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SECURITY COUNCIL
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Letter dated 12 September 1983 from the Permanent Representative
of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letters addressed to Your Excellency by the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran dated 3 August (S/15909), 12 August (S/15926), 17 August (S/15932), 18 August (S/15934), 26 August (S/15941), 1 September (S/15932/Add.1) and 7 September 1983 (S/15962).

This is not the first time that the Permanent Representative of Iran labours with futility to raise sympathy for the miserable position of his régime, only to prove once again its hypocrisy, deception, abuse and defiance. On similar occasions in the past, I exposed in detail these aspects of the position of the Iranian régime in my replies to earlier Iranian letters addressed to Your Excellency, a reference to which is made in your report on the mission to inspect civilian areas in Iran and Iraq which have been subject to military attack (S/15834, para. 2). However, in connection with the above-mentioned letters, the following points need to be highlighted and emphasized:

1. The Iranian allegation, contained in document S/15909, that the Iranian military operations against Iraq last July on two fronts "were aimed at silencing sources of artillery fire" against Iranian towns is just a lie. The same goes for the references made in some of the other letters mentioned above to the so-called "resolve" of the Iranian people to continue with their "just resistance" and "defensive struggle". This is because of the incontrovertible evidence shown by the Iranian military communiqués and statements of Iranian officials communicated to Your Excellency in our letter

* A/38/150.

of 4 August 1983 (A/38/330-S/15915). As we have already pointed out, those communiqués and statements contain the clear acknowledgement of the Iranian régime of aggression against Iraq and flagrant intervention in its internal affairs.

2. It is quite clear also from document S/15909 that the Permanent Representative of Iran sought to distort the contents of your report on the mission to inspect civilian areas in Iran and Iraq which have been subject to military attack (S/15834). Again, this is not without precedent, as is evidenced by the letter of the Permanent Representative of Iran dated 29 June (S/15851), the reply to which was made in my letter dated 14 July 1983 (S/15874).

3. Your Excellency and the distinguished members of the Security Council are no doubt fully aware of Iraq's positive attitude towards, and active participation in, the efforts made, during the period of last May to July, to seize upon the circumstances of setting up the mission to initiate a fresh process for peace. As is well known, during the said circumstances, Iraq twice proposed on the highest authority the conclusion of a special peace accord under United Nations supervision, whereby the two parties would mutually undertake not to attack towns and villages, in spite of the continuation of the war (see S/15804 and A/38/268-S/15825). But all this was in vain, because the Iranian régime sabotaged the honest efforts of the Council to initiate a fresh movement for peace and continued with its war of aggression. Hence, the Iranian letters, which were thought to be signals of a readiness to co-operate with the Council in order to settle the conflict through peaceful means, were proved to be mere deception.

4. It is pertinent to recall that, throughout the period leading to the establishment of the mission, a characteristic feature of the Iranian letters addressed to you is that they all concluded with alluding to an alleged "indifference" of the Security Council and/or the international community to the situation of the armed conflict between Iran and Iraq. Despite the fact that this allegation was fully answered in my letters of 2 and 12 May 1983 (A/38/177-S/15743 and Corr.1 and S/15765), the same allegation is repeated in a more aggravated form in the Iranian letters recently addressed to you. The international community is again accused of being indifferent, as well as the Council, and the latter body is, in addition, considered to be guilty of a so-called "acquiescence", "encouragement" and "tacit complacency". This is again deception and hypocrisy of the highest order, which reflects the bizarre mentality of the Iranian régime. This ostrich-like approach of the Iranian régime has already been dwelt upon at length in my letter of 2 May noted above (A/38/1277-S/15743 and Corr.1). In fact, neither the international community nor the Council has been indifferent to the situation of the armed conflict between Iran and Iraq. On numerous occasions, the Council, and needless to add, the General Assembly and other international bodies, made repeated calls for putting an end to the war and settling the conflict through peaceful means. In spite of the fact that Iran began the aggression, Iraq responded positively, clearly and unconditionally to all these calls, while Iran categorically rejected them. Accordingly, Iran stands solely responsible for

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the continuation of the war and the resulting destruction since the date of the first call for a cease-fire made by the Security Council in its unanimous resolution 479 (1980) of 28 September 1980. Furthermore, the persistence of the Iranian régime in making outrageous accusations against the Council simply because it has acted correctly within its competence under the Charter of the United Nations deserves the condemnation of the Council because it represents a violation of the obligation of States Members of the United Nations, as provided for in the Charter and, in particular, Article 25 thereof. This behaviour of the Iranian régime also serves to aggravate its legal responsibility in launching and persisting in carrying out a war of aggression. In this connection, I should like to reiterate the position of my Government that, on the hypothesis that a controversy exists with regard to the period from the commencement of military operations up to the adoption of Security Council resolution 479 (1980) on 28 September 1980, Iraq stands ready to submit the matter to arbitration for the purpose of determining which party was responsible for commencing those operations and for the damage which ensued up to that date, but there can be no doubt about Iran's being fully responsible after the above-mentioned date. This position has already been conveyed to you in my letter of 10 June 1983 (A/38/269-S/15826). This indeed should be the objective test for judging the Iranian allegations. We challenge the Iranian régime, if it could, instead of hurling abuse and insults at the Security Council, abandon its hypocrisy and deception and engage itself in an unconditional commitment to peace.

5. The hypocrisy of the Iranian letters is further heightened by the appealing reference to international humanitarian law regarding warfare. It is hard to believe that the Permanent Representative of Iran is still unaware of the fact that the record of his régime on this score is truly despicable to the full knowledge of public opinion of the whole world. If he is still unaware, which is hardly possible, then I should like to challenge him on what answers he could convincingly provide regarding the savage violations of international humanitarian law committed by his Government in the treatment of Iraqi prisoners of war, as published by the International Committee of the Red Cross. Moreover, what answers could the Permanent Representative of Iran provide the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, which called upon Iran on 5 September last to conform to international obligations and to stop recruiting child soldiers for its war of aggression against Iraq.

I request that this letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 125 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Riyadh AL-QAYSI
Permanent Representative
