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LETTER DATED 20 AUGUST 1988 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I transmit herewith a letter from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the statement by Admiral Muhammad Hossein Malek-Zadegan, Commander of the Iranian Navy, that Iran will carry out searches of vessels even after the cease-fire comes into effect.

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

(Signed) Ali SUMAIDA
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

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

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement made by Admiral Muhammad Hossein Malek-Zadegan, Commander of the Iranian Navy and transmitted by Reuters news agency from Nicosia on 19 August 1988 to the effect that Iran will carry out searches of vessels even after the cease-fire comes into effect.

The implementation of the above-mentioned Iranian announcement in any form would be considered a military action constituting a flagrant violation of the provisions of the cease-fire under resolution 598 (1987), which demanded a cease-fire and the discontinuance of all military actions on land, at sea and in the air.

We hope that this statement does not express an official position on the part of the Iranian authorities.

We hope that you will take immediate measures to make the Iranian authorities understand their commitments under the cease-fire and the necessity of refraining from any action liable to violate the cease-fire and from any kind of interference with Iraqi vessels or vessels proceeding to Iraq which are exercising our full right of navigation in international waters and in the Strait of Hormuz after the cease-fire comes into effect.

We wish to emphasize on this occasion that Iraq will not submit to such conduct if carried into effect by the Iranian authorities and will resist it by such means as it deems appropriate.

(Signed) Tariq Aziz
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq

