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LETTER DATED 23 JULY 1980 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, A.I. OF THE
PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of a cable addressed to you
from H.E. Mr. Sadegh Ghotbzadeh, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic
Republic of Iran.

I should be grateful if the enclosed text could be distributed as a document
of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jamal SHEMIRANI
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.

Annex

Telegram dated 23 July 1980 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs
of Iran addressed to the Secretary-General

Since the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Government of Iraq has embarked upon a policy of vicious hostility towards Iran. The campaign of Iraq to undermine the stability of the new-born Republic has taken more than one form. The incursions into Iranian frontier posts and border villages have become a mundane practice on the part of the Iraqi armed forces deployed along the frontier. The Ba'ath régime has systematically supported and aided subversive elements in the Iranian provinces of Kurdistan and Khuzestan resulting in great material destruction and numerous losses of human life. A radio station functioning in Iraq is pouring out, on a daily basis, the most venomous and fallacious allegations against the Iranian leadership.

These acts, no doubt, constitute direct violations of Iranian sovereignty and run counter to the provisions of the United Nations Charter.

It is basically, however, with the purposes of appraising Your Excellency on the extent and implications of the campaign of the Iraqi Government designed to uproot hundreds of thousands of Shiites of Iranian origin from Iraq that I decided to write to you this letter.

Up to now about 40,000 innocent men, women and children have been evicted by the Baghdad Government in the most inhumane manner. People have been dispossessed of their immovable and movable properties and savings which for many has taken a life time to acquire. In many cases children have been separated from their parents and wives from their spouses.

A great many of those who have been forced to leave are descendents of Iranians who migrated to Iraq generations ago and who have since acquired an Iraqi identity and nationality. Thus, for many, expulsion has entailed a loss of identity and citizenship as well.

At no time has the Iraqi Government ever explained the reason for the expulsion of Shiites nor has the due process of law ever received the modicum of attention. No wonder that in the absence of any international deterrance the exodus from Iraq continues.

Mr. Secretary-General, while certain cases of alleged violations of human rights receive much world publicity and attention, there are cases of obvious violations of human rights which go eminently unheeded.

The problem of the refugees has emerged as a new phenomenon in international relations. The exodus of refugees from Iraq is part of this unjust and unhappy development. This brutal behaviour on such a large scale perpetrated by a member of the international community is gradually evolving into a destabilizing factor

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S/14070
English
Annex
Page 2

in the area and as such should not elude the attention of the United Nations. If the Government of Iran, hitherto, has tried to shelter and provide lodgings for these refugees such efforts should not mitigate the inherent responsibilities of the United Nations to do whatever it can to stem this tide.

I expect Your Excellency to look into this matter and advise me on the course of action that you deem to undertake.

(Signed) Sadegh GHOTBZADEH
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Islamic Republic of Iran
