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LETTER DATED 25 FEBRUARY 1986 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to forward to Your Excellency the text of the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran in response to Security Council resolution 582 (1986) of 24 February 1986, concerning the imposed war.

It would be highly appreciated if this letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Said RAJAIE-KHORASSANI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Statement released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Islamic Republic of Iran in response to Security Council
resolution 582 (1986) of 24 February 1986

1. The Security Council has finally come to realize the fact that in order to tackle the whole matter of the war, in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Charter, the Security Council should consider the initial aggression by Iraq. Hence, the lack of an unequivocal and clear-cut position on the part of the Council clearly shows that the Council does not yet possess the necessary political will for such a measure. Therefore, the portion of the resolution pertaining to the whole issue of the war and the termination of hostilities is unbalanced and inadequate and hence unworkable. Yet, it is a positive step towards the condemnation of Iraq as the aggressor and a just conclusion to the war.

2. With the acquiescence of the Security Council to the Iraqi aggression of 22 September 1980 the Security Council has practically endorsed the military solution as the only means of meeting the aggression. Yet still, some of the permanent members of the Council insist upon their one-sided and partial position. As long as the Council does not, in spite of the influence of certain permanent members, adopt a fair, objective and constructive position for discharging its constitutional duties, the responsibility for the continuation of the war remains with the Council.

3. The resolution does make a reference to the need for the peaceful settlement of disputes. However, it makes no mention of the blatant and all-out violation of this vital principle by Iraq and its resort to force through launching a war of aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran. This discrepancy constitutes a major defect of the resolution.

4. Considering the fact that in the last statement of the Security Council, dated 25 April 1985 (S/17130), the use of chemical weapons against the Iranian forces was condemned, the Security Council was, this time, under the obligation to strongly condemn Iraq by name for its repeated and large-scale use of chemical weapons. The present resolution takes a milder position than in the past vis-à-vis the use of chemical weapons. This setback is illogical.

5. Considering the savage attack by Iraqi military aircraft against the Iranian passenger plane, the Security Council is obliged, in accordance with its responsibility and the prevailing precedents, to condemn the Iraqi régime for this despicable crime and its continued threat against the safety of aviation, as well as its participation in acts of hijacking. These aspects should have been a major section of the resolution.

6. The mandatory character of the observance of the rules of international law was also clearly emphasized in the Security Council statement of 25 April 1985 (S/17130). Considering the continued attacks against civilian centres, the use of chemical weapons, the threat against the safety of aviation, the violation of all

conventions related to hijacking and also attacks against neutral vessels by Iraq, the Council is duty-bound to take decisive positions against Iraq in all these areas.

7. The call upon all other States to refrain from actions escalating and further spreading the war is a policy which the Islamic Republic of Iran has always welcomed in the past and will continue to support in the future.

8. Some members of the Security Council made considerable efforts to prevent the adoption of this one-sided resolution. Due to the irresponsible attitude of certain permanent members, these constructive efforts were frustrated. The Security Council can find solutions to international problems when and only when it attaches priority to the achievement of justice over the selfish interests of certain of its permanent members.

9. The Islamic Republic of Iran once again declares her preparedness to continue her co-operation with the Secretary-General in the matters related to the observance of the rules of international law and to the eight-point plan. The Islamic Republic of Iran is fully ready to co-operate towards the prevention of the expansion of the war and the involvement of other countries therein. While expressing its deep appreciation for the efforts of the Secretary-General in these areas, the Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes any further efforts in the said areas of concern.
