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MESSAGE DATED 9 JUNE 1984 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE
PRESIDENTS OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN AND THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ

I was profoundly distressed on learning of the heavy civilian casualties caused by the aerial attack on the town of Baneh on 5 June 1984, which has now been confirmed by the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the retaliatory and counter-retaliatory attacks that followed on towns in Iran and Iraq.

Deliberate military attacks on civilian areas cannot be condoned by the international community. The initiation of such attacks in the past, and the reprisals and counter-reprisals they provoke, have resulted in mounting loss of life and suffering to innocent and defenceless civilian populations. It is imperative that this immediately cease.

Therefore, I call upon the Governments of the Republic of Iraq and of the Islamic Republic of Iran to declare to the Secretary-General of the United Nations that each undertakes a solemn commitment to end, and in the future refrain from initiating, deliberate military attacks, by aerial bombardment, missiles, shelling or other means, on purely civilian population centres. May I suggest, with respect, that the holy month of Ramadan is a particularly appropriate time for both Governments to undertake this humanitarian pledge.

The Secretary-General expects that such solemn commitments will be scrupulously observed by both parties. Once the respective declarations requested have been received, communicated to the other party and entered into effect, I would be prepared, if this were to prove necessary, to initiate steps to introduce such measures as might be essential to verify that the commitments are adhered to.

I appeal, in the name of the international community, to both Governments to respond by 1200 hours GMT on 11 June 1984 by furnishing the declarations I have requested, to be made effective at 0001 hours GMT on 12 June 1984.
