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LETTER DATED 24 JUNE 1988 FROM THE ACTING PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO  
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to inform you that on 3 May 1988, the Chargé d'affaires of the Embassy of Switzerland (United States Interest Section) in Tehran was summoned to the Foreign Ministry and a note of protest regarding the violations of the airspace of the Islamic Republic of Iran by American planes was submitted to him. An unofficial translation of the note of protest is herewith attached.

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

(Signed) Mohammad Ja'afar MAHALLATI  
Ambassador  
Acting Permanent Representative

Annex

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran presents its compliments to the Embassy of Switzerland (Interest Section of the United States) in Tehran and informs that according to information received from relevant authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

(1) At 0910 hours of 30 April 1988, an American airplane violated the airspace of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Provinces of Bushehr and Hormozgan. The plane engaged in reconnaissance operation and photography.

(2) At 0943 hours of 30 April 1988, the airspace of Bandar Abbas was violated and subsequently the sound barrier was broken.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran strongly protest the violations of Iranian airspace by American airplanes and it condemns such acts which are carried out in violation of the principles of international law. These violations by American airplanes constitute the explicit breach of sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Government of the United States is responsible for the consequences of such unlawful acts.

While emphasizing its legitimate right to self-defence and to respond to such violations, the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran is of the view that such American acts have caused the escalation of tension in the region and further endangers the peace and security in this sensitive area.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran while reserving its right to self-defence, herewith demands an explanation by the authorities of the United States vis-à-vis these flagrant violations.

The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran avails itself of this opportunity to assure the Embassy of Switzerland in Tehran of its high consideration.

Hoping for the victory of the oppressed over the oppressors.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of  
the Islamic Republic of Iran

Embassy of Switzerland -  
Interest Section of the United States  
in Tehran, Iran

