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LETTER DATED 20 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 a letter dated 20 July 1988 from 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 present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ismat KITTANI
Permanent Representative

Annex

**Letter dated 20 July 1988 from the Deputy Prime Minister
and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to
the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to point out that current developments in the situation following Iran's communication to the United Nations of its agreement to Security Council resolution 598 (1987) require a transition from the stage of generalities to that of practical steps whereby it may be ascertained what is merely tactical and what is serious in the Iranian position and what involves an inclination for piecemeal or adventitious approaches rather than the achievement of comprehensive and durable solutions. Proceeding from our deeply felt sense of responsibility for the achievement of a comprehensive and durable peace in the shortest possible time, we propose to you and to Iran the following practical steps:

1. Authorized representatives of Iraq and Iran should meet at United Nations Headquarters, and subsequently in Baghdad and Tehran, under your sponsorship or that of your authorized representative, in order to enter into formal and direct discussions on procedures for the application of Security Council resolution 598 (1987) in accordance with the sequence of its operative paragraphs and in conformity with its stipulations. In the event that differences in viewpoint thereon should arise, appeal will naturally be made to the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, to international law and to the 1949 Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War. We urge that the meeting be held as quickly as possible. Our proposal that a meeting should be held in Baghdad or Tehran in addition to the meeting at United Nations Headquarters is intended to create a suitable atmosphere for the conclusion of an agreement on a comprehensive and durable peace between the two countries.
2. In view of the importance of the matter of the Shatt al-Arab, which we have constantly stressed in our correspondence, in our discussions with you and with members of the Security Council and in our official communiqués, we request that you charge the competent organs of the Organization to assume forthwith the task of clearing the waterway and making it serviceable for navigation in order to enable the two countries to make use of it. In our view, the competent organs of the Organization should draw up a precise timetable and make all necessary facilities available for the completion of the task in the shortest possible time, and the two countries should, in a constructive spirit, furnish those organs with the assistance and facilities that they require for the speedy completion of their assignment.
3. The full rights of Iraq to free navigation in the waters of the Arabian Gulf and in the Strait of Hormuz should be guaranteed forthwith.
4. While we are hopeful that mutual understanding can be achieved by the two parties with a view to reaching speedy agreement on a comprehensive and durable peace and on good-neighbourliness between the two countries as the foundation for a comprehensive peace in the region, it would be natural, in the event of partial or

complete failure in that regard, that you and the competent organs of the Secretariat should play an energetic role in facilitating the direct, formal discussions and in providing opinions and advice in order to assist the negotiating process as needed. The Security Council will retain its active role in accordance with its responsibilities under the Charter to intervene with the adoption of appropriate decisions whenever necessary.

5. Iraq calls upon Iran to refrain from intercepting or attacking merchant vessels and oil tankers operating in the territorial waters of the Gulf States which are not parties to the conflict, in international waters and in the Strait of Hormuz.

We hope that Iran will respond positively to these practical suggestions and that you will proceed to espouse them and to take the necessary steps for their implementation.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Tariz AZIZ
Deputy Prime Minister
and Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq

