



Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/20264
7 November 1988
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 7 NOVEMBER 1988 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF
THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 7 November 1988 from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sabah Talat KADRAT
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Letter dated 7 November 1988 from the Deputy Prime Minister
and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq

I have the honour to convey to you the text of a declaration made by Mohsen Rida'i, leader of the so-called Iranian Revolutionary Guards, which was quoted from the Iranian News Agency by Agence France Presse yesterday, 6 November 1988. In it he said:

"Iran will continue to send reinforcements to the front as long as Security Council resolution 598 is not applied in full and as long as a final peace has not been established".

He went on to say:

"Our enemies are weaving plots to invade Iran once again at the first opportunity ... and we are now in a no-war no-peace situation."

This declaration throws a penetrating light on Iran's real position when it accepted resolution 598 on 18 July 1988. We expressed caution at the time against that acceptance being a merely tactical position adopted in order to cope with the situation created by the rapid and complete military defeat suffered by Iran after eight years of persistence in war and aggression. The declaration also throws a searching light on the underhand and procrastinatory approach adopted by the Iranian delegation to the negotiations between the two countries being conducted under your auspices since 25 August 1988. It clearly explains the underlying reasons for the dilatoriness of the Iranian régime in the process of embodying the cease-fire provisions in the form of clear legal obligations on land, in the air, and at sea and for its obstruction of the process of reaching an agreement based on the legitimate balance of interests of the two parties and on the advantages that would accrue to them from entering into such obligations.

The claim of the Iranian delegation, made without any legal or logical basis, that actual belligerent acts did not cease with the entry into force of the cease-fire on 20 August 1988, means in point of fact that the Iranian régime is not serious in the endeavour to embody the detailed legal obligations of the cease-fire in the framework of a binding agreement. It will thus be able at any time it might see fit to violate the cease-fire and resume hostilities. The tenor of the declaration to which we have referred, with its vacuous talk of alleged attempts to invade Iraq, is intended to misrepresent the true nature of Iran's position, namely its continued readiness to resume hostilities by sending reinforcements to the front in the absence, after the entry into force of the cease-fire and the surveillance of the front by United Nations observers, of any practical need for such action, other than that of creating an atmosphere of belligerency.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq, in calling upon you on this occasion to draw the correct conclusions from the Iranian position and to recognize the precise consequences that they entail, would like to affirm its continued adherence

to its position of desiring to continue the negotiations under your auspices with the goal of achieving a comprehensive and lasting peace. It would also like to stress that these Iranian campaigns, which imply a threat to use force at a time when negotiations are being conducted, will not cause us to waiver from our firmly established position that there is a need to provide the cease-fire provisions with a binding legal basis in accordance with the principle of equality as an indispensable step on the way to a comprehensive and lasting peace.

(Signed) Tariq AZIZ
Deputy Prime Minister
and Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq

Geneva, 7 November 1988

