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Aan : HBVD,

Van :

Betreft : 'kort overzicht achtergrond en structuur UNMOVIC

Achtergrond

Op 17 december 1999 nam de veiligheidsraad van de VN resolutie 1284 (1999) aan, waarin de oprichting van de United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) werd geregeld. Dit nieuwe inspectieorgaan, gezeteld in New York, moest de stopgezette inspecties in Irak voortzetten, om er voor te zorgen dat alle Irakese voorraden van WMD (Weapons of Mass Destruction) en ballistische raketten zouden worden vernietigd. Specifiek betekent dit dat UNMOVIC de verantwoordelijkheden (van UNSCOM) overgenomen heeft met betrekking tot de controle op Irakese uitvoering van al haar verplichtingen van paragrafen 8, 9, en 10 van VN resolutie 687 (1991). Als voorwaarde voor het opheffen van alle sancties richting Irak wordt samenwerking met UNMOVIC "in all respects" gesteld. Tot nu toe ontbreekt het aan enige samenwerking aan de kant van Irak.

Structuur UNMOVIC

Direct verantwoordelijk aan de veiligheidsraad voor de activiteiten van UNMOVIC en de uitvoering van haar mandaat is de Executive Chairman (Mr. Hans Blix). Een "College of Commissioners" toetst het inspectiebeleid, houdt de implementatie van het mandaat van UNMOVIC in de gaten en brengt hierover advies uit. Dit college is aangewezen door de Secretaris-Generaal van de VN. De Executive Chairman wordt ondersteund door de Office of the Executive Chairman. UNMOVIC bestaat verder uit vier functionele divisies, de Division of Planning and Operations, de Division of Analysis and Assessment, de Division of Technical Support and Training, en de Division of Information.

Division of Information

De Division of Information is het verzamelpunt voor alle informatie die UNMOVIC moet ondersteunen in haar "monitoring" en "verification" activiteiten. Hieronder valt een export/import joint unit die zich bezig houdt met toezicht op leveranties van dual-use goederen aan Irak, een "imagery" unit die beeldmateriaal verkregen uit inspecties en andere bronnen (inclusief van overheden) verzamelt en analyseert, een data-processing en archief unit, en tenslotte een Office for Outside Information

In overeenstemming met paragraaf 10 van resolutie 1284 (1999), waarin landen worden gevraagd volledig met UNMOVIC en IAEA mee te werken in het uitvoeren van haar mandaat, kunnen overheden informatie w.o. inlichtingeninformatie aanleveren. Naast de Executive Chairman is de Office for Outside Information het enige verzamelpunt waar deze inlichtingeninformatie binnenkomt. Deze informatiestroom loopt alleen van de verschillende overheden naar UNMOVIC (-en niet terug), en de geleverde informatie heeft alleen betrekking op het uitvoeren van het mandaat van UNMOVIC.

Nederlands standpunt

Nederland ondersteunt de doelstellingen van UNMOVIC en de betreffende resoluties van de veiligheidsraad (687 en 1284) volledig. Waar mogelijk zal UNMOVIC worden ondersteund met informatie en expertise (mogelijk in de vorm van inspecteurs).

BVD-benadering

De BVD streeft ernaar UNMOVIC, al dan niet via het ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken, te ondersteunen met relevante informatie over de Irakese programma's voor WMD en/of ballistische raketten. Echter, de BVD is verplicht om de identiteit van bronnen te beschermen. Dit betekent dat informatie die mogelijk herleidbaar is naar de bron, niet met UNMOVIC kan worden gedeeld. Daarnaast houdt de BVD rekening met het multilaterale karakter van UNMOVIC. De kans op compromittering van informatie is daarmee aanwezig.

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April 7, 2000

U.N. Gets a New Proposal for Iraq Arms Inspections

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By BARBARA CROSSETTE

UNITED NATIONS, April 6 -- The blueprint for a new, tightly structured arms inspection agency for Iraq was sent to the Security Council today, moving the chief inspector, Hans Blix, closer to the moment of truth with President Saddam Hussein.

Once the plan has been approved by the council, possibly next week, the next step will be a visit to Iraq to re-establish an inspection center in Baghdad. The new team will begin drawing up a list of questions Iraq must answer before sanctions that have been in place for nearly a decade can be suspended and finally lifted.

So far Iraq has sent the United Nations mixed, though largely negative, signals about its intentions toward the new panel, called the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission.

The plan circulated today takes account of the uncertainty, saying that "it may be neither practical nor prudent to move to immediate full recruitment." A two-step hiring timetable was suggested, with only a core of staff members to be appointed initially.

In his blueprint for the commission, Dr. Blix, a former Swedish foreign minister and director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, appears to have assuaged some of the concerns of arms control experts. Many had expected the panel, known by its acronym, Unmovic, to be substantially weaker than its predecessor, the United Nations Special Commission, known as Unsc.

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Dr. Blix left the door open to former inspectors who want to reapply -- although except in certain circumstances they will have to work for the United Nations, not their national governments as in the past.

"Previous work will have given them valuable experience and knowledge that could usefully be passed on to new Unmovic staff who come on board," Dr. Blix wrote in his plan. "A combination of renewal and continuity would minimize the loss of momentum and knowledge which has inevitably occurred through the long absence of inspection and monitoring."

There have been no arms inspections in Iraq since December 1998, when inspectors were withdrawn just ahead of American and British bombing.

Since then the Iraqis have permitted only a routine visit from the International Atomic Energy Agency for monitoring equipment under the 1968 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, an issue not related to the inspections imposed on Iraq in 1991 after the Persian Gulf war.

Until Iraq meets the requirements to destroy all prohibited nuclear, biological and chemical arms as well as long-range missiles, sanctions imposed after its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 will not be lifted.

In his organizational plan, Dr. Blix made clear that he would deal directly with the Security Council, and would also preside over the international "college of commissioners" to be set up to advise him. There had been fears among disarmament experts that governments would use the college to exert pressure on the inspection system, and they may still try. But the blueprint does not give them much latitude.

Nor does it give the United Nations Secretariat a prominent role.

The commission, Dr. Blix emphasized, retains all of Unsc's powers to designate inspection sites, conduct interviews, take samples and photographs, and use aerial surveillance.

Dr. Blix proposed four operational divisions that at least on paper appear well insulated from political pressures -- planning and operations, analysis and assessment, information (archiving) and technical support and training.

Planning and operations will oversee the monitoring center in Baghdad, which will be responsible for operating both a long-term monitoring program and organizing short-term inspection visits. In the past, some visiting inspectors were viewed as unsupervised loose cannons, increasing tensions with Iraq.

All inspectors and monitors will now get "cultural" training, according to the plan, which says, "The cultural programs will stress

the importance of understanding national sensitivities and the proper handling of adversarial situations."

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