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LETTER DATED 24 DECEMBER 1986 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO
THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Security Council statement issued on 22 December 1986.

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

(Signed) Mohammad Javad ZARIF
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Text of the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran on
the Security Council statement of 22 December 1986

On 22 December 1986, the Security Council of the United Nations, having taken note of the report of the Secretary-General (S/18480), issued a statement regarding the war imposed by Iraq on the Islamic Republic of Iran. It is evident that this statement does not reflect a position emanating from careful consideration of the report of the Secretary-General. Despite the fact that according to paragraph 6 of the report, "... the positions of the two parties ... at present ... show no degree of coincidence which would provide a basis for the presentation of specific proposals designed to give effect to resolution 582 (1986)," the Security Council's call for the implementation of the said resolution presents an unrealistic and impractical approach.

As expressed in the previous statements by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Security Council resolutions 582 and 588 - adopted on the initiative of those Arab States which have lent their full-fledged support to the Iraqi aggressive régime in the course of the imposed war, and failing to solicit the participation and concurrence of the Islamic Republic of Iran - do not espouse impartiality. Moreover, the Council's emphasis on the important principle of peaceful resolution of disputes without reference to the fundamental principle of non-aggression - the violation of both of which by Iraq constitutes the root and essence of the present conflict - does not but reflect the Council's selective treatment of the United Nations Charter. It is hardly necessary to remind the Security Council that according to Article 1 of the Charter "suppression of acts of aggression" precedes peaceful resolution of conflicts.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran once again reiterates that as long as the Security Council does not muster the necessary political will to take a clear and unequivocal position on the all-out military aggression initiated by Iraq against the Islamic Republic of Iran on 22 September 1980, those paragraphs in resolution 582 pertaining to the cessation of hostilities will remain inapplicable. However, sections of resolution 582 dealing with other aspects of the imposed war as well as the proposals contained in paragraph 5 of the report of the Secretary-General provide positive bases for the continuing efforts of the Secretary-General and the Security Council. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran reaffirms its willingness and readiness to co-operate within the framework of these proposals. In the wake of Iraqi attempts to internationalize and widen the scope of the imposed war, the Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates its proposal for bilateral or multilateral regional security arrangements in accordance with international law and based upon respect for the territorial integrity and political independence of regional countries and the maintenance of neutrality with regard to the imposed war by non-participants. The Islamic Republic of Iran is still prepared to extend its full co-operation in the exploration of possibilities and the formulation of suitable security arrangements for the establishment of the long-term security of the Persian Gulf region.

The second part of the Security Council statement deals with the necessity of observance of international humanitarian law and other laws of armed conflict which have consistently been strictly adhered to and fully affirmed by the Islamic Republic of Iran. In this regard, the widening of the conflict through the escalation of attacks by Iraq on purely civilian targets - the reports of which have been submitted to the Secretary-General by the United Nations inspection team stationed in Tehran - is of particular significance and urgency. It is hence incumbent upon the Security Council and the Secretary-General, through effective and serious measures, to play a positive and constructive role in mitigating the suffering of civilians and inhabitants of civilian areas. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes any and all proposals and efforts to this end.
