

**Security Council**Distr.  
GENERALS/17909  
11 March 1986

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

---

**LETTER DATED 11 MARCH 1986 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF  
THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letters dated 4 March 1986 (S/17894) and 7 March 1986 (S/17904) addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations regarding the bombardment of the civilian quarters of the city of Shadegan in Iran by the Iraqi forces. In both letters, the representative of Iraq denies the bombardment of the civilian quarters in Shadegan and informs you that the Iraqi Air Force attacked military targets in Shadegan and not civilian quarters.

In order to investigate this matter and to prove that the civilian areas are attacked by Iraq, my Government once again requests of Your Excellency to dispatch the United Nations observer team from Tehran to Shadegan, since this team is a mechanism for the Secretary-General to determine the observance or violation of the international/humanitarian regulations of war.

With regard to "Iran's unquestionable right to retaliate in kind" which has alarmed the régime of Iraq, I wish to draw the attention of all concerned and particularly the representative of Iraq to the fact that the war imposed on Iran was started by the present régime of Iraq on 22 September 1980 by the invasion of western and south-western parts of my country by the Iraqi forces of aggression and at that time, the United Nations and the international community did not seriously attempt to abide by the Charter of the United Nations and to condemn the aggressor and prevent that aggression. Now that the Iranian people are engaged in their defensive war, attacks on military targets of the aggressor régime of Iraq constitute our routine war operations and are in fact "retaliation in kind". However, when we say "retaliation in kind" with respect to civilian targets, it means that once we have utilized all efforts toward persuading the aggressor not to attack innocent civilians and only when the United Nations and the international community prove unable to persuade the Iraqi régime not to violate international humanitarian law, will we retaliate in kind with all the necessary measures that are to be taken in order to prevent the suffering of innocent people.

S/17909  
English  
Page 2

Therefore, as long as the régime of Iraq observes international law and does not violate international/humanitarian regulations and refrains from attacking civilian population centres and the Iranian cities, it should not fear retaliation in kind.

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

(Signed) Fereidoun D. KAMALI  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

-----