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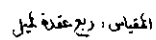
LETTER DATED 20 FEBRUARY 1974 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
SECURITY COUNCIL

Pursuant to our letter dated 12 February, I have the honour to inform you that since 16 February, Iran has further increased its troop concentration along the frontier. These troops have now been put under full alert. There have been more clashes in the Khanaqin area, north of Badra (as shown in the map annexed to this letter). The Iranian authorities are obviously trying to escalate the confrontation. In spite of Iraq's efforts to maintain its self-restraint, it may nevertheless be compelled to take the necessary measures in self-defence and to ensure the respect of its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Furthermore, the Iranian authorities have refused to hand over the bodies of the Iraqis killed in action unless the Iraqi authorities agree to accept the Iranian claim that the dead had fallen in Iranian territory.

I would kindly request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Talib EL-SHIBIB  
Representative of Iraq on the  
Security Council

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(8 Miles = 1 inch)  
عقدة واحدة = أربعة أميال