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Why did UNSCOM Executive Director Ekeus agree to the sensitive site modalities?

~~(S/NF)~~ Former UNSCOM Executive Chairman Rolf Ekeus in 1996 negotiated modalities concerning access to sensitive sites in an effort to resolve a string of confrontations between inspectors and Baghdad over entry to Iraqi facilities. Iraq's admissions at the time of Husayn Kamil's defection in August 1995 embarrassed Ekeus, as UNSCOM had essentially assessed that Iraq was in compliance with all disarmament requirements except for the biological weapons file. UNSCOM began focusing inspections against Iraq's concealment apparatus, attempting to inspect several regime security facilities and government ministries, prompting the standoffs. Ekeus believed he had no other means of compelling Iraqi compliance and concluded that the modalities were the best way to reach an agreement with Baghdad.

Ekeus argued the modalities on sensitive sites helped UNSCOM to secure Baghdad's commitment to allow inspections at any site and increased UNSCOM's rights, such as the right to take samples of non-WMD-related documents, according to diplomatic reporting. Baghdad subsequently used the modalities to delay and limit inspectors' access to regime security facilities and government ministries.

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