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LETTER DATED 17 MAY 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 enclose herewith the text of communiqué No. 2229 of 17 May 1986 issued by the General Command of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Iraq.

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

(Signed) Ismat KITTANI  
Permanent Representative

Annex

Communiqué No. 2229 issued by the General Command of the  
Armed Forces

Great people of Iraq,  
Brave sons of the armed forces,  
Noble Arabs in the territory of the great Arab homeland and wherever you may be:

As you know, the war has placed a burden on the patriotic and patient people of Iraq, and the enemy of Iraq - your enemy - has made clear his goals of war and aggression - both before the war and during it - these objectives being, in brief, to take Iraq in order to open up before its aggressive forces the gateway to the Gulf and the eastern Arab lands - or rather the Arab lands in their entirety - in preparation for taking over their holy places and their security, dignity and sovereignty.

But God Almighty has been with Iraq, because Iraq is in the right, in defending itself and its freedom, dignity, property, glory and principles. Yet even though God Almighty has been with us, and rendered Iraq victorious in its struggle against the evildoers, and enabled it to defend its holy places and the holy places of the noble Arabs, we have declared without ambiguity or hesitation that we covet nothing relating to Iran - neither its territory nor its sovereignty nor the dignity of its people and the ways of life they might choose, and that we do not seek to harm its army or the honour of its army, provided that Iran accepts the path of peace and good-neighbourliness with Iraq, and with Iraq's brother countries of the Gulf.

The rulers of Iran have rejected all international peace initiatives; they have pursued the path of aggression and expansion, taking advantage of Iraq's response to international public opinion and of the conditions prevailing in the region, following withdrawal to internationally recognized frontiers in June 1982, in order to assemble the elements of their aggression from time to time so as to choose the place and time for unleashing expansionist aggression against the sacred territory of Iraq. As we all know, however, stationary defence of a 1,180-kilometre front is an extremely complex matter; indeed, it would have been impossible, had the army and the people of Iraq and its leadership lacked the necessary capability, determination, fortitude, resolve and acumen. Nevertheless, we accepted the difficulty, and the consequences of the strategy of stationary defence of Iraqi territory along the frontiers, instead of a strategy of active, mobile defence and observance of the principle that defence of a vital objective must be effected by taking up position in front of it and not right on top of it, as everyone knows. Wherever possible we have accepted the idea of defending the territory of Iraq on its internationally recognized frontiers. This has placed our units in a difficult position, enabling the enemy to manoeuvre its units from one front to another and from one sector to another and enabling its operational units to choose the appropriate time and place to commit aggression. Nevertheless, Iraq has struggled, with boundless patience and forbearance, to allow international and national public opinion an opportunity to acquaint itself adequately with this notorious enemy and its aggressive and expansionist intentions. Although the

Iranian enemy was able, as a result of our commitment to the strategy of stationary defence along the frontier, to penetrate our national territory in this or that particular sector or this or that place, international and national public opinion was not adequately convinced of the time extent of the enemy's aggressiveness and expansionist designs until, on 9 February 1986, the enemy occupied the Al-Faw triangle.

The attack on Al-Faw carried out by the Iranian rulers and the occupation of the Al-Faw triangle, after the crossing of the Shatt-al-Arab, revealed to the world the truth already known to us in Iraq, namely that the rulers of Iran are expansionist aggressors who harbour evil designs against Arab territory and against the Arab nation and its sovereignty and holy places.

After this happened, we had no choice but to revise the above-mentioned strategy for the defence of Iraq. The new option was based on active defence, its essence being to aim at Iran's aggressive forces wherever they were, in our territory or in the territory of Iran and to expel the forces of darkness from our national territory or taking the equivalent in Iranian territory in order to facilitate implementation of the principle that both sides should return to the internationally recognized frontiers, and with persistence in our position concerning peace between us and Iran on the basis of two fundamental principles - the principle of non-interference in internal affairs and the principle that neither side should derive any unlawful gain from war. In this way we placed our trust in God as we put the new strategy into operation. God enabled us to triumph over the evil enemy in all theatres of operations, where our courageous forces were able to deal him mortal blows in the sectors of the third, sixth, fourth, fifth, first and second divisions, while the heroes of the seventh division held on to the Al-Faw and Shatt-al-Arab front at Qarn-al-Thawr with an iron grip for a long time. Today's operation had special significance inasmuch as the Iraqi heroes at the front of the second division directed a new assault against the enemy forces on the Mehran Valley axis within their territory and were able, after a courageous fight, to occupy the Iranian town of Mehran. The Iraqis and their victorious army have thereby demonstrated to the rulers of Iran and their feeble troops that the policy of self-control and acceptance of active defence along the frontiers is not a policy of weakness. We have thereby given an opportunity to men of good will everywhere to discover all the evil intentions of the Iranian rulers and to the peoples and the army of Iran to discover the aggressive nature of their rulers and their expansionist designs towards the territory of Iraq. As we occupy the town of Mehran, after striking mortal blows against the forces defending it, we thank God Almighty and praise Him for the clear victory which He granted against His enemies and our enemies, and we declare to the peoples of Iran and the Iranian army and to world public opinion everywhere that we do not covet one inch of the territory of Iran and that we are prepared, as of this moment, to withdraw from the town of Mehran on either of two conditions: Iran's acceptance of the principle of total, comprehensive and unconditional withdrawal of the two parties to internationally recognized frontiers, as part of acceptance of a comprehensive state of peace between Iraq and Iran and non-intervention in internal affairs; or Iran's withdrawal from the Al-Faw triangle in return for Iraq's

withdrawal from the town of Mehran. In the absence of either of these two alternatives, we declare, without hesitation, that our forces will hold on to this town and other areas with an iron grip until there are opportunities for a total and comprehensive peace that will allow each of us to return to our own territory and the combatants in both countries to return each to his natural life and to his family.

Oh admirable Iraqi men and women!

These victories which God (may He be praised and exalted) has conferred upon you in this blessed month are one of the signs that God is pleased with you, and they are a direct fruit of your generous sacrifices, your patience and your perseverance. To God be praise and thanks; upon our innocent martyrs be mercy; to you is due high esteem; may your flag fly high. God is great; and may the infamous be driven away.

General Command of the Armed Forces

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