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LETTER DATED 26 SEPTEMBER 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

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the letter of His Excellency Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

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

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

Annex

Letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic  
of Iran addressed to the Secretary-General

As you are aware, some time has elapsed since the United States Administration, by the extended presence of its military vessels in the Persian Gulf, has caused turbulence and exacerbated crisis in the region. Each passing day, by its blatant violations of international rules and regulations related to free passage by ships and aircraft over the waters of the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, this administration resorts to serious threats against the Islamic Republic of Iran. The bullish attitudes of the United States in this essential region has created an explosive situation and it is possible that, at any time, this will seriously and uncontrollably endanger international peace and security.

To prevent the further spreading of turbulence, the Islamic Republic of Iran has, so far, exercised a great deal of self-restraint. However, it is deemed necessary to draw Your Excellency's attention to the most serious and dangerous step taken by the United States of America. The Iranian cargo vessel Iran-Ajr, under commercial registration, while carrying materials and victuals, at 2335 hours on 21 September 1987, was attacked in international waters by military helicopter gunships of the United States. A number of the crew were martyred and some others were taken prisoner by the American forces. Concurrent with this action, the United States claimed that the said vessel was photographed while mining the regional waters. However, subsequently it was claimed that the photographs could not be developed. Furthermore, to destroy the evidence of its own crime, the United States took the vessel to Bahrain territorial waters and then condemned it. The United States Administration, which claims impartiality in the imposed war against the Islamic Republic of Iran, can have no legitimate reason in perpetrating such a terrible crime in violation of all international rules and norms. It is evident that the fundamental motive behind such dangerous military adventurism by the United States is only to bring political pressure to bear and to interfere in the affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

It is evident that the claim by the United States to the effect that the said vessel was mining the waters is total fabrication and it has simply been put forward to create disrepute for the Islamic Republic of Iran. How could this vessel, which was a slow-speed vessel, commercial and unarmed, be used for the purposes of mining? In fact, the United States, owing to its inability to present evidence and proof for its allegations, resorted to blowing up the vessel and thus eliminated the evidence of its crime and the most important item documenting the baselessness of its allegations.

Under the present circumstances, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran emphatically requests Your Excellency and the international community strongly to condemn this aggressive act by the United States while investigating and drawing the attention of the Security Council to the blatant aggression which has seriously

endangered international peace and security. The United States Government should also be compelled to pay compensation for incurred damages and to withdraw its forces from the region.

Ali Akbar VELAYATI  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
The Islamic Republic of Iran

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