



**Security Council**

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LETTER DATED 9 OCTOBER 1987 FROM THE 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 aircraft of the United States operating in international airspace were attacked without provocation by forces of the Iranian Islamic Republic in the Persian Gulf, and that the United States has exercised its inherent right of self-defence under international law by taking defensive action in response.

At approximately 2.50 p.m. (EDT) on 8 October 1987, Iranian patrol craft fired on a United States helicopter on routine nighttime patrol over international waters of the Persian Gulf. United States helicopters returned fire, sinking one of the Iranian craft. United States patrol boats recovered six Iranian sailors from the water, two of whom died of injuries sustained during the incident. The United States intends to repatriate the Iranian sailors through a third country, with the assistance of the appropriate humanitarian organizations, as soon as this becomes possible.

At approximately 3.30 p.m. (EDT), another United States helicopter conducting peaceful surveillance operations over international waters near an oil platform controlled by Iran observed fire from an unidentified source. The United States did not return fire.

The United States Government had previously informed the Iranian Government that it would take appropriate defensive measures against such hostile actions.

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

(Signed) Vernon A. WALTERS