



UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/14274
28 November 1980

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 26 NOVEMBER 1980 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF THE
PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to enclose a letter addressed to you from
H.E. Mr. K. Khoda Panahi, Acting Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

It would be appreciated if the above-mentioned letter is distributed as a
Security Council document.

(Signed) Jamal SHEMIRANI
Chargé d'Affaires

Annex

Letter dated 12 November 1980 from the Acting Minister for
Foreign Affairs of Iran addressed to the Secretary-General

IN THE NAME OF GOD

Regarding the letter dated 6 August 1980 (S/14111) of the Foreign Minister of the United Arab Emirates, Mr. Rashied Abdolah, I would like to bring the following points to your attention:

1. As we have repeatedly informed the representatives of various countries of the world at the United Nations Organization, the three Iranian islands "Abu Musa", "Greater Tunb", and "Lesser Tunb" located in the Persian Gulf have always been an integral part of Iran and the existing maps, papers and documents as well as historical facts are evidence and testimony to this reality.

2. Iran has continually exercised her sovereignty over this part of her territory, and only during the period that the British colonial Power occupied the islands by force was Iranian sovereignty temporarily interrupted, and after the departure of the British forces from the Persian Gulf in 1971 Iran resumed the exercise of her rightful sovereignty over these islands.

3. As stipulated in our reply to the letter of the Foreign Minister of Iraq dated 2 April 1980 (S/13918), the fact that the above-mentioned islands belong to Iran cannot be subject to consideration or discussion under any circumstances, and in fact, there is not a free and independent country in the world that would be willing to discuss or compromise a part of her territory with another country.

4. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran asserts, once more, that at no time, even during the period in which Iran's sovereignty over the three Iranian islands was interrupted due to their occupation by the British colonial Power, has she had any confrontation with her brotherly Arab neighbours.

5. Contrary to the opinion of the Foreign Minister of the United Arab Emirates which expresses "surprise" at the letter of the Iranian Foreign Minister, we wonder how, at a time when the Islamic Republic of Iran through the struggles of her Muslim people is attempting to repel the domination of the super-Powers from this area, such fabricated allegations which could only have a negative effect on the principle of unity and fraternity among the friendly and neighbourly countries of the region can be made, and this is what astonishes the Muslim people of Iran and makes them deeply regretful. We deem it necessary to bring to your attention, as the Secretary-General of the United Nations Organization, that the Muslim nations of the world, who have been and still are subject to the pillages and aggression of the Powers of the "East" and "West" particularly at a time when the Islamic Revolution of Iran is paving the way for a new era of liberty, independence, and glory for all Muslims and the oppressed peoples of the world, should utilize all their efforts and abilities to protect and safeguard this

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"sacred ideal"; and refrain from irrational acts and unrealistic statements which may be misused by the exploiting agents of the "East" and "West" as well as the international Zionism.

The points expressed by the Foreign Minister of the United Arab Emirates in connexion with the three Iranian islands "Abu Musa", "Greater Tunb", and "Lesser Tunb" are part of a calculated plot and provocation, planned well in advance, which has materialized through pressure by the Iraqi Government in the region. The inauspicious result of this adventurism is now evident in the Iraqi savage aggression of Iran.

Iraq not only imposed this all out war on Iran but also has, in order to attain her ambitious delusions, insanely expanded the dimensions of this destructive war. As you are well aware it is over a month that the Ba'athist Government of Iraq has invaded the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran and each day heedlessly and wickedly bombs and destroys Iranian cities as well as residential areas with every destructive and inhuman means possible, and up to the present has caused the martyrdom of thousands of our countrymen, mostly civilians, men, women and children.

The crimes so far committed by the Government of Iraq are not justifiable by any international or humanitarian laws or regulations, and it is quite clear that these crimes are committed under the protection of the super-Powers and world imperialism that claim to be the defender of human rights.

The Government of Iraq, under the pretext that the régime of the Islamic Republic has not observed the principle of "good neighbourly policy" and the contents of the agreement and protocols signed in 1975, claims that she has been compelled to resort to the use of force and military action.

Now this question is raised that if in the opinion of the Iraqi Government difficulties existed in the execution of the Agreements on State Frontier and Good Neighbourly Relations and other protocols signed between Iran and Iraq, why didn't she take action according to article 6 of the above-mentioned Agreement and its protocol, which explicitly and in detail defines the manner of investigation to resolve the differences. Even assuming, according to her absurd and unfounded claims, that Iraq's territorial integrity was jeopardized by Iran, why did she ignore peaceful and basic means available, and with military action as well as obvious aggression through surprise air attack to our cities and residential areas impose this war on Iran.

As you are well aware, Iraq has violated the contents of the 1975 Agreement particularly the protocol relating to the security of the frontiers, and among other things has dispatched agents and armed groups to the provinces of Western Azarbayjan, Kurdistan, Kermanshah, Ilam, Khuzistan and even to Systan and Baluchistan, to sabotage and to assist the counter-revolutionaries and has thus deranged Iran's internal security as well as causing irreparable damage to the good neighbourly policy between the two countries.

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In conclusion we would like to emphasize once more that the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is based on independence and territorial integrity of all the countries of the world and good neighbourly policy toward all its neighbours. It is self-evident that the Iranian nation will defend the independence and territorial integrity of its homeland with all its might.

(Signed) Mohammad Karim KHODA PANAH
Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs
