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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS
IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL
AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Letter dated 13 February 1986 from the Permanent Mission of the
Republic of Iraq to the United Nations Office at Geneva
addressed to the Centre for Human Rights

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations Office at Geneva presents its compliments to the Centre for Human Rights and has the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a letter dated 10 February 1986 from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, addressed to the President of the Security Council concerning the renewed savage Iranian aggression against the sovereignty and territory of the Republic of Iraq.

The Mission requests the Centre for Human Rights to circulate the letter as an official document under agenda item 12 of the forty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights.

Annex

Letter dated 10 February 1986 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs
of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to inform you that, at 2200 hours local time on the night of 9/10 February 1986, the Iranian armed forces launched a large-scale armed attack against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq in the sector east of Basra and the sector covering the entire Shatt al-Arab, in southern Iraq, and that the fighting is still continuing.

The Iranian régime is seeking, through this act of aggression, two strategic objectives: first, to occupy the area surrounding the city of Basra, and secondly, to occupy the southern parts of Iraqi territory situated along the Iraqi-Kuwaiti frontier. It is well known that this is the first time that the Iranian régime has committed an act of armed aggression in this area as part of its military preparations for the future so that, should it succeed in its objectives, it would be able to threaten the territorial integrity of the countries of the Arabian Gulf and to achieve territorial expansion at their expense.

Nevertheless, the Iraqi armed forces courageously parried the treacherous Iranian armed attack and were able to control the military situation in the two sectors mentioned, after having repulsed the larger attack in the sector east of Basra. As a result, the Iranian forces failed in their attempts to throw bridges across the Shatt al-Arab, and those forces which were able to cross to the other side were perilously encircled.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq had previously warned the United Nations, particularly the Security Council, of the aggressive and expansionist intentions of the Iranian régime against Iraq and other countries of the region, and had urged the Council to assume its responsibilities under the Charter with a view to preventing Iranian aggression and to achieving a full, peaceful settlement of the conflict in accordance with international law, instead of merely concerning itself with certain aspects thereof, thus providing the Iranian régime with one opportunity after another to perpetuate its war of aggression against Iraq.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq considers that the stage has been reached where the Security Council should tackle the dangerous situation threatening international peace and security in the region as a result of Iran's policy of continuing aggression, and that it should take seriously the responsibilities incumbent upon it under the Charter in order to put an end to the aggression through the attainment of a complete and just peace which would safeguard the rights and interests of the two sides.

(Signed): Tariq AZIZ
Minister for Foreign Affairs