



Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/16609
10 June 1984

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 10 JUNE 1984 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to forward herewith the English translation of the message of Hojatolislam Seyed Ali Khamenei, the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in response to His Excellency's message dated 9 June 1984.

It would be highly appreciated if the content of this message could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Said RAJAIE KHORASSANI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Message from the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran
addressed to the Secretary-General

I acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's message about ending attacks on civilian areas in the course of war imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran by Iraq.

I have the feeling that such a measure should have been taken long ago, about 44 months earlier.

In the course of more than three and a half years since the beginning of this war, Iraq has repeatedly attacked our residential areas in contravention of all international and humanitarian principles. In spite of heavy human losses and material damages, in the beginning we did not embark on retaliatory acts, because we insisted on adhering to our Islamic principles.

Although international organizations, especially the United Nations did not react in any way to this matter, we requested the United Nations to dispatch a delegation to Iran to visit residential areas in cities ruined by bombardments, missile attacks and high explosives. Unfortunately, no attention was paid to the report prepared by your delegation. Finally the Islamic Republic of Iran was obliged to embark on retaliation only as the last resort in order to defend the lives and properties of her citizens, since only the last few months.

The International Committee of the Red Cross, in its statement, also confirms that the recent retaliatory attacks of the Islamic Republic of Iran have begun only after the aerial attack on civilian population in Baneh on 5 June 1984.

This is very similar to what has happened in the Persian Gulf. Repeated Iraqi aggressions on neutral vessels sailing to and from our ports in the Persian Gulf, to which the international fora reacted in an irresponsible manner, paved the way for the present tension in this waterway.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, however, in order to show its good faith, responds positively to your proposal on ending attacks on residential areas, which is made through inspiration from the objectives of the United Nations Charter.

Of course our past experience has proved that optimism about promises given by the aggressive régime of Iraq is mistaken.

I deem it necessary to underline that the good will shown by the Islamic Republic of Iran in response to your proposal to stop attacks on civilian areas is conditional on the total ending of the Iraqi régime's criminal acts of bombarding Iranian cities.

Besides, we believe that your proposal will be useful only when it is adequately sanctioned by measures to identify violations of such commitments through the immediate dispatch of delegations to determine the violator.
