

account and used to purchase food, medicine, and humanitarian goods for the Iraqi people.<sup>7</sup> The Iraqi government rejected this proposal.

In 1995, over Iraq's protests, the Security Council adopted another oil-for-food resolution.<sup>8</sup> It was only in 1996, after another year and a half of Iraqi delays and international pressure, that the Iraqi regime finally agreed to accept oil-for-food, allowing the first imports to arrive in 1997. Even after the program was in place, the regime continued to deprive its citizens of the food and medical commodities that the international community wanted to supply. In 22 subsequent resolutions the Security Council extended, revised, adjusted, or expanded the Oil-for-Food Program out of concern for the people of Iraq, consistently broadening the range of goods permitted for importation.<sup>9</sup>

Iraq claims that 1.7 million children, including 700,000 under the age of five, out of a total national population of 22 million people, have died because of sanctions. According to an Iraqi government website, after the Oil-for-Food Program was instituted the number of children who died before the age of five jumped 50 percent from 1996 to 2001. The facts tell a different story:

- Under the Oil-for-Food Program, the Iraqi regime exported food to earn hard currency it could use for its own purposes. Infant formula sold to Iraq under the Oil-for-Food Program has been found in markets throughout the Gulf, presumably exported by the regime to circumvent the sanctions.<sup>10</sup>
- According to the UN, under the Oil-for-Food Program the daily food ration in Iraq rose from about 1,200 kilocalories per day in 1996 to over 2,200 kilocalories per day in August 2002.<sup>11</sup>
- Iraq therefore implausibly claims that child mortality soared while the average caloric intake for Iraqis increased by 80 percent, and while medical supplies were becoming more plentiful.
- High-ranking regime loyalists receive the most expensive medical care, including heart bypass surgery and neurosurgery using an ultra-modern, \$6 million gamma knife, while basic medicines are in short supply for the Iraqi people.<sup>12</sup>
- Since the Gulf War, Saddam Hussein has spent more than \$2 billion building 48 new palaces, some complete with gold-plated faucets and artificial waterfalls on their grounds.<sup>13</sup>
- How much food does \$2 billion buy for hungry people? In 2001, the World Food Program spent \$1.74 billion to deliver 660,000 metric tons of food to 77 million people worldwide.<sup>14</sup>