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LETTER DATED 27 FEBRUARY 1989 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith a letter from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the refusal of the Iranian side to allow a meeting of the Mixed Military Working Group to take place.

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

Letter dated 26 February 1989 from the Deputy Prime
Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to remind you of the agreement of the Iraqi Government to your proposal that an Iraq-Iran Mixed Military Working Group should be established. That agreement was conveyed by Mr. Saddam Hussein, President of the Republic of Iraq, to Mr. Jan Eliasson, your personal representative, at his meeting with the President in Baghdad on 29 January 1989 and was communicated to you in my letter of 30 January 1989 (document S/20442).

As you know, agreement had been reached between the two parties, through the Commander of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG), that the first meeting of the Working Group should be held on the Khosravi - Qasr-e-Shirin road on 22 February 1989. The Iranian side, however, broke that agreement and refused to hold the meeting as agreed. The efforts made with it by the Commander of UNIIMOG have thus far produced no result.

The behaviour of the Iranian side is fully in keeping with Iranian conduct in general since the agreement of 8 August 1988 was reached through you and up to the present time. The Iranian side is not meeting its obligations and is not fulfilling the terms of an agreement reached with it in good faith and in all sincerity. I must mention, in this connection, the similar posture it has adopted towards the agreement reached through the International Committee of the Red Cross on the exchange of a limited number of sick and wounded prisoners of war, inasmuch as it proceeded to trifle with the numbers agreed upon, then broke the agreement and suspended its implementation.

It is such perverse behaviour that is the major reason for the breakdown of the direct negotiations and the failure thus far to make tangible progress towards a comprehensive and lasting peace.

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

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

Baghdad, 26 February 1989