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LETTER DATED 26 NOVEMBER 1986 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you a letter, dated 26 November 1986, from Mr. Tariq Aziz, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, reporting that the Iranian régime launched a missile against a densely populated residential district in the city of Baghdad on the night of 25 November 1986.

I request you to have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ismat KITTANI
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 26 November 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 criminal Iranian régime has once again resorted to perpetrating a brutal, abominable crime against the civilian population of Iraq. Yesterday night it launched a missile against one of the densely populated residential districts of the city of Baghdad. The missile killed 48 civilians, including 17 women and 13 children, wounded 52 others, destroyed 5 houses and badly damaged 35 houses and 33 civilian vehicles. The consequences of that heinous crime were witnessed this morning by the heads of the diplomatic missions accredited to Iraq and by the correspondents of the press and news agencies.

The Iranian régime's deliberate persistence in carrying out such atrocious crimes against the civilian population and strictly residential areas merely confirms what we have already repeatedly pointed out to you, namely that the régime in question is endeavouring to provoke a war against cities in an attempt to divert attention from the desperate predicament confronting it as a result of its complete failure in all fields.

The Government of Iraq, which in the past has repeatedly stated that Iraq is capable of retaliating against the Iranian régime on a scale that would far outstrip Iran's capabilities, wishes to reiterate that it will not give the Iranian régime any opportunity of fulfil its sly designs through such criminal attempts. The Iranian régime's allegations that these crimes are being committed by way of retaliation are completely unfounded because, as has been repeatedly stressed by the Government of Iraq, the Iraqi armed forces operate only against military targets or economic objectives supporting the Iranian war effort, in full accordance with the rules governing the conduct of hostilities. In that connection, it is also important to draw attention to the nature of the weapon that was used by the Iranian régime to perpetrate its crime against the civilian population of Iraq. That weapon, by its very nature, could not be targeted selectively and could therefore be used only to wreak random havoc among the civilian population in strictly residential areas.

The Government of Iraq, hoping that the United Nations will effectively assume its responsibilities under the Charter by putting an end to the Iranian régime's persistence in carrying out aggression and in perpetrating crimes against the civilian population, reserves the right to take measures to prevent the Iranian régime from committing further crimes, at such time and by such means as may be deemed appropriate.

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