Security Council Renews Sanctions Despite Baghdad's Concessions

By Julia Preston

The Security Council renewed stiff commercial sanctions against Baghdad Monday after a debate that accentuated differences among Council powers over how long the trade embargo should continue. In spite of Iraq's decision last week to recognize Kuwait, the 15-nation Security Council concluded in a regularly scheduled 68-day review of the sanctions that it is not yet time to lift them. Council members agreed that Iraq's concession on Kuwait had come too late for this review.

Because of conflicting views among permanent members, primarily the United States and Russia, the Council could not agree on a public statement for reasons of maintaining the sanctions.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz met briefly Monday morning with U.S. Ambassador Madeleine K. Albright in her function as this month's Security Council president, to hand her a formal notice of Baghdad's decision Thursday to acknowledge Kuwait's sovereignty and to accept a U.N.-drawn border between the two countries. Iraq then completed the last part of the package by the United Nations following the 1991 Persian Gulf War for renouncing its claims to the oil-rich emirate, which Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had long assented was Iraq's 1939 province.

A severe U.N. ban on most commerce with Iraq, imposed in 1990 after Saddam invaded Kuwait, has blocked Baghdad from earning $15 billion a year from its oil revenues, by Iraqi estimates, and left Iraq in a shambles.

Albright reiterated Washington's view that the Council should not consider easing the sanctions until Iraq has shown its commitment to peace by complying over a long, open-ended period with the letter and spirit of the full range of the U.N. resolutions, including those that do not directly govern the economic sanctions.

Russian delegate Sergei Lavrov said the Council should establish a six-month testing period and then lift all of the embargo if Iraq has complied consistently with the one resolution that refers to the sanctions. Saddam was persuaded to recognize Kuwait by Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, as part of a strategy to end the sanctions against the Arab nation, which owes Moscow $4 billion in unpaid arms debts.

Albright displayed 12 satellite photographs showing sites where said Saddam is lavishly renovating or building 30 palaces for himself and his close relatives and followers.

Economy May Stall in Coming Months

By Patrick Lee

The good economic news just keeps coming: inflation remains under control, growth is solid and unemployment is at a four-year low.

Yet as the Republicans take control of Congress, empowered by a four-year low.

Blustery winds and driving rain lashed much of Florida Monday as Tropical Storm Gordon canceled school for 9,200 children in the Keys and halted space shuttle traffic and revelations for many of the hangover Hurricane Andrew two years ago.

On the storm front, forecasters hoisted tropical storm warnings for most of South Florida, where heavy rains caused flooding and mudslides in Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Jamaica.

The storm forced the Shuttle Atlantis from its scheduled landing at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral to an alternate site at Edwards Air Force Base in California's Mojave Desert.