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LETTER DATED 22 MAY 1972 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY  
COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government I have the honour to refer to the letter addressed to the Secretary-General on 10 May 1972 by the Permanent Representative of Iraq (S/10645).

The Permanent Representative of Iraq repeats the same allegations which have already been rejected and refuted in my letter of 1 May 1972 (S/10627) and continues to present a distorted version of the incidents which have occurred as a result of the hostile attitude of the Iraqi authorities towards my country and the constant provocation of the Iraqis along the border.

As I pointed out in the above-mentioned letter, these incidents were the result of a series of attacks and incursions carried out by Iraqis into Iranian territory, during one of which three Iranian gendarmes were abducted to Iraq. The fact that the Permanent Representative of Iraq has preferred to keep silent on this abduction is eloquent evidence of the true intentions of the Iraqi authorities to provoke and create incidents in the border area.

As to the erstwhile Treaty of 1937 mentioned by the Permanent Representative of Iraq, he should be reminded that for 32 years all of Iran's efforts to persuade Iraq to live up to its obligations under the Treaty were of no avail and that by its persistent refusal to honour its own obligations, the Government of Iraq rendered the whole Treaty null and void. I need not enter into a lengthy argument here, as this matter has already been brought to the attention of the Security Council in letters dated 1 and 9 May (S/9190 and S/9200) and 2 September 1969 (S/9425) addressed by my predecessor to the President of the Security Council.

The Permanent Representative of Iraq has also tried, in his usual manner, to distort reality by referring as "arab" to those islands in the Persian Gulf which have always been part of the Iranian territory, as evidenced by the existence of irrefutable documents. Iran was physically prevented from exercising its sovereignty over these islands by colonial domination. It also suited colonial policy to qualify the islands as "arab". All Iran actually did was to re-establish its authority over those islands.

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The persistence of the Iraqi authorities to refer to the Persian Gulf as "Arabian Gulf" is another instance of their futile attempts to distort geographically well-established names.

Concerning the discussion of the question of the mass expulsion of Iranians living in Iraq during the last session of the Commission on Human Rights, it should be stressed that I gave a full account on the conditions in which the expulsions were carried out and refuted, on the basis of solid evidence, the misleading statements of the Iraqi representative, who desperately tried to justify the attitude of his Government. It should also be recalled that the Commission decided to defer consideration of this and some other questions on its agenda owing to lack of time.

True to its long-standing tradition of living in peace and harmony with all nations, especially its neighbours, my Government has always reaffirmed its desire to foster good neighbourly relations with Iraq, to which the people of Iran are bound by historic, religious and cultural ties. Unfortunately the continuous efforts made by the Government of Iran in this direction have been of no avail because of the negative attitude of the Government of Iraq.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Fereydoun HOVEYDA  
Permanent Representative of Iran  
to the United Nations

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