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LETTER DATED 20 SEPTEMBER 1985 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
KUWAIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter addressed to Your Excellency from His Excellency Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait.

I would appreciate that the letter be distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad A. ABULHASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 19 September 1985 from the Deputy Prime Minister
and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kuwait addressed to the
Secretary-General

You have certainly been following the recent developments in the Gulf area relating to the Iranian authorities' interception, search and detention of a number of Kuwaiti and other commercial vessels in international waters. Iranian naval forces detained the Kuwaiti ship Ibin Shaheed on 7 July 1984, the Kuwaiti ship Al-Muharag on 20 June 1985, the Kuwaiti ship Al-Wattayah on 4 September 1985 and the Kuwaiti ship Al-Massilah on 9 September 1985.

Furthermore, on 6 September 1985, an Italian ship Merzario Britania was detained. On 12 September 1985, a Chinese ship Jing Jiang, chartered by Kuwait, was also detained.

As you might be aware, those commercial ships were sailing in international waters, and the Iranian authorities therefore had no right to intercept them.

Following those developments, the Kuwaiti Government contacted the Iranian authorities and expressed its displeasure. It called on Iran to put an end to those acts, which could damage good-neighbourly relations between the two countries and lead to a dangerous escalation of the situation in the region. The Kuwaiti Government also informed the ambassadors of the States accredited to it which are permanent members of the Security Council of the latest developments and of the dangers they pose.

You might also be aware that at a time when the international community is making strenuous efforts to ease the tension and put an end to this destructive war, such acts by the Iranian Government will lead to a dangerous escalation of the situation in the region, and that will have an adverse effect on all sincere efforts to end the conflict. The Iranian Government should, therefore, recognize that such acts carry risks which pose a direct threat not only to the interests of the States in the region, but to the interests of the world at large.

You undoubtedly share our opinion that such acts constitute a flagrant violation of all international norms and conventions, as well as the principle of freedom of navigation in international waters. I am sure too that you will join us in calling upon all States to shoulder their historic responsibilities and to expedite all efforts to put an end to those acts and practices, which if continued will undermine the foundations for security and stability in the region and the world at large.

Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber AL SABAH
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Foreign Affairs