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LETTER DATED 10 FEBRUARY 1986 FROM THE ALTERNATE PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO
THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter addressed to you from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the large-scale armed attack carried out by the Iranian armed forces on the night of 9/10 February 1986 against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq in the southern area of the country.

I request you to have this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ali Mahmoud SUMAIDA
Alternate Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 10 February 1986 from the Minister for
Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the President
of the Security Council

I have the honour to inform you that, at 2200 hours local time on the night of 9/10 February 1986, the Iranian armed forces launched a large-scale armed attack against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq in the sector east of Basra and the sector covering the entire Shatt al-Arab, in southern Iraq, and that the fighting is still continuing.

The Iranian régime is seeking, through this act of aggression, two strategic objectives: first, to occupy the area surrounding the city of Basra, and secondly, to occupy the southern parts of Iraqi territory situated along the Iraqi-Kuwaiti frontier. It is well known that this is the first time that the Iranian régime has committed an act of armed aggression in this area as part of its military preparations for the future so that, should it succeed in its objectives, it would be able to threaten the territorial integrity of the countries of the Arabian Gulf and to achieve territorial expansion at their expense.

Nevertheless, the Iraqi armed forces courageously parried the treacherous Iranian armed attack and were able to control the military situation in the two sectors mentioned, after having repulsed the larger attack in the sector east of Basra. As a result, the Iranian forces failed in their attempts to throw bridges across the Shatt al-Arab, and those forces which were able to cross to the other side were perilously encircled.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq had previously warned the United Nations, particularly the Security Council, of the aggressive and expansionist intentions of the Iranian régime against Iraq and other countries of the region, and had urged the Council to assume its responsibilities under the Charter with a view to preventing Iranian aggression and to achieving a full, peaceful settlement of the conflict in accordance with international law, instead of merely concerning itself with certain aspects thereof, thus providing the Iranian régime with one opportunity after another to perpetuate its war of aggression against Iraq.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq considers that the stage has been reached where the Security Council should tackle the dangerous situation threatening international peace and security in the region as a result of Iran's policy of continuing aggression, and that it should take seriously the responsibilities incumbent upon it under the Charter in order to put an end to the aggression through the attainment of a complete and just peace which would safeguard the rights and interests of the two sides.

(Signed) Tariq AZIZ
Minister for Foreign Affairs

