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LETTER DATED 16 OCTOBER 1984 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the letter dated 16 October 1984 addressed to you by Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the blatant aggression committed by the Israeli authorities on 14 October 1984 against an Iraqi commercial steamer, which they fired at while it was in Jordanian territorial waters en route to the Jordanian port of Aqaba.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. Riyadh AL-QAYSI
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign
Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to inform you of the blatant aggression committed by the Israeli authorities against the Iraqi commercial steamer Babil. That steamer was passing through Jordanian territorial waters on 14 October 1984 en route to the Jordanian port of Aqaba when an Israeli patrol intercepted it and asked it to identify its cargo. When the captain of the steamer refused to comply with that request because it was in clear contravention of the rules of international navigation, the patrol opened fire on the steamer.

This action constitutes a flagrant violation of the rules of international law governing navigation in territorial waters, since it is inadmissible to interfere with a commercial vessel passing innocently through territorial waters, especially where those waters are subject to the sovereignty of a foreign State.

I hope that you will permit me to register the protest and strong disapproval of the Republic of Iraq concerning this action, which is added to the thousands of acts in violation of the rules of international law and morality which the Israeli authorities have been persistently committing.

I request you to have this letter circulated to all States Members of the United Nations as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tariq AZIZ
Minister for Foreign Affairs
