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LETTER DATED 3 JULY 1988 FROM THE ACTING PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of a letter by His Excellency Dr. Ali-Akbar Velayati, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran 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) Mohammad Ja'afar MAHALLATI
Ambassador
Acting Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic
of Iran addressed to the Secretary-General

You have been informed that today, Sunday 3 July 1988, an Iran Air passenger aircraft was the target of missile attacks of the American naval forces stationed in the Persian Gulf. The Air Bus jet - a civilian aircraft of the Islamic Republic of Iran with 290 passengers - was flying on a scheduled flight from Bandar Abbas to Dubai in the routine corridor used by civilian airliners. As a result, the said civilian airliner disintegrated over the Persian Gulf waters causing the martyrdom of all passengers including 66 children and crew members of the aircraft.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has continuously kept you and other pertinent international authorities informed of the dangers of the provocative, illegitimate and expansionist American presence in the Persian Gulf and repeated acts of aggression by the United States against the sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran. On numerous occasions we warned the international community of the grave and irreversible consequences of such provocative and aggressive policies. Regrettably, the inaction and indifference of international bodies, and particularly the United Nations, and the continued provocative presence of American naval forces in the Persian Gulf finally ended in the American missile attack against the civilian airliner of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the massacre of its innocent passengers.

This undoubtedly premeditated act of aggression by the United States against the civilian airliner of the Islamic Republic of Iran is in clear violation of all international rules and principles, particularly Articles 1 and 2 of the 1944 Chicago Convention, and seriously threatens civilian aviation in the region. The Government of the United States, with this act of cold blooded murder, once again proved that despite its excuse of maintaining freedom of navigation in the Persian Gulf, it seeks to exacerbate and prolong tension in the region. In pursuing this policy, and in total disregard to international legal and humanitarian principles, the United States has no shame in even targeting civilian airliners and massacring its passengers in cold blood.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, while informing Your Excellency of this tragedy, expects the United Nations, particularly the Secretary-General and the Security Council, to condemn this barbaric massacre of innocent civilian passengers, and take immediate measures to prevent further occurrence of such carnage. This is only possible through compelling the United States to remove its expansionist naval forces from the Persian Gulf. Furthermore, the Secretary-General should immediately mobilize pertinent international bodies, and conduct an on-sight investigation on the extent of this latest American atrocity. Mere verbal expressions of regret falls much short of what the circumstances require.

It is evident, that the silence of the United Nations in the face of this carnage and its ignorance of the legitimate demands of the Islamic Republic of Iran will have irreversible and grave consequences in the region for which only the United States and the United Nations will be held accountable.

Ali-Akbar VELAYATI
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Islamic Republic of Iran

