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LETTER DATED 29 SEPTEMBER 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
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 29 September 1997 from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the fresh Iranian act of armed aggression against Iraq that took place on 29 September 1997.

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

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 29 September 1997 from the Deputy Prime Minister
and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to
the Secretary-General

I should like to inform you that Iran has today committed a fresh act of armed aggression against Iraq. At 7.07 a.m. today, 29 September 1997, eight Iranian warplanes bombed positions inside Iraqi territory in Diyala and Kut governorates. As a normal defensive measure, the alert Iraqi air defence units engaged the hostile aircraft. Our fighter aircraft also intercepted the invading aircraft, and they were forced to return to the Iranian interior.

Iran is exploiting the circumstances created by the unjust embargo imposed on Iraq. Iran and another State are exploiting the no-fly zones being maintained by the United States and those cooperating with it in the north and south of the country in order to encroach upon Iraq's sovereignty, violate its airspace and commit constant armed aggression against its territory.

These two use the same excuses to justify their aggression against Iraq. The maintenance of the no-fly zones in the north and south has come to constitute a constant threat to Iraq's sovereignty and security, not only by the United States and those cooperating with it in maintaining the no-fly zones but also by Iran and others.

I urge you to meet your responsibilities by bringing pressure to bear on the United States and those cooperating with it with a view to bringing an end to the no-fly zones being maintained in northern and southern Iraq, which are incompatible with international law and the Charter of the United Nations. We further urge you to condemn this act of aggression by Iran and to bring pressure to bear on Iran to desist from its hostile practices against Iraq and to respect the principles of good-neighbourliness and of international law.

The recurring aggression against Iraq means that the undertakings given by the United Nations concerning the preservation of Iraq's sovereignty have become merely ink on paper. The United Nations is thus required to honour and implement its undertakings in accordance with the provisions of the relevant Security Council resolutions, failing which it will be regarded as having violated its commitments.

I should like to stress that, despite the circumstances created by the maintenance of the no-fly zones in the north and south of the country, Iraq has every right to use all available means of defence throughout its national territory and in all of its national airspace in order to protect its sovereignty and security from any violation or aggression.

(Signed) Tariq AZIZ
Deputy Prime Minister
and Acting Minister
for Foreign Affairs
