



Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/16049
18 October 1983

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 14 OCTOBER 1983 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to forward the text of a communiqué from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding oil pollution in the Persian Gulf. I would appreciate if the text of this communiqué were distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Said RAJAIE KHORASSANI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Communiqué issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Islamic Republic of Iran in Teheran on 17 October 1983

The Nowruz oilfield, an offshore oilfield in the Bahregan region located in the northernmost part of the Persian Gulf was bombarded on 27 January 1983 by Iraqi planes, and the oil rig of oil well No. 3 was damaged and crude oil began leaking into the waters of the Persian Gulf. This act of aggression was a clear violation of the regulations of the Regional Organization for the Protection of Marine Environment, of which both Iran and Iraq are members. These regulations strictly prohibit military attacks on oil installations. Other wells were also damaged in subsequent attacks. These actions constituted an obvious escalation of the war by Iraq and the deliberate destruction of marine life in the Persian Gulf which is the common interest of all the peoples of the region.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, highly concerned about the marine environment in the Persian Gulf, repeatedly strove to find ways to prevent further pollution of the sea water, but all efforts and initiatives were blocked by the short-sightedness of the Government of Iraq. In the absence of an agreement that would guarantee the safety of oil technicians from further Iraqi acts of aggression, experts refused to assist in repairing the damages and stopping the oil leak. This task was then undertaken by Iranian technicians, who succeeded in capping oil well No 3, 80 feet below sea level, with tremendous effort and without foreign technical assistance. Work is under way on other damaged rigs.

With regard to recent threats by Iraq to attack Iranian offshore oil installations, the question of the safety of the marine environment in the Persian Gulf has once again gained precedence. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran feels duty-bound to warn the littoral States of the Persian Gulf of the grave danger that is posed by the irresponsible policies of Iraq to the safety of the marine environment of our common waters, which is vital to the well-being of the peoples of all the littoral States. It is necessary to contain this grave problem before it is aggravated into a disaster, because experience has demonstrated that Iraq has no interest in the well-being of the marine environment of the Persian Gulf; nor does it feel concerned for the well-being of its littoral States. Iran will not bear the responsibility of any aggravation of the present situation resulting from any military adventurism by Iraq and should not be expected to compromise in order to remedy the deliberate mischief of others.
