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LETTER DATED 26 DECEMBER 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you
herewith a letter dated 24 December 1999 addressed to you by Mr. Mohammed Said
Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, giving details
of a fresh Turkish incursion into northern Iraq that began on 30 November 1999,
coinciding with the hostile military actions being perpetrated against Iraq on a
daily basis by the United States of America and the United Kingdom, and calling
upon the United Nations to meet its responsibilities as laid down in the Charter
and halt the intimidation and aggression to which Iraq is being subjected.

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

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

<u>Annex</u>

<u>Letter dated 24 December 1999 from the Minister for Foreign
Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General</u>

Further to the letter dated 7 December 1999 addressed to you by the Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq (S/1999/1231, annex), I should like to call your attention to the fact that on 30 November 1999 units of the Turkish armed forces consisting of 45 transporters carrying 1,000 Turkish troops entered Iraqi territory from the Dashtan region and took up positions in the Kani Masi sector. At the same time, Turkish armed forces backed by tanks and heavy artillery and supported by helicopters entered the Jabal Karah and other areas in order to carry out acts of military aggression in the territory of northern Iraq. Furthermore, on 3 December 1999 Turkey massed additional military forces in the Turkish area of Çukurca opposite the Kani Masi region on the pretext of pursuing armed Kurdish groups. This incursion caused serious losses in terms of life and property to Iraqi Kurdish citizens in the region.

This act of aggression by Turkey is the latest in a series of recurring attacks by its forces against Iraq's territory, and it coincides with the hostile military actions being perpetrated against the country on a daily basis by the United States of America and the United Kingdom.

The ongoing series of hostile operations and the flagrant violations of Iraq's territory and airspace that are being committed by the Turkish armed forces only confirm Iraq's repeated warnings against the consequences of the duplicitous policy being pursued by Turkey vis-à-vis the anomalous situation in northern Iraq and against its participation in perpetuating that situation for the implementation of the United States and British scheme to use its territory as a base from which to impose the no-flight zones in northern and southern Iraq and prevent the restoration of legitimate authority there.

In condemning the renewed Turkish aggression, the Government of Iraq calls upon the Turkish Government to withdraw its invading forces from Iraqi territory. It reserves in full its right to determine a time and a place to respond to this bellicose act, and it affirms the right of the Republic of Iraq, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, to ensure that Turkey bears full international responsibility for the consequences of its recurring acts of aggression, its violations of Iraq's sovereignty and its exposure of Iraq's security and territorial integrity to the gravest risks.

As I express the hope that the United Nations will fulfil its responsibilities as stipulated in the Charter and will halt the constant intimidation and aggression to which my country is being subjected, I ask you to do your utmost to urge the Turkish Government to comply with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law by withdrawing its armed forces from Iraq's territory forthwith.

(<u>Signed</u>) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF