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LETTER DATED 16 DECEMBER 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF SAUDI ARABIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a statement issued on the morning of 16 December 1997 by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This statement concerns the measures to be taken to transport pilgrims from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the Republic of Iraq this year, A.H. 1418, and in the years to come, as well as the schedule of flights to be arranged by a third party for the transport of pilgrims from those two countries. I shall transmit that schedule at a later date.

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

(Signed) Gaafar M. ALLAGANY
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary

Annex

Statement

As the pilgrimage season approaches, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, wishing to facilitate the transport of pilgrims from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Iraq this year, A.H. 1418, and in the years to come, plans to take the necessary measures to ensure that the pilgrims are able to undertake the pilgrimage in conditions of full safety and security. A schedule of flights will be arranged for the transport of Libyan and Iraqi pilgrims by a third party, within the quotas set for those two countries.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia would like to point out that, within the quotas for the various countries concerned, it cannot prevent anyone wishing to make the pilgrimage or the Umra from visiting the holy places. On the contrary, it is incumbent on Saudi Arabia to facilitate their visit in conditions of safety, security and stability. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia therefore hopes that the authorities implementing Security Council resolution 748 (1992) concerning the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, in particular paragraph 4 (a), and resolutions 661 (1990) and 670 (1990) concerning Iraq will approve the measures to be adopted and will not take any action to impede them.
