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LETTER DATED 7 DECEMBER 1986 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter dated 6 December 1986 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran addressed to Your Excellency.

It would be highly appreciated if this letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Said RAJAIE-KHORASSANI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 6 December 1986 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Islamic Republic of Iran addressed to the Secretary-General
of the United Nations

It is necessary to bring to your attention that today the Iraqi régime - in one of its most heinous acts of carnage, unprecedented in the history of the imposed war - launched a heavy aerial bombardment of the city of Ahwaz, destroying more than 50 residential areas in the city. This savage act of genocide has left behind many hundreds of martyrs and wounded, and turned vast parts of the city into rubble. Although the record of over six years of the imposed war has registered numerous instances of Iraqi crimes including ruthless slaughter of civilian population as well as repeated and continuous violations of international law - all already well known to Your Excellency - the dimensions of this most recent crime perpetrated by the rulers in Baghdad are truly matchless and unprecedented.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the basis of the bitter experiences of the past several years and witnessing the increasing trend of Iraqi attacks against cities and purely civilian areas had predicted the incipient Iraqi crime and had accordingly warned the international community. To our deep regret, we have not observed any decisive measures on the part of the United Nations in response to such blatant Iraqi crimes.

Your Excellency is well aware that the Islamic Republic of Iran has always done its utmost to restrain its retaliatory actions, and resorted to token measures only to deter further Iraqi attacks on innocent civilians. However, since all these acts of self-restraint have only further encouraged the criminal rulers of Iraq, and in the face of the absence of any preventive measures on the part of the international body vis-à-vis such Iraqi brutalities, I wish to proclaim to Your Excellency that my Government - despite its desires - is obliged to consider more effective deterring measures in response to today's manifestation of Iraqi criminal behaviour. The responsibility for the consequences of retaliatory measures which are necessary under present conditions should be borne by the Iraqi initiators of attacks against purely civilian areas as well as by the responsible international bodies which have remained indifferent in the face of Iraqi violations of the most basic principles of international humanitarian law thereby encouraging the Iraqi régime to continue and escalate such crimes.

My Government expects Your Excellency to dispatch your special representative to visit the site of this latest abhorrent crime of the Iraqi régime in Ahwaz, and to prepare a report for the international body, so that it may learn more of the consequences of its failure to uphold the authority of international humanitarian law. Furthermore, in line with the principles enshrined in the Charter, all organs of the United Nations are expected to adopt significant and effective measures to

impose international pressure on the Iraqi régime in order to prevent repetition of these criminal acts.

(Signed) Ali-Akbar VELAYATI
Minister for Foreign Affairs of
the Islamic Republic of Iran

