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CONSEQUENCES OF THE PROLONGATION OF THE  
ARMED CONFLICT BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Thirty-eighth year

Letter dated 23 December 1983 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 refer to the letter dated 14 October 1983 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to you (S/16049), and to state the following:

1. I previously set forth in detail the position of the Iraqi Government with regard to the issue raised in the said Iranian letter in my letter of 5 May 1983 addressed to you (A/38/187-S/15752), which was sent in reply to the Iranian letter dated 20 April 1983 (A/38/163-S/15723).
2. The Iranian letter dated 14 October 1983 (S/16049) alleges that the bombardment by Iraqi aircraft of the Nowruz oilfield constitutes "a clear violation of the regulations of the Regional Organization for the Protection of Marine Environment, of which both Iran and Iraq are members". It is noteworthy that the Iranian letter dated 20 April 1983, referred to above, also alleged that Iraq was violating "Article 35 of the Geneva Convention on the safety of environment, and non-resort to military actions that may lead to the pollution of marine environment" and that Iraq had violated "the text and spirit of Kuwait Regional Convention on Co-operation for the Protection of Marine Environment from Pollution, and the protocol on regional co-operation for campaigning against pollutions from oil and other toxic materials". In this connection, I should like to point out that that alleged Geneva Convention does not exist, and it remains up to the Iranian authorities to come forward with its text. I should also like to point out that the provisions of the Kuwait Regional Convention on Co-operation for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Pollution and the protocol annexed thereto have no effect in cases of armed conflict.

3. Iraq continues to call for peace in the region, to be established on a basis of amicable relations, mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference in the internal affairs of States and the avoidance of policies of aggression. The policy of Iraq in that field is known to all.

4. Iran's alleged concern for the safety of the marine environment requires, in the first instance, that the Iranian Government should comply with its international obligations and conduct itself on a basis of peaceful co-operation with all States in the region. It should desist from its arrogant and empty threats against those States, such as those made in the Iranian letter contained in document S/16049, which is reminiscent of the "policeman of the Gulf" policy of the Shah's régime.

I request you to have this letter circulated as a document of the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 138, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Riyadh M. S. AL-QAYSI  
Permanent Representative

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