



**Security Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

S/18412  
17 October 1986  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

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LETTER DATED 17 OCTOBER 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 transmit herewith a letter from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the ground-to-ground missile strike directed by the criminal Iranian régime against purely residential quarters in the capital, Baghdad, during the evening of 16 October 1986.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ismat KITTANI  
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 17 October 1986 from the Deputy Prime Minister  
and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the  
Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that the Iranian régime has committed another abominable crime against our civilian citizens, to be added to its crime-filled record in its war of aggression against Iraq. At 8.50 p.m. on 16 October 1986 (local time), it fired a ground-to-ground missile at one of the residential districts of the city of Baghdad, perhaps thereby fulfilling the threat of which notification was given in the letter from our Permanent Representative addressed to you on the same date. This crime resulted in the death of 6 civilian citizens, including one child, the wounding of 64 civilian citizens, including 25 women and eight children, the destruction of one school and 11 dwelling-houses and damage to one mosque, one kindergarten, 20 other dwelling-houses, 25 civilian vehicles and one store.

The military communiqués broadcast by Teheran radio last night claimed that the missile destroyed the cable and wireless communications building in Baghdad. The blatant falsehood of these communiqués is evident now that the diplomatic corps accredited to Baghdad and the correspondents of international news agencies and the world press have witnessed the consequences of the Iranian crime during their visit to the site this morning.

The lies propagated by Iranian circles, which arise from the trickery, hypocrisy and deceit that characterize the Iranian régime, will not diminish the volume of the incessant crimes which it continues to perpetrate against the civilian population in Iraq, of which you have been notified on numerous occasions, particularly since 7 March 1986. The practical consequences of this new crime of the Iranian régime reaffirm what we have already stated in our previous letters, namely, that the nature of the weapon used does not permit discrimination and that it can therefore be used only for random destruction that strikes civilians and purely residential areas.

On this occasion, I wish to emphasize to you and, through you, to the international community that Iraq fully comprehends that the Iranian régime is seeking through these criminal acts to spark off the war of the cities in order to cover up its military defeats and its political bankruptcy in the international community.

However, the war criminals and warmongers in Iran should not fall into the delusion of imagining that Iraq's abstention from striking at purely civilian targets is due to a lack of capability or means. They know better than anyone and their people is fully aware of the capability of the Iraqi armed forces to hit Iranian targets, because of the magnitude of the destruction which has befallen their military targets and their vital economic installations deep inside Iranian territory.

I wish to draw your attention to the fact that the Iraqi Government, which has responded to the will of the international community and its Organization by abstaining from deliberately striking at purely civilian population centres in Iran, owing to its awareness of its responsibilities under international law, its sincere desire to spare the civilian population the scourge of war and its wish to achieve a just and lasting peace, has warned on more than one occasion of the consequence of the Iranian régime's persistence in the perpetration of its crimes against the peace-loving civilian population of Iraq. While the Iraqi Government hopes that the United Nations will act effectively in exercising its responsibilities under the Charter to put an end to the Iranian régime's prolongation of its war of aggression, it nevertheless, by reason of its responsibility for the security and safety of its civilian citizens, reserves the right to deter the Iranian régime from the commission of these crimes at the appropriate time and in such a manner as it deems appropriate.

(Signed) Tariq AZIZ  
Deputy Prime Minister  
Minister for Foreign Affairs