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LETTER DATED 13 DECEMBER 1990 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
ROMANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to submit to you a declaration of the Government of Romania on the evolution of the situation in the Gulf area.

I would appreciate it very much if you circulated the present letter and the attached declaration as a document of the Security Council under the agenda item entitled "The situation between Iraq and Kuwait".

(Signed) Aurel-Drăgost Munteanu
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Romania

ANNEX

Declaration of the Government of Romania on the evolution
of the situation in the Gulf area

From the very beginning of the Gulf crisis, in early August 1990, the Government of Romania, expressing its deep concern regarding the use of force against Kuwait - an independent and sovereign State - resolutely asked for a cessation of military hostilities, for the immediate withdrawal of Iraqi military forces behind the national borders and for the settlement of the existing dispute by negotiations, on the basis of procedures provided for in the Charter of the United Nations.

The Romanian Government has joined without any reservations the efforts undertaken at international level for the settlement of the Gulf crisis, in particular within the framework of the Security Council both at the time when the presidency of that body was entrusted to the representative of Romania (in August), and in the subsequent period. Romania has directly participated in the elaboration and negotiation of 10 resolutions adopted to date by the Security Council on this grave crisis, resolutions which request essentially the respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Kuwait. At the same time, the Government of Romania has strictly implemented the embargo measures against Iraq decided by the Security Council, in spite of the fact that they have had strong negative consequences on the economy of the country, which is in a difficult period of transition.

Being animated by the wish to use fully the potential and the resources provided by the Security Council, as the main body of the world Organization which has the capacity to act for the peaceful settlement of conflicts between States, Romania was a co-sponsor of and voted in favour of Security Council resolution 678 (1990) of 29 November 1990. This resolution offers a pause of good will until 15 January 1991 for the implementation of the resolutions of the Security Council, and first of all for the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait and the restoration of its independence and sovereignty.

In the opinion of Romania, resolution 678 (1990) should provide a strong momentum for the efforts directed towards a peaceful settlement of the crisis. The pause of 45 days should be used for the exploration of all possible chances of peace in the Gulf. Emphasizing this very significance of its favourable vote, the Government of Romania proposed at the same time that the Security Council, the Secretary-General and all States should intensify their actions to arrive at such a solution, to give peace a chance to prevail in the area.

In this context, the Romanian Government welcomes with satisfaction the initiative of the Administration of the United States of America to start a direct dialogue with Iraq and expresses its sincere hope that it may lead to a political settlement, in accordance with international law and the resolutions of the Security Council. The Romanian Government welcomes also the diplomatic actions envisaged by the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of States Members of the

European Economic Community, by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of France, by some Arab countries (Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia) as well as the continuation of diplomatic initiatives of the Soviet Union aiming at a peaceful settlement of the crisis.

At the same time, the Government of Romania has taken note with interest of the decision of the Iraqi leadership to free all foreign nationals stranded as hostages. This decision is in conformity with the provisions of Security Council resolution 674 (1990). The Government of Romania expresses its hope that this decision is a first step of the leadership of Baghdad on the way towards the implementation of the resolutions of the Council.

The Government of Romania is acting in the spirit of Security Council resolution 678 (1990). Having in mind that Romania is situated in the proximity of the area of conflict and could be profoundly affected, in particular at the economic level, by the consequences of a devastating military action and in the light of the responsibilities devolving upon it from its membership on the Security Council, the Government of Romania is determined to contribute, in its turn, to the efforts undertaken at the international level aimed at ensuring a peaceful settlement in the Gulf and implementing the provisions of the resolutions of the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Romanian Government, the settlement by negotiations of the Gulf crisis could pave the way for a fair political solution of problems which for decades have confronted the whole area of the Middle East, and that would contribute to the trends of détente and dialogue in international relations.

