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Letter dated 16 October 1986 from the Permanent Representative of
Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government I have the honour to inform you that on 15 October 1986 at 4.30 p.m. (local time) a squadron of planes of the Iraqi air force launched an attack on the military airbase of Shiraz, after 23 C-130 Iranian military aircraft were spotted, assembled together in one place. The latter attack resulted in the total destruction of the aircraft in question.

Today, 16 October, Reuters published a report broadcast by Radio-Teheran to the effect that the Iranian military information centre had stated in a communiqué that Iran was preparing to attack what it called economic and military areas of Baghdad and other areas of Iraq in retaliation for the Iraqi attack on an Iranian passenger plane; the communiqué instructed the inhabitants of Baghdad and of the other towns to leave the Iraqi economic and military areas as soon as possible.

The Iraqi Government would like to stress that, as is its wont and as everyone knows, the Iranian régime is resorting to lies and misrepresentation of the facts in order to mislead Iranian and world public opinion in a desperate effort to conceal its military defeats and its political failure on the international scene.

The Iraqi Government would also like to issue a strong warning about the dire consequences that will ensue if Iran implements this threat whose meaning is very plain, namely, that its objective is to strike purely civilian Iraqi targets under the pretext of a retaliatory attack on what the Iranian régime calls the economic and military areas.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ismat KITTANI
Permanent Representative