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LETTER DATED 17 JANUARY 1989 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the note verbale from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq addressed to the Mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross at Baghdad concerning the initiative announced by President Saddam Hussein, President of the Republic of Iraq, to repatriate 255 Iranian prisoners.

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

(Signed) Ismat KITTANI
Permanent Representative

Annex

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs presents its compliments to the Mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross at Baghdad and has the honour to inform the Mission that, in accordance with an announcement made by the President of the Republic of Iraq on 11 January 1989 during his meeting with religious scholars taking part in the Second Conference of the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, and pursuant to Iraq's humanitarian policy and commitment to international laws and divine doctrines, a decision has been taken to repatriate 255 Iranian prisoners.

The Ministry accordingly affirms that the International Committee of the Red Cross and the international community must assume their responsibilities for the exertion of pressure on the Iranian régime, in order that the régime may be persuaded to fulfil its legal and moral undertakings by returning all prisoners and putting an end to their sufferings and the anxiety of their families in accordance with the third Geneva Convention of 1949, relative to the treatment of prisoners of war.

The Ministry would be grateful if the Mission were to convey the above information to the International Committee of the Red Cross in order that the necessary steps may be taken in that connection.

The Ministry takes this opportunity to convey to the Mission the assurances of its highest consideration.

(Signed) For the Minister for
Foreign Affairs

