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LETTER DATED 19 JULY 1988 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 the text of a statement made on 19 July 1988 by Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq.

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

(Signed) Ismat KITTANI
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Statement made on 19 July 1988 by the Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq

"The Iranian Government yesterday notified the Secretariat of the United Nations that it officially accepted Security Council resolution 598 (1987) of 20 July 1987, after a whole year had passed during which it had rejected the resolution, which Iraq had welcomed immediately upon its adoption.

"Iraq approaches this new Iranian position in a lofty spirit of responsibility towards the cause of peace, especially since it came one day after the address delivered by President Saddam Hussein on 17 July, in which he called upon Iran to draw the correct conclusions from the situation, following the defeat of its expansionist military programme at the hands of our victorious armed forces and to resort to the path of peace, following eight years of persistence and obduracy.

"However, while we approach this step with open minds, we must vehemently draw attention to the statement issued by the General Command of the Iranian Armed Forces only yesterday. This statement is full of utterances which affirm the resolve of the Iranian régime to mobilize military capabilities for the purpose of continuing the aggression and realizing the wretched traditional slogans of the Iranian régime, which were the cause of the kindling of the fire of war, its continuation for eight years and the threat to peace and stability in the region.

"Accordingly, it is incumbent on the international community, and in its forefront the Security Council and the Secretariat of the United Nations, to be alert to this duality in the Iranian position and to stress forcefully the need for clarity in the Iranian position and the necessity of Iran's declaring its resolve to implement the resolution according to the sequence of its operative paragraphs and in good will, to the exclusion of the distorted interpretations which it has reiterated in the past and to the exclusion of the absurd slogans and claims which it has repeated when it has sought to engage in boastful blackmail with its empty force.

"Being wary of the intentions of the Iranian régime, which we know from many years' experience, and of the possibility that its recent decision may be a tactical one whereby it seeks to regain time, or trickery with the aim of taking us by surprise with hostile acts, or preparation for further aggression, Iraq reserves its full right to take such measures as are appropriate to such possibilities. At the present time, until we have become convinced of the Iranian régime's intentions to achieve a comprehensive and lasting peace and until it takes practical and tangible steps in that direction, in accordance with a clearly agreed programme, the logical course is based on the assumption that the war still goes on."

Mr. Tariq Aziz then proceeded to state:

"Iraq's position on peace is fully known and firm in its course. On 17 July 1988, President Saddam Hussein set forth clearly the scientific principles and steps that must be adopted on the path to a comprehensive and lasting peace."

Mr. Tariq Aziz warned emphatically that "Iraq, which has confronted Iranian manoeuvres since the adoption of the resolution on 20 July 1987 with all determination, will not permit any manoeuvre in this field".

He stated also:

"Iraq will not have any truck with any partial measures that do not lead surely and within a clear, sound and agreed plan, to a comprehensive and lasting peace. This position of Iraq is not new. It affirmed it throughout the eight years of the conflict, both before the adoption of resolution 598 (1987) and after. It affirmed it in the communications in which it engaged during the last month with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the members of the Security Council."

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs stated:

"Approaching resolution 598 (1987) in good will and in accordance with the sequence of its operative paragraphs is the serious way to achieve the comprehensive and lasting peace which must, in order to have its reality confirmed, be crowned with a lasting peace accord. Any trifling with these concepts and with the sequence of the paragraphs of the resolution will not ensure the achievement of this goal."

