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LETTER DATED 3 MARCH 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 United States Secretary of State:

"I have reference to the message delivered to you from President Carter on January 19, 1981, regarding the agreement of that date on the release of the 52 American nationals held hostage in Iran.

"That message includes a sentence stating that '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 judgement of the International Court of Justice of May 24, 1980'. I should like to clarify that this sentence referred only to the requirement of release contained in these instruments. It will be understood, therefore, that the United States does not consider that Iran had responded fully to the letter or spirit of other requirements of the foregoing Security Council resolutions or of the judgement of the International Court of Justice. For example, the Government of Iran has not returned to the United States the premises, property, archives and documents of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and of its Consulates in Iran, as ordered by the Court in its judgement.

"Mr. Secretary-General, I should like to extend once again my Government's deepest gratitude to all those who sought to gain the release of our diplomats and other American citizens and to restore the rule of law to its rightful place in the protection of diplomats.

"I should be most appreciative if you would transmit this message to the members of the United Nations Security Council and the representatives of member states of the United Nations. We will be communicating directly with the President of the International Court of Justice.

"Alexander Haig"

(Signed) Jeane J. KIRKPATRICK