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LETTER DATED 25 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 present herewith the text of a letter from Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, concerning Iraqi acts of aggression involving the use of chemical weapons following the acceptance of resolution 598 by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

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 dated 23 July 1988 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of
the Islamic Republic of Iran addressed to the Secretary-General

You are well aware that the aggressor Iraqi régime, deceitfully claiming to seek peace and to have accepted resolution 598, immediately after the acceptance of the said resolution by the Islamic Republic of Iran, resumed its expansionist acts of aggression, deploying chemical weapons extensively. In disregard of the recent appeals made by Your Excellency and the President of the Security Council and in contempt of international public opinion, the Iraqi forces have invaded the Islamic Republic of Iran in an attempt to occupy the territories of the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the cities of Khosravi, Ghare-Shirin and Sar-e-Pol-e-Zahab.

These recent acts of aggression have all been confirmed in military communiqués as well as in interviews by Iraqi officials, justifying their actions as a means of capturing further Iranian POWs in order to strengthen their so-called bargaining position for the repatriation of more Iraqi POWs from Iran.

It is quite evident that the Iraqi régime, by resorting to such deceitful, illogical manoeuvres, is in effect trying to impede the implementation of resolution 598 so as to be able to continue its aggressive acts of occupying the territories of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

As the Islamic Republic of Iran, by its acceptance of resolution 598 and its offer of overall co-operation with Your Excellency, has literally left no room for further meaningless Iraqi excuses, on behalf of my Government, I invite Your Excellency and the Security Council to pass judgement in these circumstances.

Is it not a fact that observance of cease-fire and termination of all military operations have been emphasized as the initial steps towards the settlement of the conflict in the first paragraph of the resolution? Yet, not only has the Iraqi régime failed to honour the cease-fire but it has also flagrantly violated this particular paragraph by launching new acts of aggression and territorial occupation.

Is it not a fact that, according to the provisions of paragraph 3 of the resolution, all the POWs in both countries are to be released following the cessation of hostilities? Recent acts of aggression and territorial occupation, however, have been explained by the Iraqi régime as a so-called guarantee to ensure the repatriation of its POWs from Iran.

Did not these same Iraqi officials, including the Iraqi Foreign Minister, repeatedly insist on the regular, sequential and immediate implementation of the paragraphs of the resolution; an insistence contained in a letter to Your Excellency dated 23 January 1988 (S/19448).

Finally, is it not a fact that Iran's acceptance of resolution 598 as a whole in effect also embodies the acceptance of its operative paragraphs? If so, then the outrageous disregard for the whole resolution and the obvious violations of its

operative paragraphs by Iraq clearly reveal the war-mongering and expansionist policies pursued by the latter régime.

In view of all these facts, we now find ourselves squarely faced with a grave question. What possible guarantees are there to ensure that a country, which defies all decisions made by international bodies and disregards the concomitant obligations of accepting resolution 598, and so indifferently violated all international principles as well as a resolution that it has, itself, accepted, would honour its commitment to requirements at later stages for the consolidation of peace?

Now, in the face of this new aggression and occupation of the territories of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which constitutes a direct violation of all international norms and regulations, particularly those embodied in resolution 598, the Iranian people are awaiting the Security Council's reaction.

We expect Your Excellency, as the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and the Security Council, as the body responsible for the prevention of aggression and maintenance of international peace and security, to urgently adopt timely preventive measures concerning the continuation of this renewed occupation of Iranian territories by the Iraqi forces. Those expansionist acts of aggression and the absence of a timely international response will undoubtedly jeopardize the peace process initiated within the framework of resolution 598. Under such circumstances, the Iraqi régime will be responsible for all consequences.

Ali Akbar VELAYATI
Minister for Foreign Affairs
The Islamic Republic of Iran

