



Security Council

Distr.
GENERALS/21651
27 August 1990
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

**LETTER DATED 19 AUGUST 1990 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you the initiative contained in a letter from Mr. Saddam Hussein, President of the Republic of Iraq, which was announced in Baghdad today, 19 August 1990, and contains the following provisions:

1. That the Security Council should, with the agreement of the United States of America, undertake to ensure that the United States withdraws its forces from the region, within a period not exceeding the time which it took those forces to arrive in the region; that the Security Council should, in addition, make an undertaking to Saudi Arabia that it will take a collective military stand against Iraq, together with whoever adheres to its decision, in the event that Iraq should attempt any aggression against Saudi Arabia; simultaneously, both Iraq and Saudi Arabia should undertake not to attack each other and not to harm each other's interests;
2. Or that the Security Council should undertake to guarantee peace and security throughout the region, in accordance with the general principles enunciated in our initiative of 12 August 1990; and that foreign forces should withdraw from the sacred territories in the Hijaz and Najd. We believe that it is this alternative which will bring about a complete and comprehensive peace and ensure definite stability for the region and the world;
3. If the contents of either paragraph 1 or paragraph 2 are put into practice, foreigners should be permitted to leave immediately, freely and in accordance with their wishes;
4. If the above alternatives are impossible or unfeasible for any reason, it would be sufficient for us that the President of the United States should announce - clearly, unequivocally and in writing - his commitment to withdraw his forces and the forces of his allies from Arab territories and Muslim holy places within a specific period which should not exceed the time it took for the forces to be put into position; he should also undertake not to use force against Iraq and declare that he respects international law and will not violate it; and he should

lift the embargo against Iraq, immediately and at all locations, and work together with Iraq on a basis of mutual respect, equality and a commitment not to damage each other's interests. For our part, we shall, if our suggestions are acted upon, use our constitutional authority to allow the foreigners concerned to leave Iraq as and how they wish;

5. The question of Kuwait should be left to the Arabs to be addressed as an Arab issue, as has been the case in all similar questions such as that of the Sahara, in the western part of the Arab world, between Morocco and the other parties to the dispute, the question of the Syrian occupation of Lebanon and other similar issues.

I have the honour to transmit herewith the full text of the initiative.

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

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Abdul Amir A. AL-ANBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 19 August 1990 from the President of the
Republic of Iraq

In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

An open letter to the families of foreigners whom the elected representatives of the people, the National Assembly, have decided to receive as guests in Iraq until the crisis is over; through them I address Westerners in general and United States nationals in particular.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear children: I know that you are feeling anguish because your relatives are not allowed to leave Iraq. Like you, I too am anguished about this, and indeed I am quite sure that the Chairman and members of the National Assembly in Iraq also feel anguish, as do all Iraqis and Arabs. I say this because I know that members of the National Assembly in Iraq believe in God and in human rights, because for long years they fought for victory in their cause, praising God as they did so. They know, just as I do, that their country gave mankind its first script and so taught them to write and that their country gave mankind the first law to be codified on the face of the Earth, namely, the Law of Hammurabi, which made provisions for human rights and obligations 4,500 years ago. They therefore know that happiness in their country can have no value unless all mankind recognizes that any restriction on the freedom of any human being represents a breach of some aspect of human freedom. They love their fellow men, whatever their nationality, colour or race. This is because they love God, who distinguishes between His servants only by the strength of their faith and its associated requirements.

So the members of the National Assembly feel anguish just as you do. We are all sorry for what has happened, for something which has not arisen of our own volition but is basically caused by the deliberate actions of people who have acted arrogantly and gone against the will of God and his teachings. The persons who are directly and fundamentally responsible for this situation are the United States Administration and the British Administration. Why so?

You know, ladies and gentlemen, that Iraq has emerged from a war which lasted for eight years between it and Iran. You know that the eight-year-long war was fought between two oil States and that it took place inside the Gulf oil fields. In that war, it happened that Iraqi troops entered Iran and that Iranian troops entered Iraq. So why did the United States, Britain and the others not intervene to halt them? Why did they not threaten those who failed to adhere to the resolutions adopted at that time by the Security Council? And yet they do so to defend Saudi Arabia against the danger represented by Iraq. They are lying because they know that Iraq will not attack and will only strike if it itself is attacked. If no one decides to strike against Iraq, then they may sleep soundly, peacefully and contentedly.

I tell you, ladies and gentlemen, dear people of God, my dear children in Europe and the United States, that our country - as is clear to you - is threatened by the United States and Britain and by those contemptible and futile elements who may become involved with them. Our people is being subjected to a terrible injustice. If these despicable elements should proceed to commit an act of aggression, many heads of rulers will fall from their shoulders and tens of thousands of women, men and children will die on both sides. The National Assembly in our country knows this. Therefore, in accordance with its constitutional and humanitarian obligations, it is seeking any way of preventing the disaster. One of the logical steps it has decided to take, in conjunction with other officials, is to prevent foreigners from leaving Iraq, and particularly those foreigners whose Governments adopt a hostile position and join in the preparations for aggression and the economic embargo against Iraq. This will be one of the factors which pave the way for an intensive dialogue with the peoples, representatives and Administrations of those States, for the purpose of bringing about a peaceful solution and sparing the region - and possibly all mankind - from certain disaster if war should break out. In any event, their presence with Iraqi families working at vital installations may prevent military aggression.

So the National Assembly in Iraq, like us and all the people of Iraq, feels anguish about what has happened. However, we understand the aforementioned decision, because we know the reasons and intentions which lie behind it: those responsible for its adoption recognize that, in special circumstances, man must pay the price of a lesser evil to avert a greater evil. They believe that each human being is equivalent to his fellow human being in terms of human worth, whatever his colour, his race or his national identity and that, therefore, to avert the death, killing, and starvation resulting from the United States policy against the people of Iraq by preventing some citizens from leaving represents a gain for all mankind. I would go further and tell you, ladies and gentlemen, that many of our children and your children will be orphaned if war begins, that many of our women and your women will be widowed if war begins, and that many of our men and your men will die if war begins. In any case, many Iraqis - whose human worth is equal to that of others - will be afflicted by hunger and some, particularly children and the elderly, will die if the economic blockade desired by the United States Administration is imposed in accordance with its wishes. Therefore, anyone who pauses to consider this scenario - a scenario which is realistic and tangible and whose worst complications may occur at any moment - will recognize the reasons why we must all ensure that the foreigners concerned do not leave for a certain period of time, until the clouds roll back from the sky once again. To deprive someone of the sight of his country for a certain period of time is better - both for him and for all mankind - than to deprive thousands entirely of their lives. You know that all those nationals of the United States and other countries who have joined the armed forces which were brought to the region and who are massing in preparation for acts of aggression are doing so not because they want that themselves or because they are convinced of the need for war. They have come here from their homes and from their families only because their Governments wanted that. So let us all work together to prevent those Governments from carrying out their enormous crime; let us oblige them to withdraw their forces from the region, because any spark - whether intended or otherwise - that may result from their presence could lead to a major fire. That could indeed be the flood after which no peak will be

high enough to break the surface. In order to give everyone the opportunity of bringing about peace, in order to expose and disgrace those who seek war and destruction and in order to ensure freedom for all, we propose the following initiative:

1. That the Security Council should, with the agreement of the United States of America, undertake to ensure that the United States withdraws its forces from the region, within a period not exceeding the time which it took those forces to arrive in the region; that the Security Council should, in addition, make an undertaking to Saudi Arabia that it will take a collective military stand against Iraq, together with whoever adheres to its decision, in the event that Iraq should attempt any aggression against Saudi Arabia; simultaneously, both Iraq and Saudi Arabia should undertake not to attack each other and not to harm each other's interests;
2. Or that the Security Council should undertake to guarantee peace and security throughout the region, in accordance with the general principles enunciated in our initiative of 12 August 1990; and that foreign forces should withdraw from the sacred territories in the Hijaz and Najd. We believe that it is this alternative which will bring about a complete and comprehensive peace and ensure definite stability for the region and the world;
3. If the contents of either paragraph 1 or paragraph 2 are put into practice, foreigners should be permitted to leave immediately, freely and in accordance with their wishes;
4. If the above alternatives are impossible or unfeasible for any reason, it would be sufficient for us that the President of the United States should announce - clearly, unequivocally and in writing - his commitment to withdraw his forces and the forces of his allies from Arab territories and Muslim holy places within a specific period which should not exceed the time it took for the forces to be put into position; he should also undertake not to use force against Iraq and declare that he respects international law and will not violate it; and he should lift the embargo against Iraq, immediately and at all locations, and work together with Iraq on a basis of mutual respect, equality and a commitment not to damage each other's interests. For our part, we shall, if our suggestions are acted upon, use our constitutional authority to allow the foreigners concerned to leave Iraq as and how they wish;
5. The question of Kuwait should be left to the Arabs to be addressed as an Arab issue, as has been the case in all similar questions such as that of the Sahara, in the western part of the Arab world, between Morocco and the other parties to the dispute, the question of the Syrian occupation of Lebanon and other similar issues.

This, O brothers and sisters and dear children, is our initiative. I ask you whether there is anything in it which runs counter to international law, is anti-humanitarian or incompatible with the legitimate interests of the West?

If the response is that the initiative is fair, let us all co-operate to put it into practice. Peace, freedom and a contented life will thereby be assured for all. Will this message be heard by those who turn a deaf ear?

/...

S/21651
English
Page 6

This question is directed in particular to the United States Administration.
A positive response to it will ensure much that is of service to mankind.

Peace be upon you, the mercy of God and His blessings.

Saddam HUSSEIN
19 August 1990

