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LETTER DATED 16 AUGUST 1990 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF
THE UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO
THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, I wish, on behalf of my Government, to report that military forces of the United States, at the request of the Government of Kuwait, have joined the Government of Kuwait in taking actions to intercept vessels seeking to engage in trade with Iraq or Kuwait in violation of the mandatory sanctions imposed in Security Council resolution 661 (1990). These actions are being taken by the United States in the exercise of the inherent right of individual and collective self-defense, recognized in Article 51 of the Charter. The application of this inherent right in response to the Iraqi armed attack on Kuwait has been affirmed in resolution 661 (1990).

The United States has joined the Government of Kuwait and other Governments in taking these actions to ensure that the trade sanctions designed to secure the compliance of Iraq with resolution 660 (1990) and to restore the legitimate Government of Kuwait, are effective. The military forces of the United States will use force only if necessary and then only in a manner proportionate to prevent vessels from violating such trade sanctions contained in resolution 661 (1990).

I would be grateful if you could arrange for this letter to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alexander F. WATSON
Deputy Permanent Representative
of the United States of America
to the United Nations
Chargé d'affaires a.i.