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DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF GOOD
NEIGHBOURLINESS BETWEEN STATES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-seventh year

Letter dated 16 February 1982 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the official response of the Government of the Republic of Iraq to the allegations contained in the note of the Permanent Mission of Iran circulated as a document of the General Assembly and the Security Council on 18 December 1981 (A/36/842-S/14802).

I would like this letter and the attached note to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 58 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Zuhair I. MOHAMMED
Chargé d'Affaires

* A/37/50.

ANNEX

The authorities of the racist régime in Iran, ever since its establishment some three years ago, have habitually used the way of sophistry and deception, altering and distorting the facts in an endeavour to cover up their crimes and divert attention from their inhumane practices with respect to the Iranian peoples on whom these authorities are imposed and the various kinds of torture, slaughter, physical liquidations and collective executions inflicted on the opposition and the non-Persian nationalities in Iran. These have extended even to women and children. It has become absolutely clear to world public opinion that these efforts at deception have all ended in failure. The international community as a whole has, in many international forums, vehemently condemned those grave and continual crimes which this régime has carried out and is continuing to carry out and which conflict with humane principles and constitute collective and grave violations of human rights.

The note verbale of the Permanent Mission of the Iranian régime in New York addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations falls within the general context of the desperate attempts in which this régime persists in order to deceive and to cover up and divert attention from the crimes which it commits. It suffices to mention in this regard the escalation of the wave of strong anger and condemnation in international circles against this régime because of its recent killing of Iraqi prisoners and its co-operation with the Syrian puppet régime in the blowing up of the premises of the Iraqi Embassy in Beirut, in disdain of all international agreements and in violation of all human values and customs.

The allegations and sophistries set forth under the three heads of the note verbale of the Iranian Permanent Mission again fell within the same context of the Iranian régime's ongoing course of deception. In reality, the note arouses scorn rather than meriting a reply. The desperate attempt of the Iranian régime to divert attention from its numerous crimes, and in particular the crime of the killing of Iraq prisoners, which is established by conclusive proofs, is futile both within and outside Iran. World public opinion is now convinced that Iraq, which adheres to its lofty humane principles, was forced to respond to the Iranian aggression waged against it by the racist rulers of Iran. It fought and is fighting and will continue to fight in the spirit of humanity, adhering to the lofty ethics, humane values and high ideals which it has obtained from the civilization and eternal heritage of its Arab nation and which it applies within the framework of the principles of its great party, the Arab Socialist Baath Party. The international community has learned, from the world information media on many occasions, the heroic epics of Iraq's army, ranking with the most magnificent images of Arab humanity, in its interaction with the members of the Iranian Army on the battlefields, prisoners and slain alike.

The lying allegations in the note verbale of the Permanent Mission of the Iranian régime that, on 9, 10 and 11 December 1981, Iraqi forces conducted rocket attacks against civilian centres in Iran do not merit an answer. If we are to comment on them, it suffices to mention the military reports issued daily by the General Command of the Iraqi Armed Forces and taken up by local and world

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information media. It is perhaps appropriate to mention the paragraphs in the reports for the three days in question which deal with the activities of our Air Force. They expose the balances of the Iranian allegation, as follows:

Paragraph (h) of report No. 547, issued on 9 December 1981, reads:

"The aircraft of our heroic Air Force today attacked enemy military positions, centres and targets in the central and southern sectors of the field of operations and inflicted on them overwhelming losses in lives and matériel. All our aircraft returned safely to their bases."

Paragraph (i) of report No. 548, issued on 10 December 1981, reads:

"Our bold eagles continued their daring and successful raids on enemy targets and centres in the southern sector of the field of operations, inflicting on them overwhelming losses in matériel and lives. All our aircraft returned safely to their bases."

Paragraph (h) of report No. 549, issued on 11 December 1981, reads:

"During the day, our aircraft conducted raids on enemy positions and centres in the central and southern sectors of the field of operations and made direct and effective strikes on them. Fires and explosions were seen there. All our aircraft returned safely to their bases."

We should also mention in this context that the forces of the Iranian enemy are persisting daily in bombing civilian centres and economic installations in the city of Basrah with aircraft and heavy artillery. All the foreign diplomatic missions accredited to Baghdad are aware of this.

Iraq is currently embarked on a just war for the restoration of its usurped national rights to land and water against the Iranian régime, which is flouting all international laws and agreements and engaging in various kinds of aggression and racism and everything which violates the fundamental principles of human rights.

In this connexion, we should briefly point out the following facts:

1. Iran has violated the right, the national sovereignty and the territorial integrity of the Iraqi people by occupying a part of its lands and seizing the Shatt al-Arab, holding the 1975 Algiers agreement null and void.
2. Iran launched an armed attack on Iraqi villages and towns by land and by sea on 4 September 1980, which gave Iraq the full right to respond, in order to protect the safety and security of its citizens and restore their rights. It did so on 22 September 1980, after exhausting all peaceful and diplomatic channels for negotiation with Iran to no avail.

This was made clear in the letter of the President of the Republic, Mr. Saddam Hussein, to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, which was meeting at that time. It reads:

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"We in Iraq are suffering today from a similar problem. We are forced to embark on a vicious war with a neighbouring State, relations with which we had hoped would be based on mutual respect and non-encroachment on rights. Once again, we find the United States of America supporting this State which has been launching attacks on our land and our people for some two years, so that we have been forced to defend our rights and the security and safety of our citizens."*

3. Events have shown that the Iranian régime has practised and is practising racism against the Arab people and the other non-Persian peoples in Iran.

4. It has been established also that the Iranian régime has intervened on many occasions in the internal affairs of Iraq and has followed, since its assumption of power, a conspiratorial policy against Iraq and its integrity.

5. Inspired by its lofty feeling of responsibility, Iraq has adhered to self-control and observance of the principles of good neighbourliness. Events have demonstrated the absence of any good intention on the part of the Iranian régime vis-à-vis Iraq. While it has been established that it harbours expansionist intentions, arising from the racist policy which it inherited from the régime of the late Shah, and which are reflected in its disregard of Iraq's rights to its land and water, the ambitions of this expansionist régime to consecrate the occupation of these Iraqi lands have also become clear. World public opinion is fully aware of the extent of the efforts made by Iraq to resolve the problems pending between it and Iran by peaceful and diplomatic means. However, these efforts have been met only with disregard and with aggressive deeds and military attacks on Iraqi border towns. The international community has many times witnessed Iraq's peaceful initiatives with a view to inviting Iran to direct bilateral negotiations or negotiations through a third party. Iraq still adheres to these peaceful principles. The President of the Republic, Mr. Saddam Hussein, before the adoption of Security Council resolution 479 (1980) on 28 September 1980, announced Iraq's readiness for a cease-fire, provided that it was observed by Iran. The Iranian régime rejected the resolution of the Security Council and all international initiatives, while Iraq, from a position of victory and strength, announced its acceptance of all those initiatives, which reveals clearly the aggressive intentions harboured by the Iranian régime and its disregard of its responsibility towards the Iranian peoples and the international community.

We should mention in this context the praiseworthy efforts and the repeated admirable initiatives undertaken by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and his personal representative, Mr. Palme, and Iraq's immediate response to all those initiatives, while the Iranian régime has met them with rejection and obduracy.

* Translator's note. Translation from the Arabic document not available.