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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF SECURITY
COUNCIL RESOLUTION 457 (1979)

1. I wish to report to the Security Council on developments since the Council's adoption of its resolution 457 (1979) of 4 December 1979. As will be recalled, in that resolution the Council requested me to lend my good offices for its immediate implementation and to take all appropriate measures to this end.
2. Immediately upon the adoption of the resolution, the text was transmitted to the Governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States of America.
3. On the following day, I spoke with Foreign Minister Sadegh Ghotbzadeh by telephone to ascertain his views and to discuss modalities for pursuing further negotiations in the exercise of my good offices. I explained to him the necessity of moving forward with a view to resuming the dialogue which I had commenced when his predecessor had sent a special envoy to New York. I therefore suggested that a fully authorized envoy should be sent to New York to discuss the release of the personnel of the Embassy of the United States of America held in Teheran and other aspects of the problem. Alternatively, I proposed that I could send a special representative to Iran to explore such matters on the spot. The Foreign Minister, while generally receptive to my approach, told me that he could only give a definite reply after undertaking the necessary consultations with those concerned in Iran.
4. I also had an immediate exchange of views after the adoption of the resolution with the representatives of the United States, who indicated their willingness to resume the negotiations through my good offices in the search for an early peaceful settlement.
5. In the following days, I had a number of contacts with the Foreign Minister of Iran either directly by telephone or through the Chargé d'Affaires of Iran in New York. These exchanges took place in a constructive spirit. I told the Foreign Minister of the widespread concern for the United States Embassy personnel and urged that, pending their release, arrangements should be made as soon as possible for them to be visited on a regular basis by neutral observers, including the United Nations representative in Teheran. In an early morning telephone conversation on Sunday, 9 December, Mr. Ghotbzadeh reiterated that the hostages were safe and sound and told me that a decision had been made to allow visits

to them. The Foreign Minister also informed me of the decision to set up a grand jury composed of representatives of the international community and Iranians. Throughout, I made it clear that, at the United Nations, while foremost consideration is being given to the question of the United States Embassy personnel, there is also understanding of the concerns and grievances of the Iranian people.

6. On 11 December, I sent a formal communication to the Foreign Minister of Iran, pointing out that a week had elapsed since the Security Council's resolution and that I was anxious to pursue as expeditiously as possible the exercise of my good offices. I stated that I would welcome the early arrival of a new Permanent Representative. I also mentioned that it would be useful for me to send a personal representative to Teheran to get a more detailed and direct idea of the issues and problems involved and the kind of approach which might prove fruitful in finding a solution. Further, I drew his attention to the widespread concern for the release of the hostages and for their welfare and well-being after so many days of detention.

7. On 13 December, the Chargé d'Affaires of Iran conveyed to me a message from Foreign Minister Ghotbzadeh that the new Ambassador, Dr. Mansour Farhang, had left Teheran for the United States and was expected to arrive in New York shortly. Mr. Ghotbzadeh also confirmed in this message the decision of the Iranian authorities regarding the establishment of a "grand jury", although its mandate had not yet been defined.

8. I had a meeting with Ambassador Farhang on 17 December, when he presented his credentials to me. This conversation gave me reason to believe that it might be possible to take early steps towards defusing the situation and making progress in the search for a peaceful settlement.

9. On 19 December, I sent an urgent personal message to H.E. Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini which was delivered in Qom on the following day by the United Nations representative in Teheran. That message once again requested that consideration be given to the immediate release of the American diplomatic personnel. I recalled that at an earlier stage of the crisis the Security Council had deferred its meeting for nearly one week out of respect for the Islamic Holy Days of Tasua and Ashura. I pointed out that we were rapidly approaching Christmas which is one of the most holy days of the Christian faith, a time of peace, compassion and the reunion of families. In that context, the gesture of enabling the American personnel to be reunited with their families would be of particular relevance. I further expressed my readiness to come personally to Iran at any time to discuss the situation with Ayatollah Khomeini.

10. Throughout this period, I was in continuous contact with the Permanent Representative of the United States as well as the Secretary of State in Washington. I also maintained contact with representatives of a number of other Governments and organizations which might be of assistance in this very difficult situation. I wish to record here my appreciation for the willingness of all of them to afford whatever assistance they could.

11. On 21 December, I had a further telephone conversation with Foreign Minister Ghotbzadeh. From this talk and from contacts with Ambassador Farhang, I concluded that the expectation which had previously arisen for early progress towards a settlement of the crisis could, for the time being, not be fulfilled. The Foreign Minister has, however, assured me of the safety of the hostages and of Iran's intention to seek a peaceful settlement.

12. As I have said in previous statements, we are here dealing with an unusual and highly exceptional situation. For my part, I shall pursue my endeavours in exercise of the mandate entrusted to me by Security Council resolution 457 (1979) with the determination to find a means for achieving a mutually acceptable solution to this most serious situation.
