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LETTER DATED 1 OCTOBER 1980 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF
THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of a message in reply to your letter of 22 September 1980 from H.E. Mr. Abolhassan Bani-Sadr, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

It would be appreciated if the enclosed text could be circulated as a document of the Security Council of the United Nations.

(Signed) Jamal SHEMIRANI
Chargé d'Affaires

Annex

Letter from the President of Iran addressed to the Secretary-General

I have received your letter of 22 September 1980 and the Security Council resolution 479 (1980) adopted on 28 September 1980. While I wish to express to you our appreciation for your initiatives which derive from your personal convictions and responsibilities, I would like to clarify the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning the present dispute with the Republic of Iraq.

From the very beginning of our revolutionary victory on 11 February 1978, the Government of Iraq has been violating the term of the Algiers Agreement of 1975, by sending Iraqi agents and armed units across our western and south-western borders into the provinces of Khuzestan and Kurdistan for the purposes of committing acts of sabotage and assisting counter-revolutionary groups. Furthermore, during the past 20 months Iraq has been a haven for the remnants of the previous régime and other reactionary and criminal elements involved in propagandistic and terrorist activities against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The expulsion of more than 40,000 Iraqi of Iranian origin or Shiite persuasion from Iraq and their abandonment on our soil last April and March was another indication of Iraqi hostility towards the Islamic Republic of Iran. This violation of human rights was reported to your office but unfortunately no condemnation of this massive inhumanity was issued by any organ of the United Nations.

For months prior to the 22 September attack, there were indications that Iraq was preparing to escalate its hostile acts against Iran. The unusual movements of Iraqi troops along our common borders during the past month testifies to the premeditated character of the Iraqi design.

In response to the above developments we made no move to provoke Iraq or show any desire to confront her militarily. We could not believe that the Iraqi authorities intended to wage an all-out war of aggression. Our non-aggressive posture can be demonstrated by the fact that we were unprepared to contain or detect the Iraqi attacks against our air bases and airports on 22 September 1980. But, once the Iraqi intention and design became actualized, we retaliated with necessary force. By waging a war of aggression inside our territory and striking against our vital interests, the Iraqi Government left us no choice but that of self-defence in order to secure our sovereignty and protect our interest.

The Security Council resolution has been adopted at a time when the Government of Iraq has waged a war of aggression in clear violation of the Charter of the United Nations and all other norms of international behaviour. It is evident that the Iraqi claims are nothing but baseless propaganda to misguide international public opinion.

The character and sequence of the Iraqi armed aggression, in particular, the aerial attacks on industrial installations and populated areas, is a vivid example

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of the true nature and ambitions of the Iraqi authorities, who, after such grave violations of all legal and moral standards, have now deceptively used the peaceful initiative of the United Nations.

Based on the facts and considerations mentioned herein, while the Iraqi war of aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran is continuing, the proposals suggested in your letter and contained in the Security Council resolution cannot be considered by our Government. So long as Iraq is in violation of our territorial sovereignty and Iraqi agents are involved in acts of aggression and sabotage within our boundaries, we see no use in any discussion, directly or indirectly, concerning the conflict between the two countries.

Abolhassan BANI-SADR
President of the
Islamic Republic of Iran
