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LETTER DATED 16 OCTOBER 1980 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I wish to refer to my letter of 10 October 1980 (S/14213) transmitting the appeal that I addressed to the Presidents of Iran and Iraq concerning the security of ships now immobilized in the conflict area and my suggestions for resolving this problem.

I am enclosing the text of a further message which I sent to His Excellency Mr. Saddam Hussein, President of the Republic of Iraq, on 15 October 1980 and of the reply I have received today.

(Signed) Kurt WALDHEIM

Annex

Letter dated 15 October 1980 from the Secretary-General  
addressed to the President of Iraq

I wish to refer to my message of 10 October concerning the security of ships now immobilized in the conflict area and my suggestions for resolving this problem, which is of deep concern to the international community.

I have discussed this matter with Foreign Minister Hammadi who, as I understand, reported our conversations to Baghdad. I would be most grateful for an early response to that question and in particular to the suggestion which I made to Mr. Hammadi that, to avoid misunderstandings, ships leaving the conflict area should fly the United Nations flag. In this connexion, I wish to inform you that the Government of Iran, in a letter of 13 October, has accepted this suggestion.

May I again assure Your Excellency that I have taken this initiative on purely humanitarian grounds and without prejudice to the claims, positions and rights of the parties to the conflict.

(Signed) Kurt WALDHEIM  
Secretary-General  
United Nations

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Enclosure

Letter dated 16 October 1980 from the President of Iraq  
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to your telegram concerning the protection of vessels located within the combat zone and your proposal regarding the evacuation of these vessels from the zone under the flag of the United Nations.

I regret to inform you that this proposal is not acceptable to us since these vessels must fly the Iraqi flag as long as they are in the Shatt Al Arab, which is an Iraqi river, in conformity with our full national sovereignty over this river.

(Signed) Saddam HUSSEIN  
President of the Republic of Iraq

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