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LETTER DATED 1 MARCH 1988 FROM THE ACTING PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
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 of 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 Ja'afar MAHALLATI
Director-General of International Affairs
and Acting Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 29 February 1988 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Islamic Republic of Iran addressed to the Secretary-General

As you were informed in my letters of 27 and 28 February 1988, once again the aggressor régime of Iraq, encouraged and supported by other aggressor régimes, particularly the United States of America, and in order to sabotage the recent United Nations diplomatic efforts, has intensified its acts of aggression against the innocent civilians of the Islamic Republic of Iran, particularly in Tehran, the capital. This has resulted in the martyrdom and injury of a considerable number of innocent women, old men and children.

The aggressor régime of Iraq, in the course of its latest attacks on 29 February 1988 alone, savagely attacked more than eight purely residential areas, including a hospital the majority of whose patients were pregnant women. Consequently, several Tehran residents and the patients of the hospital were martyred and injured. The evacuation of the martyred and the injured took several hours.

As you may observe, the régime of Iraq has resumed its savage and inhuman attacks against our cities and is bent upon the expansion of these attacks. By thus initiating and intensifying the "war of cities" in pursuit of the goals of the United States of America, the Iraqi régime attempts not only to divert attention from the rebellion of the Muslim people of Palestine against the Zionist régime but also to sabotage the recent United Nations efforts and, in collaboration with certain Security Council members, lure the Security Council into adopting another unilateral decision concerning the war imposed upon the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, in accordance with her regard for the rules of international law and the 12 June 1984 moratorium, has repeatedly declared its strong opposition to any attacks against non-military and residential areas. Accordingly, every instance of such attacks has been reported to Your Excellency and the United Nations and requests for immediate preventative measures have been made to halt the continuation of such savagery. However, it has often been observed that the United Nations Organization has failed not only in terminating or reducing the crimes of the régime of Iraq but also by its failure to execute its principal duty of prevention of aggression and maintenance of international peace and security has brought increasing despair to the victimized countries against whom aggression has occurred.

You are expected to take urgent measures to halt the Iraqi indiscriminate and lawless attacks against purely civilian and residential quarters. Otherwise, there will remain no doubt for the Islamic Republic of Iran that the United Nations is absolutely incapable of adopting any positive steps and that the hope and credibility which the Islamic Republic of Iran attaches to this Organization is in vain. Under such circumstances, the Islamic Republic of Iran will, in legitimate self-defence, have to enhance its retaliatory measures against military, industrial and economic centres of Iraq and consider a military solution as the only viable means to put an end to the Iraqi aggression and the imposed war.

It is evident that should such a circumstance arise, the responsibility for the consequences of endangerment of peace in the region and the world ought to be borne by the United Nations, which is constitutionally responsible for its maintenance, and by the supporters of Iraq, particularly the United States of America.

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