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LETTER DATED 8 APRIL 1980 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I would like to bring to your attention a statement made on 7 April 1980, by President Carter concerning measures being instituted by the United States Government in light of the continued failure of the Government of Iran to release the American personnel who have been held captive at the United States Embassy in Tehran since 4 November 1979.

The text of President Carter's statement is as follows:

"Ever since Iranian terrorists imprisoned American Embassy personnel in Iran in early November, these 50 men and women - their safety, their health and their future - have been our central concern. We have made every effort to obtain their release on honorable, peaceful and humanitarian terms, but the Iranians have refused to release them or even to improve the inhuman conditions under which they are being held captive. The events of the last few days have revealed a new and significant dimension of this matter. The militants controlling the Embassy have stated they are willing to turn the hostages over to the Government of Iran, but the Government has refused to take custody of the American hostages. This lays bare the full responsibility of the Ayatollah Khomeini and the Revolutionary Council for the continued illegal and outrageous holding of the innocent hostages. The Iranian Government can no longer escape full responsibility by hiding behind the militants at the Embassy. It must be made clear that the failure to release the hostages will involve increasingly heavy costs to Iran and its interests. I have today ordered the following steps:

"(1) The United States of America is breaking diplomatic relations with Iran. The Secretary of State has informed the Government of Iran that its embassies and consulates in the United States are to be closed immediately. All Iranian diplomatic and consular personnel have been declared *persona non grata* and must leave this country by midnight tomorrow.

"(2) The Secretary of the Treasury will put into effect official sanctions prohibiting exports from the United States to Iran in accordance with the sanctions approved by 10 members of the United Nations Security Council on 13 January in the resolution which was vetoed by the Soviet Union. Although shipment of food and medicine were included in the Security Council vote, it

is expected that exports of even these items to Iran will be minimal or nonexistent.

"(3) The Secretary of the Treasury will make a formal inventory of the assets of the Iranian Government which were frozen by my previous order and also make a census or inventory of the outstanding claims of American citizens and corporations against the Government of Iran. This accounting will aid in designing a program against Iran for the hostages, the hostage families and other United States claimants. We are now preparing legislation which will be introduced in the Congress to facilitate processing and paying of these claims.

"(4) The Secretary of State and Attorney General will invalidate all visas issued to Iranian citizens for future entry into the United States, effective today. We will not reissue visas nor will we issue any visas except for compelling and proven humanitarian reasons or where the national interest of our own country requires. This directive will be interpreted very strictly.

"In order to minimize injury to the hostages, the United States has acted at all times with exceptional patience and restraint in this crisis. We have supported Secretary General Waldheim's activities under the United Nations Security Council mandate to work for a peaceful solution. We will continue to consult with our allies and other friendly Governments on the steps we are now taking and on additional measures which may be required. I am committed to resolving this crisis. I am committed to the safe return of the American hostages and to the protection of our national honor. The hostages and their families, indeed all of us in America, have lived with the reality and anguish of their captivity for five months. The steps I have ordered today are those that are necessary now. Other actions may become necessary if these steps do not produce the prompt release of the hostages."

I request that this letter be circulated as a Security Council document.

Sincerely,

(Signed) Donald F. McHENRY
