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LETTER DATED 13 OCTOBER 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 the text of a letter dated 13 October 1987 from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy
Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq.

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

(Signed) Ismat KITTANI
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 13 October 1987 from the Deputy Prime Minister
and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you, for the third time in one week, of a further odious crime committed by the criminal rulers in Tehran, who demonstrate a propensity for evil and aggression as well as a thirst for blood.

This morning, as the first lesson was beginning in the schools, the evil régime in Tehran fired a ground-to-ground missile into the city of Baghdad. The missile fell on Balat al-Shuhada School and the houses adjacent to it, which had been allocated for the use of teachers. As of the time when this letter was drafted, 32 people had been killed by the missile, including 29 children and 2 women. A total of 218 people, including 196 children and 11 women, had also been injured. The criminal action also caused the destruction of Balat al-Shuhada School and 16 houses, and damaged the youth centre in the teachers' residential quarter. Accredited diplomats and staff of United Nations agencies in Baghdad have visited the scene of the crime and acquainted themselves with the details.

In the light of this wicked crime, I consider it my duty to remind you and the international community that Iraq has already drawn your attention on more than one occasion to the manner in which the criminal Iranian régime has been preparing to escalate the war of the cities. It has, indeed, deliberately been escalating that war, as further features emerged of the international call for peace, in order that it might persist in its war of aggression and expansion against Iraq. I refer in particular to my two letters dated 6 and 11 October 1987 (documents S/19179 and S/19198), which I sent to mark similar crimes committed by the criminal rulers in Tehran.

I should like to remind you that Iraq has on all these occasions emphasized to you the need to heed a fundamental and unequivocal truth in proving the criminal intentions of the rulers in Tehran. We have stated many times that the Iranian criminals' claims simply to be retaliating in kind against military and economic targets are sheer lies. The nature of the Iranian weaponry used in this attack, which is unable to distinguish between the types of targets at which it is aimed, provides categorical proof that the Tehran rulers are deliberately attacking purely civilian residential centres.

Most importantly, I remind you of what we have already affirmed, namely the need to draw the precise and correct conclusions from this criminal conduct on the part of the evil régime in Tehran. That régime is now overstepping the bounds in its violation of the law, its enmity to mankind and its insistence on prolonging the war, the slaughter and the destruction, at a time when the whole world is stressing the need to end the war through the comprehensive and proper implementation of Security Council's resolution 598 (1987).

We have warned the criminal Iranian régime more than once not to strike at purely civilian residential centres and not to make attacks which endanger the lives of our population. However, the régime's leaders have turned a deaf ear and have gone even further in their misdeeds, their aggression and their evil. While the international community is still hesitating to take the measures enjoined under the provisions of resolution 598 (1987), namely to uphold the Charter of the United Nations and the credibility of the Security Council and to maintain international peace and security by imposing rigorous sanctions on the criminal Iranian régime, we firmly declare that our people, in similar fashion to any people aspiring to freedom, peace and a life of dignity, will not remain patient for ever in the face of Iranian crimes. It is our people's right, and their duty before God and international public opinion, to defend themselves against such odious crimes and those which preceded them, by retaliating in kind.

(Signed) Tariq AZIZ
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Foreign Affairs

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