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LETTER DATED 19 JANUARY 1981 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO  
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit the following message from the President of  
the United States:

"I am pleased to inform you that we have reached an agreement to free  
the 52 Americans now held hostage in Iran. We expect they will leave Iran  
shortly on their way home to the United States. I would appreciate it if  
you would inform officially the members of the United Nations Security  
Council, the representatives of Member States of the United Nations and  
the President of the International Court of Justice of this development.

"With the release of our hostages, the United States considers that  
Iran has complied fully with Security Council Resolutions 457 of  
December 4, 1979 and 461 of December 31, 1979 and with the judgment of the  
International Court of Justice of May 24, 1980.

"The United States has greatly appreciated your tireless public and  
private efforts, as well as those of the Security Council and other Member  
States who for the past year have sought means to gain the release of the  
hostages. We are particularly indebted to you, the members of your staff,  
and the national representatives who served on the United Nations Commission  
which travelled to Iran last year in search of a solution to this crisis.

"This long ordeal for the hostages, their families, and the people of  
the United States is now over. The United States Government hopes and  
believes that with the end to this extraordinarily difficult period for the  
international community all of us will be able to consider together how we  
might best ensure that such an occurrence is not repeated so that  
international relations among nations can better develop on a normal and  
constructive basis. My Government pledges itself to that objective.

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"Once again, Mr. Secretary-General, my Government extends its deepest gratitude to you and Member States of the United Nations who have worked and agonized with us over the past year.

Jimmy Carter."

Sincerely,

(Signed) Donald F. McHENRY

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