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Letter dated 6 July 2004 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey the attached communication, dated 6 July 2004, which I received from the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. Annan

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Annex

Letter dated 6 July 2004 from the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency to the Secretary-General

I should be grateful if you would kindly transmit the attached letter to the President of the Security Council for distribution to all Council members as a United Nations document.

(Signed) Mohamed ElBaradei

Enclosure

Letter dated 6 July 2004 from the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency to the President of the Security Council

I refer to my letter of 14 July 2003 to the President of the Security Council, in which I reported to the Council, pursuant to the provisions of Security Council resolutions 687 (1991), 707 (1991) and 715 (1991) and other relevant resolutions, on verification activities carried out at Location C Nuclear Material Storage Facility near the Tuwaitha complex south of Baghdad, Iraq (S/2003/711, annex).

On 19 June 2003, the International Atomic Energy Agency was advised by the United States Government of its intention, due to security concerns, to transfer to the United States, at a future date, some of the nuclear material stored at Location C. It also requested IAEA to keep the information about the intended transfer confidential for the same security reasons. At that time, IAEA took note of the United States' intention to remove from Agency verification in Iraq the nuclear material in question, and only expressed a view on the Agency's verification requirements.

On 30 June 2004, IAEA received information from the United States Government that the transfer took place on 23 June 2004. According to information provided by the United States, the transferred material consisted of low enriched uranium in the form of approximately 1.8 tons of uranium enriched to 2.6% in uranium-235, as well as some additional 3 kilograms of uranium of various low enrichments. IAEA understands that this material is now under the jurisdiction and control of the United States. The nuclear material that remains at Location C is mostly natural uranium, some depleted uranium and some low enriched uranium waste, which is required to be subject to IAEA monitoring and verification under the above-referenced Security Council resolutions.

In addition, the United States Government informed the Agency that approximately 1,000 highly radioactive sources, most of which were previously stored at Location C, were also transferred to the United States. The radioisotopes remaining in Iraq and the Agency's responsibilities for these isotopes continue to be governed by Security Council resolution 707 (1991).

I would be grateful if you would arrange for this letter to be distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohamed ElBaradei