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Mikhail Kamynin, the Spokesman of Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Answers a Question from Associated Press About a Possible Investigation Regarding Russian Companies Mentioned in the Volcker Commission Report

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Question: Does Russia plan to carry out or is it already carrying out an investigation regarding Russian companies mentioned in the report of the Volcker Commission, which investigated the facts of corruption in the course of the implementation of the United Nations' humanitarian Oil-for-Food program in Iraq?

Answer: Russia closely cooperated with the Volcker Commission throughout its activities. For engagement with the independent inquiry the Russian Foreign Ministry set up a special working group, and there were three rounds of thorough consultations with Commission members conducted in Moscow. During these meetings, detailed explanations were given to the Commission regarding Russia's participation in the UN program.

The documents presented by the Volcker Commission lack an evidentiary base and they cannot be a foundation for an investigation of the companies mentioned in its report. Moreover, individual materials cause doubts about their authenticity.

In our opinion, despite the errors and blunders, the implementation of the Oil-for-Food program really helped prevent a humanitarian catastrophe of the Iraqi people, who up to this day are living through an immensely difficult stage in their history.

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