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LETTER DATED 1 AUGUST 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Acting on instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a letter dated 31 July 1996 from Mr. Mohamed Saïd Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning Iranian aggressions against Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 31 July 1996 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs
of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I should like to inform you that the Republic of Iraq has been the victim of the following aggressions perpetrated by Iranian armed forces:

1. In the night of 26 to 27 July 1996, a unit of Iranian revolutionary guards estimated at approximately 3,000 armed men, travelling in more than 100 vehicles of various types equipped with heavy weapons and munitions, infiltrated into Iraqi territory in the Governorate of Sulaymaniyah and headed towards the town of Koi Sanjaq.
2. On 28 July 1996, at 6 a.m., Iranian forces occupied Mount Haybat Sultan and roads leading to the town of Koi Sanjaq and engaged in heavy artillery shelling of certain civilian Iraqi areas within the sectors of Koi Sanjaq and Taqtaq. A number of civilians were killed or wounded and there was substantial material damage to civilian property, both public and private, in those sectors.

This blatant and unjustified Iranian aggression constitutes a flagrant violation of the will of the international community as expressed in Security Council resolution 598 (1987) which established a cease-fire between the two countries, and a flagrant breach of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and of the principles of international law.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq, rejecting any justification of this blatant aggression, demands that the Iranian Government should immediately withdraw its forces from Iraqi territory and stop these acts of provocation which flout the principles of good-neighbourliness and are in contradiction with the statements made by the Iranian party, claiming that it wishes to settle the outstanding problems between the two countries, to normalize relations between them and to respect the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq places full international responsibility stemming from this aggression on the Iranian Government, warns it of the consequences of a renewal of such actions and reserves the legitimate right of Iraq to do what it deems appropriate to defend the integrity and sovereignty of its airspace, its territory and its territorial waters, the security of its people and its right to full compensation in accordance with international law for the injury resulting from this blatant aggression.

I should like, through you, to appeal to the Iranian neighbour to stop its acts of aggression, and I hope that the United Nations will shoulder its responsibilities with regard to the implementation of the principles and provisions of its Charter, and that it will oppose the aggression to which one of its Member States is being subjected by another Member State, so as to ensure respect for the sovereignty, security and integrity of all Member States, thereby making it possible to preserve international peace and security in this region and throughout the entire planet.

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I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohamed Saïd AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq
