

**Security Council**Distr.
GENERALS/20094*
9 August 1988

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**LETTER DATED 7 AUGUST 1988 FROM THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN ADDRESSED TO THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL**

I would like to reiterate my Government's appreciation for Your Excellency's tireless efforts for the implementation of Security Council resolution 598 (1987) and the establishment of a just, comprehensive, honourable and durable settlement of the imposed war. We have studied the recent announced position of Iraqi officials signalling their reconsideration of their previous pre-condition, which was brought to our attention by Your Excellency. It may be concluded that, with the removal of this pre-condition, Your Excellency is now enabled to take further measures as envisaged in your implementation plan as well as your recent proposals including the announcement of D-Day.

The Islamic Republic of Iran accepted resolution 598 (1987) unconditionally and could not accept any pre-condition for its implementation. The insistence on direct talks before a cease-fire was indeed a pre-condition for the implementation of the resolution. It is necessary to note that, shortly after its official acceptance of Security Council resolution 598 (1987), the Islamic Republic of Iran announced its readiness to start direct talks after the establishment of a cease-fire within the framework of appropriate provisions of resolution 598 (1987) in order to achieve a just, comprehensive, honourable and durable settlement of all outstanding issues.

I wish to reiterate that my Government accepts that direct talks should take place after the establishment of a cease-fire. The exact date, venue and the level of participation in these direct talks will be decided by the Secretary-General. It is our understanding that, in the agenda for direct talks, the procedure and items will be set in accordance with the provisions of your implementation plan. In this context, substantive negotiations between Iran and Iraq can only be entered into for the implementation of paragraph 4 of the resolution. The implementation of other paragraphs of the resolution will be carried out as planned by the Secretary-General.

* Reissued for technical reasons.

Your Excellency and the entire international community are well aware that, during the past two weeks, my delegation co-operated closely and sincerely with you and your staff. We accepted your elaborated plan of action for the implementation of resolution 598 (1987) and presented our views and comments with regard to your proposals. In this context, what needs further clarification is how Your Excellency plans to bring what is stated in the Iraqi statement in line with what was presented to us by Your Excellency during the past few days, and the understandings that were reached. It is evident that we are not prepared to undermine Your Excellency's plan of action which was presented to us. As an example, I wish to refer to Your Excellency's intention to announce on D-Day that you have started preparations for the establishment of the impartial body. We are confident that this understanding, which has been endorsed by the Security Council, will in fact materialize on D-Day.

Furthermore, in the course of our consultations with regard to Your Excellency's plan of action, we agreed to a timetable suggested by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. It is our understanding that the substance of the timetable and the sequence of implementation contained in it will remain the basic framework for the implementation of resolution 598 (1987).

Without attempting to take any position regarding the substance of the new Iraqi statement, it is necessary to note that Your Excellency has been fully informed of our positions with regard to many of the issues raised, and there is no need to elaborate on them again since in the course of the past two weeks we engaged in serious and substantive discussions with Your Excellency in order to assist you in carrying out the mandate entrusted to you by the Security Council. I should simply reiterate that existing international agreements, particularly the 1975 Treaty concerning the State Frontier and Neighbourly Relations between Iran and Iraq, 1/ address, in the most comprehensive manner, the issues raised by Iraq. However, if Iraqi officials wish to raise such issues anyhow, the only framework for the discussion of these issues is contained in paragraph 4 of the resolution as operationalized in Your Excellency's plan of implementation.

An important issue that has to be seriously considered is the conditions that should prevail on the ground, in the air and at sea between the announcement of D-Day and the actual establishment of a cease-fire. In this interim period, it is imperative that necessary measures be adopted by Your Excellency to prevent any military operation and escalation of tension.

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

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

Notes

1/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1017, No. 14903, p. 54.

