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CONSEQUENCES OF THE PROLONGATION OF THE
ARMED CONFLICT BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-second year

Letter dated 30 January 1987 from the Permanent Representative of
the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the statement by President Ronald Reagan, issued on 23 January 1987 in Washington, D.C. on the subject of the conflict between Iran and Iraq (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the text of this letter and of its annex to be circulated as a document of the forty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 45, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vernon A. WALTERS

ANNEX

Statement on the Gulf War by the President of the United States
of America, issued on 23 January 1987 in Washington, D.C.

The current Iranian assault on Iraqi forces near Basra is a reminder of the terrible suffering and loss which the Iran-Iraq war has brought to the peoples of the Gulf region. The continuation of this bloody struggle remains a subject of deep concern to the United States and to the entire world. It is a war that threatens not only American strategic interests, but also the stability and security of our friends in the region.

As I have emphasized many times, we are determined to help bring the war to the promptest possible negotiated end, without victor or vanquished, leaving intact the sovereignty and territorial integrity of both Iran and Iraq. We cannot but condemn Iranian seizure and occupation of Iraqi territory, and we again call upon the Government of Iran to join the Government of Iraq in seeking a rapid negotiated solution to the conflict.

We share the concern of our friends in the Gulf region that the war could spill over and threaten their security. We would regard any such expansion of the war as a major threat to our own interests, as well as to those of our friends in the region. We remain determined to ensure the free flow of oil through the Strait of Hormuz. We also remain strongly committed to supporting the individual and collective self-defence of our friends in the Gulf, with whom we have deep and long-standing ties.
