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LETTER DATED 21 JANUARY 1988 FROM THE ACTING PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE
UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of a note verbale dated 6 January 1988 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran addressed to the French Interest Section of the Italian Embassy in Tehran.

It would be highly appreciated if this letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad Ja'afar MAHALLATI
Director-General of International Affairs
and Acting Permanent Representative

Annex

Note verbale dated 6 January 1988 from the Ministry for Foreign
Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran addressed to the French
Interest Section of the Italian Embassy in Tehran

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran presents its compliments to the Embassy of Italy (the French Interest Section) in Tehran, and has the honour to inform that according to information provided by pertinent officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

1. On 19 November 1987, at 0928 hours, a French ship at the position of 2445 N and 5731 E warned the pilot of an Iranian sea-patrol aircraft not to fly closer to the ship.
2. On 20 November 1987, at 1137 hours, a French ship at the position of 2420 N and 5842 E warned the pilot of an Iranian sea-patrol aircraft not to fly closer to the ship.
3. On 23 November 1987, at 1556 hours, a French aircraft carrier at the position of 2351 N and 5938 E warned the pilot of an Iranian sea-patrol aircraft at the position of 2400 N and 5938 E not to fly closer to the carrier.
4. On 26 November 1987, at 0900 hours, a French ship at the position of 2443 N and 5801 E warned the pilot of an Iranian sea-patrol aircraft at the position of 2450 N and 5801 E not to fly closer to the ship.

It is evident that the right of overflight in international waters for all States is one of the universally recognized rights in international law. French patrol aircraft have chased and intercepted Iranian patrol aircraft preventing their free passage over international waters of the Persian Gulf in violation of all accepted norms of international law. Therefore, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while protesting these actions, strongly demands a halt to such activities.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of Italy (the French Interest Section) the assurances of its highest consideration.

Hoping for the victory of the oppressed over oppressors.

