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**LETTER DATED 3 JUNE 1987 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**

Upon instructions from my Government and with reference to the malicious letter of the Permanent Representative of Iraq contained in Security Council document S/18871, I have the honour to draw Your Excellency's attention to certain facts that are already known to the concerned authorities in the international community.

A review of the findings of the representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) - who have concluded that the treatment of Iraqi prisoners of war (POWs) in the Islamic Republic of Iran and their living conditions have been satisfactory - would clearly illustrate the fallacious nature of the baseless allegations produced by the Iraqi régime. These reports - which are based on personal observations rather than mere allegations produced by the Iraqi rulers in collaboration with their terrorist allies - can be consulted by Your Excellency and other competent international bodies and interested entities in order to prevent Iraq from abusing the United Nations machinery for the dissemination of such baseless absurdities. On the other hand, a glance at the reports produced by ICRC with regard to the deteriorating condition of Iranian POWs in Iraq and the inhumane and barbaric treatment which they have been receiving from their Iraqi captors would clearly indicate the malicious intentions of the Iraqi régime in producing the baseless allegations contained in document S/18871. The Islamic Republic of Iran expects informed international authorities, and particularly ICRC, which has reported on the satisfactory condition of Iraqi POWs and the terrible condition of the Iranian ones, to pronounce itself on the Iraqi allegations in order to prevent further political abuse of this humanitarian task.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, in the twenty-fifth annual session of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies held at Geneva in autumn 1986, presented several practical proposals in conformity with the Third Geneva Convention for the exchange of POWs; all were rejected by the Iraqi régime. Furthermore, despite the announcement by ICRC and the Iraqi officials themselves, the Iraqi régime has failed, for the past year, to release 20 handicapped and seriously ill Iranian POWs, while the Islamic Republic of Iran has unilaterally released - during the same period - hundreds of handicapped Iraqi prisoners of war in conformity with Islamic and humanitarian principles, and often before any recommendation to that

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effect by ICRC. Moreover, the Islamic Republic of Iran has released some 600 Iraqi POWs, while the Iraqi régime has released 613 Iranian citizens, 410 of whom were civilians who had been imprisoned in Iraq illegally and in contravention of universally recognized norms of warfare. Therefore, in response to the release of 600 Iraqi POWs, the Iraqi régime has in reality only released 203 Iranian POWs.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, while reiterating its expectation that informed international bodies and particularly the International Committee of the Red Cross should pronounce themselves on Iraqi allegations in accordance with their own findings, is prepared to lend its full co-operation to an investigation into the condition of POWs in both countries within a framework similar to the 1985 initiative of the Secretary-General.

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

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