



## Security Council

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LETTER DATED 22 SEPTEMBER 1987 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you of the following incident, about which my Government have delivered a strong protest to the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The tanker Gentle Breeze, registered in Hong Kong and flying the British flag, was attacked in international waters in the northern Gulf at 1855 GMT on 21 September. The British Government have clear evidence that the Gentle Breeze was fired on by one or more Iranian naval vessels at the position 2750N and 4948E. A serious fire was started on board and one crew member died.

This attack was clearly premeditated and totally unprovoked, and hence wholly unjustified. The Gentle Breeze posed no conceivable threat to the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The attack was in clear violation of principles of freedom of navigation, and of international law, in particular Security Council resolution 598 (1987) of 20 July 1987.

The British Government reserve the right to claim compensation from the Iranian Government for any damage or expenses caused by the attack on the Gentle Breeze, or any other such attacks.

My Government have demanded an immediate explanation of this outrage and an apology for it, together with an assurance from the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran that such deliberate, unprovoked and wholly unjustified attacks on unarmed British merchant vessels will not be repeated.

I would be grateful if you would arrange for this letter to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Crispin TICKELL  
Permanent Representative of the  
United Kingdom of Great Britain  
and Northern Ireland