



## Security Council

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LETTER DATED 7 MARCH 1986 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 4 March 1986 addressed to you by the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran (S/17893), which stated that Iraqi forces had bombarded the civilian quarters of the city of Shadegan. This allegation was refuted by an authorized Iraqi military spokesman, who explained that the Iraqi attack had been launched against the camp in that Iranian city, where troops are massed and where supply stores for Iranian military units and fuel depots which the Iranian army uses in its operations of armed aggression against Iraqi territory are located, as I informed you in my letter dated 4 March 1986 (S/17894).

A point of the utmost importance to which I wish to draw your attention, and the attention of the international community, is that the above-mentioned Iranian letter accuses Iraq of "intending to escalate its war of the cities" and warns that this alleged action by Iraq will not remain unanswered and that "Iran has the unquestionable right to retaliate in kind".

Radio Tehran broadcast a statement in Persian by a spokesman for the Military Information Committee at 1.30 p.m. local time on 5 March 1986 to the effect that "the attacks of the Iraqi régime against civilian areas in Iranian cities will not go unpunished, and retaliation in kind shall include depriving Saddam's men of their security and safety".

This sort of behaviour on the part of the Iranian régime is nothing new, and it must be met with the greatest determination. In this context, I would like to remind you of the manner in which the Iranian régime behaved last year when it launched attacks against cities as a cover for its large-scale campaign of aggression in the Hawr al-Hawizah area. You will no doubt remember the assertion of the head of that régime on 8 February 1985 that Iraq had bombarded Iranian cities, and his threat to bombard the city of Basra and other Iraqi cities, of which you were notified in our letter on that date (S/16948). You will also remember the Iranian régime's claim that Iraq had bombarded civilian targets in the city of Ahwaz on 4 March 1985, its threat immediately thereafter to bombard the city of Basra within the next 12 hours, and its call to the population to evacuate the city. The régime carried out its threat on 5 March 1985 without putting into effect the agreed inspection measures contained in the agreement of 12 June 1984

which was in force at that time. A large number of casualties were caused among the civilian population, to say nothing of the damage to civilian property. We should recall today that the Iranian régime justified its action on that occasion on the basis of "retaliation in kind", although the target that had been bombed by the Iraqi aircraft was a steel plant in the suburbs of Ahwaz which was not covered by the June agreement in force at that time, as explained in the letter addressed to you by my country's Minister for Foreign Affairs on 6 March 1985 (S/17005). Furthermore, following the concentrated bombardment by heavy artillery of the city of Basra and Iraq's request for a visit by the United Nations mission assigned to investigate such cases in order to verify Iran's violation of the June agreement, the Iranian authorities refused to guarantee safe passage to that mission, as mentioned in the letter from my country's Minister for Foreign Affairs dated 6 March 1985 (S/17016). You will no doubt be aware that this action by the Iranian régime occurred only a few days before the large-scale Iranian aggression in the Hawr al-Hawizah area on 12 March 1985, which was designed to lead to the occupation of the area of Basra.

Iran's latest claims, and the threats implied in them, which, as I have previously indicated, do not constitute any new departure in the behaviour of the Iranian régime, provide firm indications that the régime is preparing to attack cities with a view to confusing the situation after the heavy defeats and losses it has suffered as a result of its attempt to invade Iraqi territory and to occupy the Iraqi port of Al-Faw, to diverting attention from this attack and to avoiding the pressure exerted by the international community in order to halt the aggression and bring about a comprehensive peace. It is therefore incumbent upon you and the United Nations in general, and upon the Security Council in particular, to be aware of the facts and to act with the utmost determination and precision in curbing the inveterately twisted practices of the Iranian régime, as demonstrated by its aggression and its denial of all the obligations laid down by the United Nations Charter and by international law, in order to prevent the recurrence of more of the miseries of the past six years, which have resulted from the persistence of the Iranian régime in its policy of war, aggression and expansionism.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ismat KITTANI  
Permanent Representative

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