



## **DECLARATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRESS ORGANIZATION ON THE WAR OF AGGRESSION AGAINST IRAQ**

**Vienna, 24 March 2003**

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*On the basis of the principles outlined in the Memorandum of 18 February 2002 and in reference to the urgent messages delivered on 15 March 2003 to the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the International Progress Organization hereby issues the following Declaration on the war of aggression against Iraq. In doing so, the International Progress Organization is meeting its responsibility as international non-governmental organization in consultative status with the United Nations Organization and documenting its commitment to global peace and the international rule of law.*

1. The unprovoked attack against the Republic of Iraq by the United States and the United Kingdom constitutes a breach of the peace and act of aggression according to Art. 39 of the UN Charter.
2. The war of aggression waged by the United States and the United Kingdom against Iraq is an outright violation of Art. 2 (4) of the United Nations Charter banning the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state.
3. This war has been launched in defiance of the United Nations Security Council which alone has authority to order armed measures against UN member states on the basis of Chapter VII of the Charter. The draft of the war authorization resolution sponsored by the United States, the United Kingdom and Spain was never adopted by the Security Council.
4. By having waged war against Iraq, the political leaders of the United States and the United Kingdom are personally responsible under international law of having committed a "crime against the peace and security of mankind" as defined in the *Draft Code of Offences against the Peace and Security of Mankind*, adopted by the International Law Commission of the United Nations. Art. 1 of the Draft Code states: "Offences against the peace and security of mankind ... are crimes under international law, for which the responsible individuals shall be punished."
5. The large-scale terror bombardments of population centers such as Baghdad and Basra, officially declared as part of a strategy of "shock and awe," attacks against civilian targets such as the one against a bus with people traveling on the road to Syria, the use of cluster bombs and depleted uranium ammunition, etc., by the forces of the United States and the United Kingdom, constitute serious violations of the laws and customs applicable in international armed conflict within the established framework of international law. Those acts are war crimes as defined in Art. 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

6. In regard to the acts referred to above and in so far as they have ordered those acts or have participated in the commission of such acts, the political leaders and military personnel of the United Kingdom are under the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court.
7. Because of the veto right enjoyed by countries waging the war of aggression against Iraq – namely the United States and the United Kingdom –, the United Nations Security Council is effectively prevented from exercising its responsibility for the restoration of international peace and security on the basis of Chapter VII of the UN Charter. Therefore, Art. 51 of the UN Charter on the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence regulates military action in defense of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.
8. Because the attack against Iraq is not authorized by the United Nations Security Council and, therefore, constitutes a war of aggression, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the United Nations Secretariat are not entitled to undertake any action that could be interpreted as acceptance of this illegal war as *fait accompli*. By having withdrawn United Nations observers from the demilitarized zone between Kuwait and Iraq, by having drawn up a secret plan for a "United Nations Assistance Mission" in a post-war Iraq (which is supposed to follow the war presently waged by the United States and the United Kingdom), by having worked out a proposal for the amendment of the Security Council's Oil-for-Food-Program in deference to the situation created by the aggression against Iraq, the United Nations Secretary-General and Secretariat have violated their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and have indirectly helped to legitimize a war not authorized by the Security Council. The International Progress Organization reiterates its profound regret over the Secretary-General's failure to exercise his responsibilities under the Charter.
9. By hosting military bases (including command centers) of the US and UK and/or by granting overflight rights to military planes of the United States and the United Kingdom, member states of the Arab League have become accomplices in the war of aggression against Iraq. Their leaders are liable under international law for aiding and abetting a war of aggression against Iraq.
10. Art. II of the Pact of the League of Arab States formulates as one of the basic purposes of the Arab League "the coordination of their [i.e. the member states'] policies ... to safeguard their independence and sovereignty." Art. VI of the Pact regulates the Arab League's collective action in case of aggression against a member state. Contrary to letter and spirit of its own Charter, the Arab League has done nothing to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq. The total impotence of the regional organization of the Arabs in a matter affecting the very existence of the Arab nation has demonstrated not only to the citizens of the Arab world, but to the international public that the project of re-colonization of the Arab world meets no resistance from the part of Arab governments; to the contrary, Arab disunity and the support of individual Arab states for the war of aggression contributes to the re-colonization of the Arab world in a substantial manner.
11. The International Progress Organization notes with grave concern the fact that democracy is being undermined in the course of this war of aggression on a scale threatening the entire global system. In spite of the overwhelming majority in nearly all United Nations member countries (including first and foremost the Arab countries) rejecting the war against Iraq, several European and Arab governments openly defy the will of their people, documented in mass demonstrations not seen in recent history, and continue to support the war against Iraq, whether directly or

indirectly. By their complicity in the conduct of an illegal war, the leaders of those governments bear a grave responsibility vis-à-vis mankind.

12. The International Progress Organization solemnly warns of the grave consequences of this war of aggression for the future relations between the Christian-Western world and Islam. The I.P.O. recalls the *Baku Declaration on Global Dialogue and Peaceful Co-existence among Nations* of 9 November 2001 and appeals to all people of good will to stand up against a policy of aggression and colonization that not only undermines the system of collective security, as represented by the United Nations Organization, but threatens to bring about a "clash of civilizations" between the Western and Muslim world on a scale that may permanently endanger world peace.

Vienna, 24 March 2003

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