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ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVENESS
OF THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-USE OF FORCE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Letter dated 18 September 1981 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

Upon the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to enclose a communiqué from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran in connexion with the accession of the candidate of Iraq to the presidency of the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

I should be grateful if you would have the attached communiqué distributed as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 4 and 116.

(Signed) Jamal SHEMIRANI
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Communiqué dated 17 September 1981 from the
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran

The accession of the candidate of Iraq to the presidency of the General Assembly of the United Nations constitutes a serious setback for the Organization and the principles upon which it stands.

The Islamic Republic of Iran undertook the effort to bring to the attention of member states of the United Nations the danger of setting the grave precedence of permitting the accession to the presidency of the General Assembly to a state which has violated the principles of non use of force in international relations, and the respect for the territorial integrity of states, and which has demonstrated its total disregard for all other principles that constitute the *raison d'être* of the United Nations, by committing a blatant act of aggression against a member state of the United Nations.

It is one year since Iraq, taking advantage of the post revolutionary preoccupations of the Islamic Republic of Iran, launched a war of aggression which resulted in the occupation of parts of the western and southern provinces of Iran, in blatant violation of the principles of the Charter. In order to offset the fierce and dedicated resistance of the Iranian people the regime of Iraq chose to disregard all human standards in war by concentrating its war effort on the destruction of residential areas in the cities of Khuzistan, Kermanshahan and Ilam, and the massacring of civilians through the intensive and indiscriminate use of long range artillery and surface to surface missiles on innocent people. Such savagery has already resulted in the murder of tens of thousands of civilians and the displacement of more than two million from their homes, and billions of dollars of damage to property. In fact, the number of innocent Moslem Iranians murdered because of Iraqi brutality within the past year is more than the total number of Palestinian civilians murdered by Zionist aggression since 1948; and the number of Iranian refugees from the war zone as a result of deliberate artillery attacks against civilian targets by

the Iraqi aggressors is not much less than the total number of Palestinian refugees that have been driven out of their homes because of zionist aggression. Yet Iraq is presenting the same justification for its invasion of Iran that the zionists presented for their invasion of Egypt, Jordan and Syria in 1967; a justification that was outrightly rejected by Iraq herself at that time.

There is no doubt that the accession of Iraq to the presidency of the General Assembly has undermined the very principles upon which this world body rests. This development is nothing but another demonstration of the fact that the principles of the Charter no more occupy a position of supremacy in the very organization whose *raison d'être* is the implementation of the Charter. However, these circumstances will certainly not shake the determination of the Iranian people to fight its own war of liberation until the last traces of Iraqi aggression are eliminated from Iranian territory.

The Islamic Republic of Iran feels itself duty bound to draw the attention of member states of the United Nations to the grave moral and political implications that the accession of an aggressor state, such as Iraq, to the presidency of the General Assembly are going to have on the future of this Organization, and would like hereby to disassociate herself from any possible repercussions of this development in the future.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Islamic Republic of Iran

17 September 1981
