



## Security Council

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### REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL IN PURSUANCE OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 540 (1983)

1. This report is submitted in pursuance of paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 540 (1983) of 31 October 1983, by which the Council requested the Secretary-General to report on the results of the consultations with the parties concerning ways to sustain and verify the cessation of hostilities, including the possible dispatch of United Nations observers.
2. The text of resolution 540 (1983) was immediately transmitted to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and to the Government of the Republic of Iraq. They were informed that, in connection with paragraphs 4 and 7 of the resolution, it would be my intention to send, with the concurrence of the two Governments, a small mission of senior officials of the Secretariat to Baghdad and Teheran, as this would be the most effective means of conducting with the parties the consultations envisaged in the resolution.
3. On 1 November, the Permanent Representative of Iraq transmitted the position of his Government on the resolution (A/38/560-S/16120). The Government of Iraq stated that it welcomed the resolution and was ready to co-operate in "finding an effective system for ensuring a cease-fire and for ensuring that all the parties concerned benefit in a balanced manner from its results, in implementation of the provisions of paragraph 4 of the resolution". The Government of Iraq further stated that it "warns in advance against any attempts at a partial implementation of the resolution, because its acceptance of the paragraphs set forth therein and its favourable reception of the resolution generally are based solely on the premise that the resolution is an integrated and indivisible whole, with regard both to the substance and to the timing and procedures for the implementation of all its paragraphs and, in particular, on the premise that all the parties concerned shall benefit from its implementation immediately and in a balanced manner".
4. On 12 December 1983, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran informed me (S/16213) that it had decided to respond positively and demonstrate its goodwill towards the Security Council during the latter's consultations because it had been assured by certain Council members that "there was an understanding that the past record of the Security Council must be corrected if positive results were to be obtained". However, "the Council's action remained in the same unbalanced tradition that it has followed since the beginning of the Iraqi war of aggression".

The reply stated that "the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, therefore, has no alternative but to continue its previous policy and dissociate itself from resolution 540 (1983)". As regards paragraph 4 of the resolution, in the view of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the situation in the region "cannot be termed 'hostilities'. It is a most painful defensive war of liberation on the part of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the whole purpose of which is to reverse the consequences of the war of aggression initiated by Iraq and to destroy its manifestations". The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that operative paragraph 4 deals with the issue "in a very superficial manner and does not contain any positive element that may lead to a just and durable peace".

5. I feel that I should also bring to the attention of the Council that, in a letter dated 28 October 1983 addressed to me and circulated as Security Council document S/16104, the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran conveyed his Government's request that I dispatch a mission to inspect civilian areas in Iran which have been subject to military attack, with the purpose of updating the report of the fact-finding mission which visited Iran and Iraq in May of this year (S/15834). The Permanent Representative told me further that his Government would welcome a visit by the mission to Iraq also, as in the case of the previous mission. In several of his subsequent letters, he reiterated his Government's request for a mission. In three of those letters, he stated that chemical weapons had been used by Iraq and requested the inclusion in the proposed mission of an expert in that field. 1/

6. As in the case of the previous request of a similar nature by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in May, I consulted the Permanent Representative of Iraq and requested him to ascertain his Government's views on the subject. He has since informed me that the Government of Iraq is unable to accept the proposal. He also has addressed to me letters stating that civilian areas in Iraq have been subject to military attack and has rejected the allegations that Iraq had used chemical weapons in Iran. 2/ The Permanent Representative of Iraq has taken the position that the subject-matter of the Iranian request should be considered in the context of paragraph 2 of Security Council resolution 540 (1983), since his Government considers the resolution an integrated and indivisible whole, which should be implemented as such.

7. Inasmuch as one of the two parties considers that this matter cannot be dealt with in isolation from the other aspects of the conflict addressed in the resolution, there are, at present, practical difficulties in acceding to the specific request from the Islamic Republic of Iran.

8. As the members of the Council are aware I stand ready, along with my Special Representative, His Excellency Mr. Olof Palme, to assist in the achievement of a comprehensive, just and honourable settlement of the issues underlying the conflict between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Iraq. I intend to continue all efforts to bring about a cessation of hostilities. At the end of September, Mr. Palme and I held intensive discussions with the Foreign Ministers of both States and I am, at present, engaged in further consultations with Mr. Palme. I expect that the summit meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, to be held in Casablanca in January, will provide me an opportunity to discuss with the heads of State of both parties the steps that could be taken to facilitate a peaceful solution.

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Notes

1/ Relevant letters from the Permanent Representative of Iran: S/15851, S/15909, S/15926, S/15932 and Add.1, S/15934, S/15941, S/15962, S/16000, S/16019, S/16053, S/16071, S/16104, S/16117, S/16128, S/16129, S/16139, S/16140, S/16154, S/16181, S/16185, S/16204.

2/ Relevant letters from the Permanent Representative of Iraq: S/15874, S/15915, S/15983, S/16061, S/16122, S/16156, S/16157, S/16186, S/16189, S/16190, S/16191, S/16193.

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