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THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE
PRINCIPLE OF NON-USE OF FORCE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Letter dated 19 August 1981 from the Permanent Representative of
Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter addressed to you by His Excellency Dr. Sadoon Hammadi, the Foreign Minister of Iraq.

I would be grateful if you would circulate this letter as a document of the General Assembly under items 28, 49 and 116 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Salah Omar AL-ALI
Permanent Representative

* A/36/150.

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ANNEX

Letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs
of Iraq to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that the Iranian naval forces have lately seized a Danish vessel while passing through the Strait of Hormuz and forced it to sail to an Iranian port. The vessel's cargo, which was destined to owners in Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, was confiscated.

The act of seizure committed by Iran constitutes a flagrant violation of the established rules of international law of freedom of navigation through straits used for international navigation, thereby posing a grave danger to international peace and security in general, and the vital interests of the Arab Gulf States in particular.

In the interest of smooth and unimpeded navigation, the international community is called for to stand against this act of the Iranian régime, which is notorious for its disregard of the norms of international law and conduct. Moreover, if peace and security in the region are to prevail, then the Iranian piratical act should not pass unchecked, for if it were to be repeated, counter-measures become justified, as this is the only way left to defend vital interests.

I would be grateful if you would circulate this letter as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Sadoon HAMMADI
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the
Republic of Iraq
