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LETTER DATED 29 AUGUST 1996 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 27 August 1996 addressed to you by Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning Iranian violations of Iraq's territory.

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

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Letter dated 27 August 1996 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs
of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I should like to refer to my letter of 31 July 1996 concerning attacks by Iranian armed forces on the territory of the Republic of Iraq (S/1996/617, annex) and to inform you that Iran's provocative actions against the security and territorial integrity of Iraq are continuing. The most recent such actions have involved the infiltration of seven Iranian sabotage teams across the Iraq-Iran borders from the areas of Shush, Fakkeh, locations opposite the Iraqi Ali al-Gharbi area, Sumar and Sarbil Zahab in order to engage in espionage and carry out acts of sabotage inside Iraqi territory. In all, more than 20 violations were committed by such teams during the first half of 1996.

In informing you of this fresh provocation, the Government of Iraq stresses the dangerous implications of these actions and the fact that they represent a serious breach of the cease-fire that is in effect between the two countries on the basis of Security Council resolution 598 (1987) and a flagrant violation of Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Accordingly, they also violate the principles of good-neighbourliness and friendly relations between States, the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law.

Iraq affirms that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is pursuing a policy that is contrary to the aforesaid principles and that it lacks the desire to establish security and stability along the two countries' common borders. Iraq again protests strongly against these unwarranted acts of aggression and renews its condemnation of them. It urges the Government of Iran, through you, to desist from such acts, and it calls upon Iran to abide by the Tehran agreement signed by the two countries in 1991. Iraq further holds Iran fully responsible for the consequences of these acts of aggression, and it affirms Iraq's full entitlement to compensation and its legitimate and lawful right to take whatever measures it deems appropriate in order to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity and the security of its people.

Through you, I reiterate my country's call to Iran to respect Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and I express the hope that the United Nations will meet its responsibilities as set forth in its Charter and will prevent any continuation of the intimidation and aggression to which my country is constantly being subjected.

I request you to have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq
