coordinator's mandate in order to ensure implementation of the Resolution 1284 (1999).

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6. Throughout the reporting period Ambassador Gennady Tarasov, the High-level Coordinator, has been actively engaged with both Iraq and Kuwait to assist them in further building mutual trust and confidence with a view to intensify the search for missing persons.

- Agenda
- Effects
- Outcome

Working in close contact with the members of the TSC, the Coordinator ^{has} consistently encouraged tangible practical progress in this regard. His priority ^{is} ~~at this stage~~ ^{with} was to facilitate the sending of joint exploratory missions, ~~in~~ ^{within} the framework of the TSC and under the aegis of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), to sites on ~~the~~ Iraqi territory where Kuwaiti and third country ~~persons~~ ^{persons} may ~~have been buried~~ ^{be found}. Three such missions have been conducted up to date: to Nassiriah, Southern Iraq – in December 2010, and to a near-by site of Khamissiah – in June and September-October 2011. Although no human remains have been discovered, in the view of the participants ^{framework agreed by the TSC presents a} they represent a promising format for ~~their~~ ^{with planning} further work on the ground. These missions ~~can become an~~ ^{have been planned} effective functional mechanism to fully probe the fate of missing persons.

7. During 19 - 22 September 2011 the Coordinator visited Kuwait. He met Mr. Khaled Al Jarallah, the Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who stressed that the Coordinator's humanitarian mandate should be insulated ^{and contradiction} from the influence of other political and regional factors ~~and emphasised~~ the need for Iraq to fulfil its commitments under the relevant Security Council resolutions. He hoped that Kuwait and Iraq would be able to close this painful chapter with the assistance of the United Nations.

8. ~~On~~ ^{Before} 14 - 16 November 2011 Ambassador Tarasov travelled to Geneva ^{for the meeting of} where, ~~on the sidelines of~~ the Tripartite Commission ~~meeting~~, he met Mr. Mohammed S. Al-Sudaney, Iraq's Minister of Human Rights as well as the Kuwaiti delegation.

9. Minister Al-Sudaney underlined a firm commitment of the Government of Iraq to the search for missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals. He briefed the Coordinator on the progress achieved so far by the TSC joint exploratory missions and outlined

specificity
 Iraqi efforts to gather relevant information and expand the database on potential sites containing mass graves. He also noted that his Ministry had prepared a plan of action for 2012 that accorded priority to more investigations at Khamisiyah, Ramadi and Hilla in Iraq. The Minister indicated that Iraq has received the equipment purchased from the Kuwaiti grant of \$ 974,000 which will be used for excavations of mass-graves and identification of missing persons. The Iraqi side noted the need for working with the United Nations on this file within a specific timeframe.

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10. The head of the Kuwaiti delegation Dr. Ibrahim M. Al-Shaheen, the Acting Chairman of the Kuwaiti National Committee for Missing Persons and Prisoners of War Affairs, while giving a positive assessment of the Iraqi efforts, referred to the need to focus on obtaining more specific information about potential gravesites in keeping with the Kuwaiti Action Plan of 2009. He also spoke in favour of ~~a yearly~~ *on an annual basis* advance planning of the future TSC missions in Iraq. *x*

11. According to a press release issued by the ICRC on 17 November 2011 following the Tripartite Commission meeting, the members of the Commission decided to step up the information gathering process on the possible burial sites. They also agreed to work out a concrete Plan of Action in both Iraq and Kuwait for the year 2012.

*Join the
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 on it?*

12. During his visit to Kuwait on 21 - 22 November 2011, on the sidelines of an international ministerial conference held there, the Coordinator was received by the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Khalid Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. The Minister voiced his hope that Ambassador Tarasov would help promote a comprehensive solution enabling the closure of this humanitarian file by urging Iraq to expedite substantive progress in clarifying the fate of missing Kuwaitis. He reaffirmed

support for the extension of the Coordinator's mandate to continue his efforts in this regard.

13. The Coordinator also met Mr. Mohammad J. Al-Dorki, the Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The latter stressed the determination of his Government to constructively work with Kuwait in the search for missing persons and properties. He also indicated that the political priority for Baghdad continues to be the termination of the remaining Chapter VII provisions.
14. In a related development, 32 sets of remains of Iraqi military personnel, discovered earlier this year by a TSC mission along 'Highway 80' in Kuwait, were handed over to the Iraqi authorities last July. A similar mission went to northern Kuwait at the end of November. Thus, the activities of the TSC have in fact become "a two-way street", dealing with missing persons both from Kuwait and Iraq.

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III. Recent activities with regard to the return of Kuwaiti property

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16. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kuwait, in a letter on 13 July (S/2011/428), welcomed the press release issued by the Council on 22 June 2011, which urged the Government of Iraq to establish an effective national body to lead and coordinate efforts with regard to the Kuwaiti national archive and report the results to the United Nations.
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Talk to Ambassador

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IV. Observations

19. It appears that the search for missing Kuwaiti and third country nationals in Iraq is on ~~the right~~ track. I welcome the ~~constructive~~ cooperation shown by the Government of Iraq in this respect and encourage it to take further practical steps towards fulfilling its obligations under paragraph 14 of Security Council Resolution 1284 (1999). The positive and supportive stance of the Government of Kuwait is commendable.

20. The emerging format of joint exploratory missions in Iraq ~~in~~ the framework of the TSC and under the aegis of ICRC appears to represent a suitable mechanism to speed up the search for missing persons. It enjoys strong support of Iraq, Kuwait and the other members of the TSC and holds out a prospect of ~~eventually~~ ^{gradually} producing tangible results. While three exploratory missions carried out inside Iraq up to date have not uncovered any remains of the victims, ~~they enhanced confidence that the only way to achieve~~ ^{their efforts have established confidence that serious efforts}

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*Concrete
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21. I commend the determination and contribution of the members of the Tripartite Commission and its Technical Subcommittee to the task of resolving the issue of missing persons. I appreciate the leading role of the ICRC in this endeavour.

22. Now that the basic organizational and logistical aspects of the search for missing persons have been put in place, the attainment of significant practical results on the ground must become ~~a crucial~~ *operational* priority. I call on Iraq to continue to work with Kuwait in the spirit of trust and confidence in order to achieve ~~tangible and~~ significant progress in the resolution of this humanitarian issue. This outcome, along with other necessary steps by Iraq to comply with its obligations ~~towards the~~ *under* relevant Security Council resolutions, ~~should increase a positive~~ *would enhance the* momentum to enable the Council to take up my report of 27 July 2009 pursuant to paragraph 5 of Resolution 1859 (2008) (S/2009/385).

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*Sovereign
body!*

24. I recommend that the Security Council extend the financing of the Coordinator's mandate until 30 June 2012 in order to continue to build upon the existing momentum towards the implementation of paragraph 14 of the Resolution 1284 (1999).

25. *I would also like to thank Mr. Tassou, the High-level Coordinator for his arduous efforts and determination to resolve the issues which are the subject of this report.*

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
.. December 2011

●original: English

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Hamad Al-Sabah pointed out that no progress had been made since 2004 in discovering the fate of the persons who remain on the missing list (369). He hoped that the constructive cooperation shown by the Government of Iraq would continue and intensify in the coming phase of implementing the action plans and programs agreed upon in the Tripartite Commission (TC) and its Technical Subcommittee (TSC), which remain the primary body for dealing with the issue of missing Kuwaiti and third country nationals from the 1990-1991 Gulf War. The Minister emphasized that Kuwait supports the extension of the mandate of the High-level Coordinator in order to achieve substantive results that would help put a closure to this humanitarian file.

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Working in close contact with the members of the TSC, the Coordinator consistently encouraged tangible practical progress in this regard. His priority at this stage was to facilitate the sending of joint exploratory missions, in the framework of the TSC and under the aegis of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), to sites on the Iraqi territory where Kuwaiti and third country victims may have been buried. Three such missions have been conducted up to date: to Nassiriah, Southern Iraq – in December 2010, and to a near-by site of Khamissiah – in June and September-October 2011. Although no human remains have been discovered, in the view of the participants they represent a promising format for their further work on the ground. These missions can become an effective functional mechanism to fully probe the fate of missing persons.

7. During 19 - 22 September 2011 the Coordinator visited Kuwait. He met Mr. Khaled Al Jarallah, the Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who stressed that the Coordinator's humanitarian mandate should be insulated from the influence of other political and regional factors and emphasised the need for Iraq to fulfil its commitments under the relevant Security Council resolutions. He hoped that Kuwait and Iraq would be able to close this painful chapter with the assistance of the United Nations.
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III. Recent activities with regard to the return of Kuwaiti property

15. I remain concerned that no substantial progress has been made in the search for the Kuwaiti national archive, and that no credible information about its whereabouts has so far emerged.
16. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kuwait, in a letter on 13 July (S/2011/428), welcomed the press release issued by the Council on 22 June 2011, which urged the Government of Iraq to establish an effective national body to lead and coordinate efforts with regard to the Kuwaiti national archive and report the results to the United Nations.
17. In a letter to the President of the Security Council dated 15 November 2011 (S/2011/721), the Permanent Representative of Iraq stated that the Iraqi Government has implemented the

recommendation contained in my report of June 2011. He informed that the Iraqi authorities had approved the establishment of a committee to coordinate the efforts relating to the Kuwaiti national archive. It would consist of representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Chair), the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers, Ministries of Defence, Interior, Finance, Justice, Higher Education and Scientific Research and the Central Bank of Iraq at the rank of Director-General.

18. In the same letter the Permanent Representative of Iraq said that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iraq had sent a letter to the Kuwaiti Embassy in Baghdad about 136 microfilm cassettes found in Iraq that included materials belonging to the official newspaper '*Kuwait Today*'. Similar letters were sent to the Coordinator.

IV. Observations

19. It appears that the search for missing **Kuwaiti** and third country nationals in Iraq is on the right track. I welcome the constructive cooperation shown by the Government of Iraq in this respect and encourage it to take further practical steps towards fulfilling its obligations under paragraph 14 of Security Council Resolution 1284 (1999). The positive and supportive stance of the Government of Kuwait is commendable.
20. The emerging format of joint exploratory missions in Iraq in the framework of the TSC and under the aegis of ICRC appears to represent a suitable mechanism to speed up the search for missing persons. It enjoys strong support of Iraq, Kuwait and the other members of the TSC and holds out a prospect of eventually producing tangible results. While three exploratory missions carried out inside Iraq up to date have not uncovered any remains of the victims, they enhanced confidence that the only way to achieve

progress is through strong commitment, constructive collaboration and sustained professional effort.

21. I commend the determination and contribution of the members of the Tripartite Commission and its Technical Subcommittee to the task of resolving the issue of missing persons. I appreciate the leading role of the ICRC in this endeavour.
22. Now that the basic organizational and logistical aspects of the search for missing persons have been put in place, the attainment of significant practical results on the ground must become a crucial priority. I call on Iraq to continue to work with Kuwait in the spirit of trust and confidence in order to achieve tangible and significant progress in the resolution of this humanitarian issue. This outcome, along with other necessary steps by Iraq to comply with its obligations towards the relevant Security Council resolutions, should increase a positive momentum to enable the Council to take up my report of 27 July 2009 pursuant to paragraph 5 of Resolution 1859 (2008) (S/2009/385).
23. I welcome the decision of Iraq to form a committee to coordinate the search for the Kuwaiti national archive. This step is consistent with the recommendation contained in my June 2011 report on the subject supported by the members of the Security Council. I look forward to the intensification of efforts to clarify the fate of the archive by this newly established body and expect that its activities will be duly reported to the United Nations.
24. I recommend that the Security Council extend the financing of the Coordinator's mandate until 30 June 2012 in order to continue to build upon the existing momentum towards the implementation of paragraph 14 of the Resolution 1284 (1999).