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LETTER DATED 8 SEPTEMBER 1986 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF
THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL.

On instructions from my Government and with reference to our latest letters concerning the continuation of the bombardments of purely civilian targets in Iraq by the Iranian régime, the most recent letter being contained in document S/18323, I have the honour to inform you that the forces of Iran continued savage bombardment of civilian targets in Iraq on 6, 7 and 8 September 1986. As stated in the annex, the bombardments were concentrated on the heroic city of Basra, where residential areas were exposed on 8 September 1986 to long-range artillery bombardment that killed 17 civilians, including 5 children and 5 women and wounded 42 citizens, including 16 children and 11 women.

Iran's persistence in these crimes is evidence of the moral decadence of its leaders, its inability to face Iraq on the battlefield and its failure to attain its perverse objectives, and also reflects the hatred and the racist and criminal tendencies by which it is motivated.

Bearing in mind the responsibilities incumbent on it vis-à-vis its citizens, their safety and their possessions, Iraq announces to the leaders of Iran that they will receive a strong response in due time. At the same time, we reaffirm Iraq's commitment not to bombard civilian targets, in accordance with humanitarian principles and in conformity with the will of the international community and of its organizations. Nevertheless, if we find ourselves obliged to repay in kind, the responsibility will rest solely with the leaders of Iran, since they have continued to commit crimes, scorning the appeals of the international community and the interests of their people and ignoring the norms and principles of international law relating to the state of war.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter and its annex to be circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) Ali Mahmoud SUMAIDA
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

On 6 September 1986, the criminal forces of Iran continued to bombard residential areas of the city of Basra with long-range artillery. The bombardment wounded one civilian, destroyed two dwellings and damaged five other dwellings and four private cars.

On 7 September 1986, the oppressor forces of Iran bombarded the residential areas of the city of Basra with long-range artillery. This bombardment wounded two civilians, destroyed three dwellings and damaged five other dwellings and two private cars.

On 8 September 1986, the criminal forces of Iran directed their long-range artillery against residential areas in the city of Basra, killing 17 civilians, including 5 children and 5 women. In addition, 42 civilians were wounded, including 16 children and 11 women. The bombardment caused the destruction and burning of seven dwellings and two commercial premises and damaged seven other dwellings and six commercial premises, as well as four private cars.

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