



UNIVERSAL
POSTAL UNION

Berne, 1 March 2004

International Bureau Circular

71

Iraq – Illegal issues of postage stamps

Dear Sir/Madam

The postal administration of **IRAQ** asks me to inform you of the following:

"We would like to inform Universal Postal Union member countries that the postal administration of Iraq is the victim of a piracy operation whereby some Iraqi postage stamps have been over-printed in English with the words "IRAQ IN COALITION OCCUPATION", and the original values of these stamps have been overprinted with a surcharge (see Annex).

"We were surprised to see that unscrupulous individuals have been circulating these sets of Iraqi stamps on the Internet.

"We regard this as an illegal act, because only our postal administration under our laws, is authorized to issue postage stamps and to mark them in any way. This act also infringes our rights and is a flagrant violation of the Acts of the Universal Postal Union.

"In this connection, we request all UPU-member postal administrations to help us combat and control this phenomenon.

"Iraqi postage stamps can be obtained from the following address:

Posts and Savings Administration
Stamp Department Philatelic Bureau
Baghdad
Iraq"

Yours faithfully,

K J S McKEOWN
Director of Markets

