



Security Council

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ORIGINAL: ARABICLETTER DATED 19 MARCH 1988 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Further to the letter from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq dated 13 March 1988, I have the honour to draw your attention to the sermon delivered by the head of the Iranian régime, Ali Khamenei, on the afternoon of Friday, 18 March 1988. I quote below some passages from it in which he boasts of his régime's forces occupation of Iraqi territory and towns and which clearly confirms Tehran's insistence on continuing the war and the expansionist aggression against Iraq and on rejecting Security Council resolution 598 (1987).

With regard to Iraqi territory invaded by Iranian forces following the intensive bombardment of which I informed you in my above-mentioned letter, Khamenei said:

"This area is an important Iraqi frontier area, and this area, namely, the area of Shahrizur, the Zur plain and the towns located therein, are among the areas whose inhabitants have, in the past, and throughout history been opposed to the Iraqi régime and to this ungodly Aflaqi Baathist régime because of the religious and ideological past of this area. This area covers approximately 1,000 square kilometres and is fertile and suitable for agriculture. It has wooded areas and contains a large number of villages - approximately 300 - and a number of towns. Control of these towns has been achieved (praise be to God) in these four stages of these operations, the most recent being the one that took place this morning, when we announced that all the towns and villages of this area had fallen under the control of the warriors of Islam. The operations in this area have achieved their prescribed goals in full - nay, they have achieved even more than what was prescribed. The area of Halabjah is regarded as a religious area, and, as I have said, the population of this area are Muslims and have been our brothers and our true allies for a long time. This area is fertile from both the natural and the human viewpoints. It is a Muslim area, and Halabjah is regarded, approximately speaking, as the centre of religious learning of our brothers the Kurds. It was inhabited formerly by many ulema, and that is still the case. Last year, we received a number of the major ulema of Halabjah who had fled from the injustice and oppression of the Saddam régime and taken refuge in the Islamic Republic. They now live in our territory. It is, then, an important and

extensive area, bounded on one side by Darbandikhan lake, which is a very big lake, and on the other by the lofty Surin mountain chain. Our forces have gained control over all this area and fortified their positions there, and all this area has been liberated (praise be to God) by the superiority of our warriors, [who] have entered the plain. And what a plain! A very extensive plain. A plain is the best area for tank warfare, and our warriors crossed the heights, entered the plains and occupied some of the towns located on the slopes of these heights. They purged the plain completely and took control of four to five Iraqi towns. My injunction to our mighty warriors was to continue the operation and to aim the blows, as our beloved Imam said in his message. The enemy is weak and on the defensive, and our mighty and valiant warriors must never allow the enemy to draw breath. The people must not leave the front. The young must continue pouring to the warfronts. Our warriors must retain their readiness and their zeal. Information confirms that the number of volunteers has greatly increased over the previous figure, and this is proof of the zeal of our people. This zeal must continue, and the trained troops, particularly the forces of commanders and leaders of divisions must prepare themselves and go to the fronts".

With regard to resolution 598 (1987) and the position of the international community calling for a peaceful and comprehensive solution to the conflict, Khamenei said:

"The sole point on which the dominant forces in the world agree, the United States of America, the major European Governments, the Soviet Union and their clients alike, and which they regard as a good point for the purpose of putting pressure on the Islamic Republic is this same imposed war. They have felt that either this war must end with the defeat of the Islamic Republic or else, if it is not defeated in this war, they will endeavour to compel it accept a humiliating peace, which, in fact, would constitute a de facto defeat - either a military defeat or a political defeat. From the start and up to the present, if you look at the course followed by the major Powers in the world, whether East or West, whether United States or European, they follow this course, namely, seeking to end the war either by a military defeat of the Islamic Republic or by its political defeat. Last year, vigorous international political moves began in the Security Council, and the Council, in which the major Powers participate, was mobilized to put pressures on Iran. Resolution 598 (1987), which was endorsed by the Security Council, is, in fact, a means of putting pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran, although, of course, we were able, with God's help, to direct the course of action regarding resolution 598 (1987) in such a way as to make them suffer damage and loss and to make our enemy suffer damage and loss. They did not intend to formulate the resolution in such a way that we could benefit from it. They formulated the resolution so that it might be a tool for putting pressure on Iran. Their analysis was that the Islamic Republic would inevitably fall. They thought that the Islamic Republic had no capacity for facing up to any action they might take against it, whether an arms embargo or resolution 598 (1987)".

These statements, which are clear in meaning and purpose, cast further light on many of the facts affirmed by Iraqi officials in their talks and correspondence with you and with the Security Council since the adoption of resolution 598 (1987) on 20 July 1987 up to the present, and particularly during recent events.

The head of the Iranian régime admits that he regards resolution 598 (1987) as a "act of pressure" on Iran and that he has succeeded in surmounting this "pressure". Thus we see confirmed what we said to you and to the members of the Security Council concerning the Iranian manoeuvres and attempts to mislead that Iran undertook in order to avoid the implementation of resolution 598 (1987) and to divert it from its basic intent as a binding and comprehensive resolution aimed at establishing a comprehensive and just peace, a peace that the head of the Iranian régime considers equivalent to a "defeat". The head of the Iranian régime's boasts about Iraqi towns, villages and territory occupied by Iranian forces in recent days, after all the feigned outcry raised by this régime about the so-called "war of the cities" confirms what we have said about the expansionist nature of this régime and its ambitions regarding Iraqi territory, even after the adoption of Security Council resolution 598 (1987). It also confirms what we warned of in the letter addressed to you by the Minister for Foreign Affairs on 16 March 1988, when he said that the bombardment of Halabjah was but an attempt to prepare for fresh aggression. The aggression has actually occurred, and Iranian forces have occupied this Iraqi town under cover of the spurious outcry about the war of the cities.

These statements fully confirm the error of which we warned and into which the Security Council fell when it proceeded to deal with Iranian manoeuvres and with the particulars of the situation at the expense of the basic issue, the issue of acceptance of resolution 598 (1987) and action to implement it. After these proofs emanating from the head of the Iranian régime himself, we have no course open to us but to place upon the parties that urged the Council to follow that erroneous course the full responsibility for what has happened and for the new occupation of more Iraqi territory.

The time has come for the Security Council, after eight months of hesitation and procrastination, to face up to the facts as they are and to act in accordance with its legal and moral responsibilities and for those who seek for narrow advantages to desist from their course, which helps, directly or indirectly, to encourage the aggressive Iranian régime to prolong the duration of the war and to carry out more slaughter, destruction and territorial occupation.

I request you to have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ismat KITTANI
Permanent Representative
