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LETTER DATED 4 SEPTEMBER 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 transmit to you herewith a letter dated 4 September 1987 from Mr. Tarek Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the aggressor Iranian régime's continued shelling of purely residential areas in Iraq.

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

(Signed) Ismat KITTANI  
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 4 September 1987 from the Deputy Prime Minister  
and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the  
Secretary-General

Further to my letter of 2 September 1987 and to the letter dated 3 September 1987 from our Permanent Representative, I have the honour to inform you that the armed forces of the expansionist Iranian régime today continued their shelling of purely residential and civilian centres in Iraq. They shelled the town and suburbs of Qala Diza and the villages of Khas and Nur-al-Din, where one woman was wounded, and the town of Sirwan, where three civilians were killed, including one woman, and seven wounded, including two children. In addition, Basra was subjected to heavy shelling: 63 shells were fired on the city, killing nine civilians, including two children, and wounding nineteen, including one child and four women, damaging eighteen vehicles, several public buildings and six apartment buildings and starting a fire in a seventh.

On this day in particular, we feel it is important briefly to remind you and the international community of a few truths which have come to light over the years since the Iranian régime launched this war of aggression on Iraq - a war which it persists in prolonging. Seven years ago to the day, on 4 September 1980 the régime unleashed this war on Iraq, shelling towns and residential areas. Likewise, the Iranian régime did not hesitate to carry out air raids on residential areas of Iraqi towns and villages. After the Iraqi forces withdrew from Iranian territory in June 1982, the Iranian forces, deployed all along the international frontiers, began systematically shelling Iraqi towns and villages located within range of their artillery, carried out regular air raids and fired long-range missiles - which by definition strike indiscriminately - at Baghdad and Karkuk.

It is also worth drawing attention to the duplicity and mystification which the Iranian régime has engaged in systematically throughout the war concerning this aspect of the armed conflict, to its manner of presenting its repeated attacks on purely residential centres, its feigned indignation and its noisy lamentations at the so-called non-implementation of international law, whenever it suffered a crushing defeat at the hands of Iraq. In fact, the Iranian régime is concerned with international law only in so far as that law is applied selectively and in a manner that furthers its aggressive and expansionist goals.

Likewise, the Iranian régime presents Iraq's legitimate attacks on the heart of the war machine - economic, industrial, oil and logistic areas and facilities - as attacks on residential centres so as to justify its own attacks on towns and residential quarters in Iraq, which are carried out with shells, bombs and missiles, and so as to seek thus to divert attention and public opinion from its own armed incursions into Iraq.

The truth of this, which is moreover supported by the documentation communicated to you over these last seven years of war is amply illustrated by the acts of armed aggression which the Tehran régime is conducting against the Arab countries of the Gulf, some of which have suffered air raids and have had long-range missiles fired at them.

Another well-established fact which must not be forgotten is that the stars of the Iranian régime do not hesitate to declare that their sole mission in life is to wage war for the purpose of which they have mobilized all means of terror, blackmail, duplicity and mystification.

Iraq has responded to the Iranian aggression in accordance with international law, and it feels that the time has come for the international community to vigorously oppose the inhuman methods of the Iranian régime, to put an end to its policy which is based on war, killing, destruction, terror and blackmail, inasmuch as this policy is now threatening other trouble spots. In that connection, Iraq, which has persistently called for the restoration of peace ever since the Iranian war of aggression was unleashed exactly seven years ago, is deeply convinced that those who, prompted by their own short-term interests, are going along with the Tehran régime and seeking to present its policy in a favourable light, will reap nothing but rebuffs and disappointment.

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