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LETTER DATED 10 OCTOBER 1990 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.  
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you of an incident involving the vessel Al-Wasiti on the morning of 8 October 1990 when bound from the port of Aden and arriving off the Omani coast at a distance of 50 miles south-west of the port of Muscat. The incident took place as follows:

1. The vessel was surrounded by four warships (one American, one Australian and two British) and requested to halt. On its refusal to comply, the warships fired across the bows and mid-section of the vessel from 0715 to 0815 hours, each ship firing in turn.
2. A force was then landed by helicopter on the bow of the vessel. It consisted of 12 persons, all of them British, one of whom was wounded when he struck the vessel.
3. The force demanded to be allowed to inspect the holds of the vessel. The captain refused, and the vessel continued on its way.
4. The vessel was then boarded by a force of nine Americans. They confined all of the crew in the galley and then demanded once again to be allowed to conduct a search and to be shown the ship's papers.
5. At 1015 hours the captain of the vessel informed us that the boarding party had begun to leave after having carried out the inspection.

The Iraqi Government lodges its strong protest at and declares its condemnation of such acts of aggression carried out by foreign forces against civilian Iraqi vessels, and it calls upon the international community to take adequate measures to prevent their recurrence.

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

(Signed) Sabah Talat KADRAT  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.  
Deputy Permanent Representative

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