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LETTER DATED 14 FEBRUARY 1980 FROM THE DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of a note addressed to you by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning the action taken by the Canadian Embassy in Tehran in connexion with the illicit and fraudulent exit of six American nationals formerly attached to United States Embassy in Tehran. I shall be grateful if this note could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jamal SHEMIRANI
Deputy Permanent Representative

Annex

Note dated 14 February 1980 from the Ministry of Foreign
Affairs of Iran addressed to the Secretary-General

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran wishes to set out below certain observations with regard to the action taken by the Canadian Embassy in Tehran in connexion with the illicit and fraudulent exit of six American nationals formerly attached to United States Embassy in Tehran.

1. On 28 January 1980, following the abrupt and unannounced departure of Ambassador Kenneth Taylor from Iran, the Canadian Department of External Affairs, through a communiqué which was handed over to the Iranian Chargé d'Affaires in Ottawa, inter alia stated the following:

"This action (i.e. departure of Ambassador Kenneth Taylor) is the final step in progressive reductions in embassy staff over the past several weeks resulting from the difficult conditions and possibilities for the embassy in conducting normal business". The Director-General of the Department who had summoned the Iranian Chargé d'Affaires for this purpose while asserting that the suspension of Embassy had no political overtones went as far as expressing hope for future expansion of relations between Iran and Canada.

2. Following the revelation on 29 January 1980 of the Canadian Embassy involvement in the illicit exit of the six American nationals the Minister for External Affairs of Canada Mrs. MacDonald went on the air to say that Prime Minister Joe Clark and herself as well as Mr. Carter had been fully informed of the operation which she qualified as "heroic". Mrs. MacDonald went on to say that the operation involved issuance of false passports and the forgery of official Iranian stamps.

3. This glaring example of duplicity flies into the face of the professed attachment of the present Government of Canada to the tenets of international law and demonstrates that no device of deception is too much to be spared for domestic political gains. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran cannot but view this action as a serious breach of trust, a grave abuse of diplomatic privileges accorded to the Canadian Embassy, an infringement upon the sovereignty and a gross interference in the internal affairs of the host country by the Canadian Embassy in Tehran sanctioned by the Canadian Government.

4. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs cannot accept the pretention that the Canadian action has been motivated by humanitarian concerns since it is a well-known fact that no danger threatens the lives of any of the hostages and the Foreign Ministry itself has provided asylum for three of the American Embassy staff, including the American Chargé d'Affaires, within the premises of the Foreign Ministry.

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5. This frivolous attitude of Canada epitomizes the behaviour of all the imperialist Powers and is typical of their backhanded approach towards the third world nations which, in turn, lies at the heart of the hostage problem. It is well-known that the latter problem was an expression of rage, in a revolutionary environment, by our people against a systematic violation of international law and a flouting of our national rights and aspirations by United States Government over a quarter of century, starting with the CIA engineered coup d'état of August 1953.

It is a matter of deep regret that the Canadian Government has deemed it fit to render itself an accomplice in such inglorious mischiefs. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemns such behaviour and hereby registers its strong protests against this senseless act which has served no other purpose than promoting international espionage and undermining diplomatic trust between nations.

Copy of this note is being filed with the International Court of Justice.
