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LETTER DATED 21 AUGUST 1992 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 21 August 1992 from Mr. Muhammed Said al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the very dangerous decision of the United Kingdom, the United States and France to prevent Iraqi aircraft from flying in southern Iraq below the 32nd parallel.

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

(Signed) Abd al-Amir AL-ANBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 21 August 1992 from the Minister for Foreign
Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the decision - fraught with consequences - of the United Kingdom, the United States of America and France to prevent Iraqi aircraft from flying in southern Iraq below the 32nd parallel on the pretext of protecting the Shiite population from Iraqi air attacks. International press agencies have disseminated the statements made by the highest officials of those three States, which contain a warning of the imminent use of brute force against Iraq.

At its meeting on 18 August 1992, the British Cabinet decided to dispatch Tornado fighter aircraft to take part in that operation. Mr. Douglas Hurd, the British Foreign Minister, stated on 19 August that the decision taken by the United States of America, the United Kingdom and France to prevent Iraqi aircraft from flying over southern Iraq in order to protect the Shiite population was, as he claimed, an operation that the three countries could undertake without any need for authorization from the Security Council.

Such a belligerent and dangerous attitude on the part of the United States, the United Kingdom and France - permanent members of the Security Council - is a prelude to the use of armed force for military aggression against Iraq's independence, territorial integrity and national unity. This represents a grave threat to international peace and security in the region. The true objective of this operation is to divide Iraq on an ethnic and confessional basis in order to control it, plunder its wealth and enslave its people. Iraq will never accept this, as an official Iraqi spokesman stated on 20 August 1992.

The three States in question have assumed the authority to interpret international law and international humanitarian law, as well as to interpret Security Council resolutions without reference to the Council itself, in order to be able to use force to achieve their colonialist goals. Such a step, based on flimsy and mendacious pretexts, is fraught with consequences for the independence and sovereignty of all independent and sovereign States.

In drawing your attention to the extreme gravity of the position adopted by the United States, the United Kingdom and France, we call upon you to assume your responsibilities and prevent the occurrence of this new act of aggression against the Republic of Iraq, a sovereign and independent State, and a founding Member of the United Nations.

(Signed) Muhammad Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq
