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LETTER DATED 12 FEBRUARY 1974 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE
SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the Note delivered to the Iraqi Embassy in Tehran by the Imperial Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 11 February 1974 in connexion with the armed incursions of the Iraqi forces into Iranian territory.

I have the honour to request that this letter, together with its enclosure, be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Fereydoun HOVEYDA
Permanent Representative of Iran
to the United Nations

TEXT OF THE NOTE DELIVERED TO THE IRAQI EMBASSY
IN TEHRAN BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Imperial Ministry of Foreign Affairs presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Tehran and pursuant to its note reference No. 28994/2/1 of 1 January 1974, has the honour to state the following:

According to information received from appropriate Iranian officials, the incursion of Iraqi frontier guards and elements of Iraqi armed forces into Iranian territory in the region of Mehran has not ceased and has, of late, been intensified:

1. On 30 January 1974, while the Iranian herdsmen were taking their livestock for grazing in KULAK HEIGHTS along the frontier line, they were attacked by Iraqi armed forces.

2. On 31 January 1974, while Iranian frontier guards were engaged in a patrol mission within Iranian territory, they were fired upon with machine-guns by Iraqi armed elements from the north-western heights of AL-JABIL.

3. At 10.50 hours local time Monday, 4 February, while Iranian frontier guards were transporting supply materials along the supply routes in Mehran region, they were shelled by Iraqi forces. The Iranian frontier guards returned fire and pushed the intruders back. As a result of this encounter, which lasted until the evening of 5 February, one Iranian soldier was killed and three frontier guards were wounded.

The following ammunition belonging to Iraqi intruders was seized inside Iranian territory:

one machine-gun

one battery of mortar

four rounds of ammunitions

two boxes containing hand grenades

four batteries of artillery

two boxes of R.P.G. ammunition

two telephone sets

4. At 16.30 hours local time on Sunday, 10 February, Iraqi armed elements using light and heavy weaponry, artillery, tank and armoured carriers shelled Iranian frontier posts at ZALUAB HEIGHTS - KANISAKHAT, REZA ABAD - (along the route between Mehran and Ilam) JAZMAN (situated at two kilometres south-west of the Reza Abad post) as well as the KAN-JAN-CHAM DAM.

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Faced with these cowardly attacks by Iraqi Armed Forces, the Iranian border guards returned fire and forced the intruders to withdraw.

Nevertheless, the manoeuvring of the Iraqi frontier guards and armed elements and shelling of Iranian frontier posts has, since, continued. During this period, four Iraqi fighters have intruded into Iranian air space.

During this period the frontier guards commander of Mehran tried, in vain, to establish contact with his Iraqi counterpart. A claim to the contrary made by the Iraqi General Staff in the Communiqué broadcast on Radio Baghdad on 11 February is thus utterly unfounded.

As a result of the above incursions, a number of Iranian frontier guards have been killed and wounded. The Iraqi intruders left behind 14 dead and some arms and ammunition, which provide irrefutable evidence of the flagrant violation of the Iranian territory by the Iraqi Armed Forces.

In registering a strong protest against such persistent acts of violation, which are contrary to the spirit of the recently developed relations between the two countries, the Imperial Ministry of Foreign Affairs requests the Embassy to draw the attention of the Government of the Republic of Iraq to the dire consequences of such violations. It is requested that the Government of Iraq take steps to ensure the punishment of the intruders and provide adequate compensation for human and material losses incurred by Iran and make sure that such violations and incitements on the part of the Iraqi authorities shall not be repeated. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs would appreciate to be apprised of the results of such steps as soon as possible.

The Imperial Ministry of Foreign Affairs finds it necessary to emphasize that it holds the Government of the Republic of Iraq directly responsible for the consequences that might ensue as a result of such violations.

The Imperial Ministry of Foreign Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq the assurances of its highest consideration.

12 February 1974
TEHRAN - IRAN
