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PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES
BETWEEN STATES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-seventh year

Letter dated 3 September 1982 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you of the following:

1. No sooner had the Security Council adopted resolution 514 (1982) on the Iraqi-Iranian conflict than Iran launched a large-scale act of aggression against Iraqi territory in the area east of Basra, at 2210 hours (local time) on the night of 13 July 1982. The Iranian armed forces participating in this act of aggression comprised three divisions, two armoured and the other mechanized, in addition to 15,000 armed volunteers and members of Khomeini's guard. After the invading Iranian forces had effected a break-through in the positions of the defending Iraqi forces over a front 10 kilometres wide by 10 kilometres deep, the Iraqi forces managed to absorb the attack and, at 0945 hours (local time) on 14 July, began a counter-attack and thereby succeeded, at 1500 hours (local time), in clearing Iraqi territory of the Iranian aggressors.

2. At 2300 hours (local time) on the night of 16/17 July, Iran launched its second act of aggression against Iraqi territory in the same area, and the Iranian armed forces advanced the remainder of the two armoured divisions and the mechanized division used in the first attack and an infantry division, in

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addition to approximately 12,000 volunteers and members of Khomeini's guard. At 0530 hours (local time) on 17 July, the Iraqi armed forces launched a counter-attack against the invading Iranian forces, after halting their advance and absorbing their attack. After a battle which lasted for several hours, the Iraqi forces managed to destroy the invading forces and drive them across the frontier.

3. At 2210 hours (local time) on the night of 21/22 July, Iran committed a third act of aggression against Iraqi territory and advanced military forces consisting of armoured, mechanized and infantry formations and approximately 12,000 volunteers and members of Khomeini's guard in the area east of Basra. At first, they managed to effect a break-through in the defence positions of the Iraqi armed forces over a small distance. After the defending Iraqi forces had managed to halt the break-through and contain the Iranian attack, they launched, at 0600 hours (local time) on 22 July, a counter-attack whereby they managed to surround the Iranian aggressor forces, destroy most of their units and drive the rest across the frontier. This battle lasted until 1500 hours (local time) on the same day.

4. At 2330 hours (local time) on the night of 23/24 July, Iran committed its fourth act of aggression in the area east of Basra, and the Iranian armed forces launched an attack in which two divisions, one mechanized and the other infantry, and approximately 3,000 volunteers and members of Khomeini's guard took part. The defending Iraqi forces managed to contain and thwart the attack. The battle lasted until 0730 hours (local time) on 24 July, when the Iranian aggressor forces were forced to withdraw.

5. At 2205 hours (local time) on the night of 28/29 July, the Iranian armed forces launched their fifth act of aggression against Iraqi territory in the area east of Basra and began a large-scale attack, in which an infantry division, armoured and mechanized battle corps and approximately 15,000 to 20,000 volunteers and members of Khomeini's guard took part. The Iranian aggressor forces managed to effect a break-through in the Iraqi defence positions over a front four kilometres wide and seven kilometres deep. After fierce fighting, which took a heavy toll, the defending Iraqi armed forces managed to halt the Iranian attack and to isolate and surround the Iranian aggressor forces. At 0600 hours (local time) on 29 July, the defending Iraqi forces launched a counter-attack, in order to destroy the invading Iranian units. The battle lasted until 0530 hours (local time) on 30 July. The defending Iraqi forces managed to destroy most of the Iranian aggressor forces and to drive the rest across the frontier.

Iran's losses of lives and matériel in the course of the five above-mentioned acts of aggression were as follows:

- (a) 28,100 dead and large numbers of wounded and prisoners;
- (b) Destruction of 300 tanks and capture of 65 tanks in working order;

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- (c) Destruction of 107 armoured personnel carriers and capture of 26 carriers in working order;
- (d) Destruction of 170 miscellaneous vehicles;
- (e) Destruction of 54 artillery pieces of various calibre and capture of eight artillery pieces in working order;
- (f) Destruction of 53 mechanical shovels;
- (g) Destruction of 14 rocket bases;
- (h) Shooting down of four fighter aircraft and one helicopter;
- (i) Capture of large quantities of light and medium-weight weapons, ammunition and matériel in good condition.

I would like, on this occasion, to draw attention to the fact that, since Iran began its aggression against Iraq, on 4 September 1980, Iraq's position has been, and still is, in favour of the path of negotiations and peaceful settlement of the conflict. Iraq has confirmed this position through its acceptance of Security Council resolutions 479 (1980) and 514 (1982), its sincere co-operation with all the international efforts made towards the termination of the state of armed conflict imposed by Iran and its announcement of many peace initiatives, the first of these a few days after the commencement of the armed conflict. If this peaceful course, which has been set forth in detail in international forums on numerous occasions, in particular, in the Security Council and the General Assembly, has not been followed, the reason lies in the fact that the Iranian régime is bent on territorial expansion at the expense of Iraq by armed aggression, in violation of Iran's obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

The truth of what Iraq has many times stated in this regard is confirmed by the statements of Iranian officials in which they have declared their resolve to occupy Iraq and which have accompanied Iranian aggression, including the five armed attacks mentioned above.

It should be recalled that it was no accident that Iran's attempt to breach Iraqi frontiers and occupy Iraq occurred at the same time as the Zionist entity's escalation of its siege and bombardment of Beirut, because the weapons are the same, co-operation exists between the two parties, Zionist pleasure at the continuing exhaustion of Iraq is openly expressed and Zionist gratification at its preoccupation with the war is not concealed by any Zionist official. There is no more cogent proof of that than Khomeini's directive to concentrate on Iraq initially, because it is the first goal and not the liberation of Jerusalem or Palestine as asserted by Iranian officials formerly.

The persistence of the Iranian régime in the Iranian policy of war, expansion and rejection of international peace efforts constitutes a serious threat to the security and stability of the region, which is one of the most sensitive regions in

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the world. That also conflicts blatantly with the provisions of the United Nations Charter and international law, to which Iraq will remain faithful in defence of its legitimate rights.

I request that you circulate this letter as a document of the General Assembly, under item 122 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Zuhair Ibrahim MOHAMMAD
Deputy Permanent Representative
