

The Embargo On Iraq Did Not Begin With The Kuwait Crisis Nor Did It End After Iraq Had Withdrawn From Kuwait

- On the 26th of August 1987, Iraq and the USA signed (The Commercial, Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement Between the Government of the Republic of Iraq the Government of the United States of America). Soon afterwards, trade volume between the two countries reached its highest level since the restoration of full diplomatic ties between them in 1984.
- In mid-September 1988, the U.S Congress took an unexpected decision to boycott Iraq economically (The Pell Bill Document S2763 of 1988). The bill was protested by Mr. Marshall WE. Wiley, President of United States-Iraq Business Form in a letter addressed to the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the House of Representatives dated September 21, 1988. In that letter Mr. Wiley argued that imposing sanctions on Iraq would not only eliminate legitimate trade opportunities but would also end opportunity for dialogue, which trade relations confer.
- At the end of September 1988, the House of Representatives approved the bill. However, it was not ratified by the then President of the United States Ronald Regan acting under pressure from U.S companies which had large trade dealings with Iraq at the time.
- In April 1990, Rep. Berman (D-CA) presented a draft bill (H.R. 4585 A bill to impose sanctions against Iraq, which calls for the destruction of Iraq's weapons before the outbreak of the Kuwait crisis. The bill set August 1, 1990 contract sanctity date for export licenses to Iraq. This bill was used as a basis for U.N Security Council Resolution 687 imposing economic sanctions on Iraq.
- In October 1992, the U.N Security Council, acting under a pressure from the USA, adopted Resolution 778, which blocked the use of limited amounts of Iraq's frozen assets to purchase requirements for the Iraqi people. Those assets exceeded four billion dollars. Resolution 687 of 1991 had allowed the Sanctions Committee to release limited amounts of the frozen assets to purchase food and medicine.
- At the end of 1996, the oil-for-food programme came into effect six and a half years after the ceasefire and the adoption of Security Council Resolution 687. Had Iraq been allowed to use its frozen assets and had the U.S not pressured the U.N into blocking those funds in 1992,

many lives could have been saved and a lot of suffering could have been averted.

- Up until today, Iraq has exported oil worth \$19.8 billion as part of the oil-for-food programme over a period of three years. Out of this amount, only \$5.95 billion worth of food, medicine and other essentials actually reached the Iraqi people (an average of \$1.9 billion a year), and \$6.8 billion went to finance U.N operations both inside and outside Iraq, for UNSCOM and for compensations. This leaves \$7.05 billion still unused at the Iraq account because of the U.S policy of rejecting or delaying contracts for water treatment and sewage, electricity, oil equipment, education requirements, agricultural equipment and requirements for food and medicine distribution. The oil-for-food programme has proven to be a political rather than a humanitarian programme, for instead of improving life of the Iraqi population, infant mortality rate increased in Iraq over the period of implementing the programme. The amount of funds available to the Iraqi people is still far below that the Iraqi Government used to provide before the imposition of sanctions. In 1989, Iraq's oil exports reached \$18.6 billion and its imports of commodities, consumer goods, services production requirements and materials for projects were \$20 billion. Iraq's population at that time was 18 million.
- On January 30, 1999, a report by the 2nd Panel established pursuant to the note by the President of the Security Council (S/ 1999/ 100) concerning the current situation in Iraq indicated in its assessment of the humanitarian situation some of Iraq's social and economic indicators were above the regional and developing countries averages. GDP growth averaged 10.4% from 1974 to 1980. The FAO reported that Iraq had the highest per capita food availability in the region (3120 calories per day). The WHO reported that before 1991, health care reached 97% of urban population and 78% of rural residents, and estimated that 90% of the population had access to an abundant quantity of drinking water.