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LETTER DATED 9 SEPTEMBER 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 the text of a letter dated 9 September 1996 addressed to you by Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the threatening letters sent by the United States of America and the United Kingdom to Iraq, employing methods that are contrary to all the rules and usages that characterize civilized relations between States.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex - namely, the letter from the Iraqi Minister for Foreign Affairs and the unofficial letter from the United States and the United Kingdom which is appended to it - circulated as a document of the Security Council.

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

Annex

Letter dated 9 September 1996 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs
of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I should like to inform you that the practices which the United Kingdom and the United States of America are employing in dealing with Iraq have not ceased, but have in fact been resumed with vigour. These practices are no longer limited to acts of military aggression but have now been extended to include the diplomatic usages and instruments commonly employed by States.

On 6 July 1996, the United States Ambassador, Ms. Madeleine Albright, and the United Kingdom Ambassador, Mr. John Weston, tried to meet with the chargé d'affaires of our mission in New York, Minister Plenipotentiary D. Said Moussawi, to discuss the question of the no-fly zones imposed on Iraq. The Iraqi diplomat declined their invitation, since the question did not concern the United Nations in any way, but resulted from a unilateral decision, based on the principle of the use of the most brutal force, which, having been taken by the United Kingdom and the United States, had no claim whatsoever to international legitimacy, had not been authorized by the Security Council and was not based on any resolution of that body.

In the light of the foregoing, the Iraqi chargé d'affaires invited Ms. Albright and Mr. Weston to pursue the bilateral diplomatic channels available in Washington and in London if they wished to contact Iraq on the matter.

Subsequently, our mission in New York received an unofficial note by facsimile transmission, a copy of which is attached herewith, in which Iraq was brazenly ordered not to reinforce its defensive forces on its own territory, not to defend itself, its people or its sovereignty, and not to repair or rebuild the civil or military installations situated in Iraqi territory, which the cowardly American aggressors had destroyed with their long-range cruise missiles.

These methods are not only contrary to all concepts, rules and usages which govern civilized relations between States, but are also evidence of behaviour which cannot be said to be anything but irresponsible.

Through a statement issued by its President, Mr. Saddam Hussein, on 3 September 1996, Iraq stated that the fictitious and despicable lines of demarcation imposed by the American and British colonialists were null and void and that Iraq would take on any aircraft of the American and British aggressors that violated its airspace. The American and British threats do not frighten the Iraqi people, which remains fiercely determined to defend its sovereignty, its independence and its territorial integrity.

I am convinced that the United Nations, in keeping with the purposes and principles of its Charter, will assume its responsibilities by putting a stop to such acts by the United States and the United Kingdom. Moreover, Iraq holds the Governments of those two countries fully accountable in the eyes of

international law for any consequences that their unlawful practices may have; in particular, it reserves the right to take any steps it deems necessary to preserve its sovereignty, its territorial integrity and the security of its people.

I should be grateful if you would 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

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Appendix

September 6, 1996

- Your government has declared that it will not respect the coalition-declared no-fly-zones and has issued orders to its forces to engage any coalition aircraft operating in Iraqi airspace.
- Therefore, the US and UK governments demand that.
 - Iraq not reinforce or introduce new surface-to-air missile systems; including mobile systems, south of the 33 degree latitude;
 - Iraq not redeploy surface-to-air missile systems that are currently south of 33 degrees latitude to new positions south of the 33 degree latitude;
 - Iraq not repair or rebuild surface-to-air missile systems south of the 33 degree latitude which have been damaged or destroyed by coalition forces since 3 September 1996.
- We remind Iraq that any surface-to-air missile that illuminates and/or tracks coalition aircraft with fire control radar will be considered hostile.
- In the event that you fail to comply with the stated demands you will be liable to face military action against the systems concerned.