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LETTER DATED 6 JULY 1987 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that the allegations in the letter from the Iranian Charqé d'affaires a.i., as contained in document S/18895, issued on 4 June 1987, included many falsifications and distortions of the truth. The Iranian réqime has not put forward any constructive proposals relating to the exchange of prisoners of war. The Iranian representative who attended the twenty-fifth Red Cross conference at Geneva, Switzerland, referred to the Iranian régime's agreement to a resumption of activity by the International Committee of the Red Cross in Iran for the purpose of monitoring the conditions of Iraqi prisoners of war, and raised a few ideas, which he referred to as "prisoner exchange initiatives", based on the Iranians' notion of a numerical exchange and the exclusion of certain prisoners from the exchange procedure.

The Red Cross mission's return to Iran came as a result of international pressure and the condemnation, expressed by all international humanitarian circles, of this barbaric régime's inhuman practices towards Iraqi prisoners of war. In this connection, we would like to affirm that Iraq has not rejected any practical proposal for an exchange of prisoners in conformity with the Third Geneva Convention of 1949 and international humanitarian law.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ismat KITTANI
Permanent Representative

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