



Security Council

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IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that on 3 June 1988 Radio Tehran broadcast the speech made during the Friday prayer by Hashemi Rafsanjani, President of the Revolutionary Council of Iran, in which the following was said about Iran's attitude towards the Security Council:

"We told them: if you are sincere in your wish to restore peace to the region, you can accomplish this by declaring Iraq the aggressor in the Security Council and by establishing a tribunal and judicial organ for determining the penalty applicable to the aggressor, which has committed so many crimes against the peoples of the two countries. This is what we propose if the Security Council is sincere in what it says. But we have little confidence in its members and give little credence to their words, since past experience, the experience of actual events, and the unfavourable intentions which the world Powers harbour towards us demonstrate a lack of sincerity in this matter. Nevertheless, we authorized the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to initiate steps in this direction. But if, on this account, we were to neglect the serious tasks of the war, we would be deprived of the prerogative of preserving control over our affairs and retaining other advantages we possess. We must therefore be present on the battlefield and the armed forces must remain alert, for they are aware that no one else in the world is concerned about our rights and that we have no choice but to seize those rights by force."

These statements reaffirm once again Iran's official position, which is to reject the peace called for by Security Council resolution 598 (1987). This position was recently affirmed by Khomeini in the statements to which I referred in the letter which I sent to you on 31 May 1988. Khomeini is the only Iranian authority who has the constitutional powers to declare war or arrange peace. He thus again declared what Iraq has repeated many times, namely, that the statements by Iranian diplomats are calculated to mislead and deceive public opinion and to sow confusion by concealing the real Iranian position, which is to reject the above-mentioned resolution.

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My Government hopes that the Member countries, especially the members of the Security Council, will draw the appropriate conclusions from the Iranian statement which I have reported to you, and that from now on they will not listen to the reasons offered to try to justify the Council's reluctance when it is a question of imposing sanctions against Iran, since the refusal to carry out Security Council resolution 598 (1987), which is of a binding nature, has been confirmed.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ismat KITTANI
Permanent Representative

