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LETTER DATED 12 NOVEMBER 1980 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
JAPAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit the following letter addressed to Your Excellency from His Excellency Mr. Masayoshi Ito, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.

"I have the honour to refer to Your Excellency's letter addressed to the President of the Security Council dated 11 November 1980 (S/14251).

"More than seven weeks have passed since the fighting between Iran and Iraq has intensified. The fact that there are as yet no prospects for a ceasefire and that the present conflict seems to be of a prolonged nature is a source of grave concern to my country.

"The conflict not only is causing loss of innocent life and is inflicting severe damage to the property in both countries, but could constitute a threat to international peace and security. The development of the situation is a matter of profound concern to Japan as well as to the entire international community.

"My Government welcomes and fully supports the continuing positive and constructive efforts for the settlement of the conflict carried out by Your Excellency and by the Security Council.

"I wish on this occasion to pay high tribute to Your Excellency's tireless dedication to the solution of this difficult problem. We have been informed that, as a part of the ongoing efforts of your good offices to bring about an early and peaceful settlement to the conflict, Your Excellency has decided, in accordance with the statement of the President of the Security Council on 5 November (S/14244), to send as your representative, Mr. Olof Palme of Sweden, to both countries involved in the conflict. We heartily welcome this decision.

"Japan strongly hopes that Mr. Palme's visit to those countries will result in a breakthrough for proceeding to peaceful negotiations for a just settlement of the problem.

"We earnestly hope that the conflicting parties will establish a ceasefire as soon as possible and will exert efforts for a peaceful settlement to the conflict. It is our sincere wish that third parties will continue to observe the principle of non-interference as they have done so far.

"The Government of Japan continues to welcome and support all initiatives for the peaceful settlement of the conflict - not only the efforts of the United Nations, but also those of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and of the non-aligned countries. I wish to add here that should there be any role for Japan to play in this matter, it is prepared and willing to do so.

"Masayoshi ITO
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of Japan"

I should like to request that this letter be circulated as a Security Council document under the item entitled "The situation between Iran and Iraq".

(Signed) Masahiro NISIBORI
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Japan
to the United Nations
