



Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/16071
25 October 1983

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 23 OCTOBER 1983 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to refer to document S/16061 of the Security Council containing the text of a letter by the Permanent Representative of Iraq regarding an offensive by the Muslim forces of Iran against Iraq, which he terms "futile attempts and persistence in prolonging the war against the will of the Security Council and the international community", and I wish to correct the erroneous perception of the Permanent Representative of Iraq regarding "the will of the international community".

The content of the letter by the Permanent Representative of Iraq implies that according to the understanding of his Government, the will of the international community concerns only the non-prolongation of wars. The Charter of the United Nations, which is one of the manifestations of the will of the international community, to which the Government of Iraq alleges to be committed, states in the clearest terms possible the inadmissibility of the resort to war before the exhaustion of all peaceful means for the settlement of disputes. The disregard of these provisions of the Charter by any State is the best proof of total disrespect for that will.

Iraq decided unilaterally to escalate its border disputes with Iran into a full-fledged war of aggression and occupation in September 1980, without having resorted to the means available for the peaceful settlement of disputes provided for in the 1975 bilateral Treaty of Boundaries and Good Neighbourliness between Iran and Iraq as well as the relevant provisions of the Charter, including the resort to the Security Council. Any allegation by Iraq for the respect of the "will of the international community" after having so flagrantly disregarded it is nothing but sheer hypocrisy, for which the régime of Iraq is so well known. Such hypocrisy in no way reduces the responsibility of Iraq for any violations of international humanitarian laws in its barbarous and deliberate attacks on civilians in Iran.

I would appreciate if this letter were distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Said RAJAIE KHORASSANI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative