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LETTER DATED 11 AUGUST 1973 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government I have the honour to bring to the attention of the members of the Security Council the following act of aggression committed by Israel.

On Friday, 10 August 1973 at 9.45 p.m., Baghdad local time, a Middle East Airlines Caravelle chartered by Iraqi Airways was intercepted by two Israeli military aircraft upon take-off from Beirut International Airport on a scheduled flight to Baghdad, and forced to land at an Israeli military base. There were 83 persons of different nationalities on board, including seven crew-members. The passengers and crew were forced at gunpoint to leave the hijacked airliner after it landed at the Israeli military airfield, were manhandled and subjected to hours of interrogation and detention.

In addition to constituting an act of aggression against Iraq, a State Member of the United Nations, this air piracy committed by Israel confirms the continued threat posed by the Israeli forces to international civil aviation as demonstrated in the Israeli attack on Beirut International Airport on 28 December 1968 and the massacre of the passengers of the Libyan airliner shot down in cold blood over the occupied Sinai on 21 February 1973. It is hardly necessary to add in this context that the latest Israeli aggression is yet another flagrant violation of the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and of the rules and practices of international law.

Such acts of aggression and international banditry demand not only the condemnation of the international community but also effective measures to put an end to the increasing lawlessness of the Zionist régime illegally installed in Jerusalem.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdul Karim AL-SHAIKHLY  
Permanent Representative of Iraq