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LETTER DATED 22 SEPTEMBER 1987 FROM THE ACTING PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE
PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, I wish, on behalf of my Government, to report that the United States has exercised its inherent right of self-defence under international law by taking defensive action against a naval vessel of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Persian Gulf. This Iranian vessel was discovered laying mines in shipping lanes used by United States and other vessels in international waters 50 miles north-east of Bahrain. The United States Government had previously informed the Iranian Government that it would take appropriate defensive measures against such provocative actions, which present an immediate risk to all ships, including those of the United States.

Six mines were laid before the United States took measures to cause the Iranian craft to cease this hostile use of force. Ten additional mines were discovered on board the Iranian vessel. The USS Jarrett is now towing the Iranian landing craft to anchorage in international waters outside the area in which mines were laid. The United States is in the process of facilitating the repatriation of the Iranian sailors.

I ask that you circulate the text of this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Herbert S. OKUN
Ambassador
Acting Permanent Representative

