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LETTER DATED 16 MAY 1988 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE  
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED  
NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the letter of His Excellency Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, dated 16 May 1988, addressed to Your Excellency.

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

(Signed) Mahmoud Sadat MADARSHAHI  
Ambassador  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Letter dated 16 May 1988 from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of  
the Islamic Republic of Iran addressed to the Secretary-General

The aggressor régime of Iraq, in continuation of its policy of aggression against the sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the widening of the scope of the war, on Saturday, 14 May 1988, at 12:54 hours, attacked several oil tankers in the vicinity of the Lark oil terminal in the Persian Gulf, causing extensive damage to the said tankers. For a great number of years, the Iraqi régime has attempted, by its attacks against commercial shipping in the Persian Gulf, to widen the scope of a war initiated by itself and thus draw others into the conflict. The Islamic Republic of Iran has, in the past few years, kept you informed of the acts of aggression committed by Iraq in the Persian Gulf, and has warned that these provocations will not only undermine security in this crucial waterway but also increase the likelihood of the expansion of the scope of the conflict to affect other countries in the region, a goal pursued by Iraq and its regional and other supporters.

What has added a new dimension to the recent Iraqi crime in the Persian Gulf is that the Iraqi aerial attack on 14 May 1988 took place with the complete co-operation of the American forces stationed in the region. During this episode, the American navy, by jamming the communications network of the Iranian warships and by creating a safe flight corridor for Iraqi aircraft over American warships, actually placed its facilities at the disposal of the Iraqi régime to endanger the security of the Persian Gulf. Meanwhile, the stationing of an American warship at the mouth of the Hormuz Straits during the entire Iraqi operation and the taking of photographs by American aircraft of the scene following the attack constitute further proof of the American co-operation with Iraq in this act of aggression.

The latest American action once again proves the absence of impartiality on the part of the United States despite the claims of its leaders to the contrary. The Islamic Republic of Iran declares that the co-operation of the United States of America in the attack by Iraq against commercial shipping in the Persian Gulf is an indisputable and flagrant act of aggression against the sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran and further exacerbates tension in this strategic area.

As it has repeatedly declared, the Islamic Republic of Iran reserves its right to react to such attacks and will certainly not leave such crimes without response. It is evident that the responsibility for the consequences of tension and the exacerbation of the conflict will lie with the régime of Iraq and its supporters.

Ali Akbar VELAYATI  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
The Islamic Republic of Iran

