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LETTER DATED 29 JUNE 1983 FROM THE 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 a memorandum from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran in reference to your report distributed as Security Council document S/15834 dated 20 June 1983.

I request that the text of this letter and its enclosure be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Said RAJAI KHORASSANI  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

Annex

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Memorandum from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
of the Islamic Republic of Iran

The Mission dispatched by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to inspect civilian areas in Iran which have been subject to military attack was able during its short stay to visit some areas in the Iranian cities of Dezful, Andimeshk, Poldokhtar, Dehloran, Mousian, Abadan, Khorramshahr, Hoveizeh, Soussangerd, Sar Pol Zahab, Qasr Shirin and Baneh. As the residential areas of Baneh were attacked while the Mission was in Iran, the Secretary-General accepted to extend the assignment of the Mission for another day so that it could visit the site of the attack; a gesture for which the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is appreciative.

Knowing well that the armed forces of Iran had never attacked any civilian targets in Iraq deliberately, it was the request of the Government of Iran that the Mission stay in Iraq as long as necessary in order to visit all the sites that the Government of Iraq considered to be civilian targets exposed to Iranian military attack, because this would provide the best scale by which the vast extent of destruction inflicted by deliberate and indiscriminate Iraqi attacks on civilian targets in Iran could be measured. The report of the Secretary-General distributed as Security Council document S/15834 demonstrates the wide gap between the level of damages in Iraq and the destruction in Iran. The totality of the damages to residential units classified by Iraq as being the consequence of Iranian military attack is less than the destruction caused by only two of the fifty Iraqi missile attacks on the city of Dezful alone. There is another more fundamental and demonstrative difference between the attitudes of each of the two countries towards civilian life in the other. As the Mission observed repeatedly in its visits to the sites, damages in Iraq were not due to deliberate Iranian attacks on civilians, while destruction in Iran was caused not only by premeditated and deliberate Iraqi bombardment of civilian targets but also by the deliberate use of explosives and engineering machinery to level whole towns and cities to the ground. Iraqi pilots have even deliberately and repeatedly machine-gunned innocent people who had gathered to rescue victims of aerial bombardment, as has been reported in the Secretary-General's report in the case of Pol Dokhtar.

What the Mission has reported on its observations in Iran concern only the limited sites that could be incorporated in its programme during the very limited period of its visit. Some of the other major sites that the Mission was not able to visit due to lack of time are as follows:

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<u>NAME OF TOWN</u>	<u>APPROXIMATE POPULATION IN THOUSANDS</u>	
Ahvaz	550	(present population)
Hamadan	230	( " " )
Bakhtaran	312	(previous population)
Bostan	286	( " " )
Shoush	37	( " " )
Salas Babajani	28	( " " )
Ilam	22	( " " )
Paveh	12	( " " )
Noussoud	11	( " " )
Mino Island	11	( " " )
Jofair	8	( " " )
Sumar	6	( " " )
Mehran	5	( " " )
Rafil	4	( " " )

The above population centres have been damaged to different degrees, some of them having been almost completely levelled. Other than the above towns, some 1,200 villages within the territories that were under Iraqi occupation have been completely levelled by the Iraqi forces of occupation.

The enormity of the barbarities committed by the Iraqi forces of aggression against Iranian residential areas cannot be fully comprehended except by on site inspection, which the Mission of the Secretary-General was only able to partially undertake due to lack of time. The Moslem people of Iran stand ready to welcome any other fact-finding Mission dispatched by the Secretary-General with enough time to be able to obtain a full picture of the crimes that have been committed against the Iranian people by Iraq's forces of aggression.

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