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LETTER DATED 9 FEBRUARY 1984 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO  
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the message of  
His Excellency Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of  
Iran.

It will be highly appreciated if this letter could be circulated as a document  
of the Security Council.

(Signed) Said RAJAIE KHORASSANI  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

Annex

Text of the message of H.E. Ali Akbar Velayati, Foreign Minister  
of the Islamic Republic of Iran

It is more than 40 months that Iranian civilian and residential areas have been the target of Iraqi aerial bombardments, long-range missiles and chemical weapons. Yet, due to our strict adherence to Islamic and human norms as well as international conventions, we have not indulged in any retaliatory actions and have responded to such savage and cowardly attacks merely on the battlefield.

Through missile attacks, undertaken in total violation of human norms and international conventions, the aggressive Iraqi régime has martyred some 4,600 and wounded more than 22,000 innocent civilian residents of the Iranian cities hundreds of kilometres away from the front line. But recently, the Iraqi régime has shamelessly threatened to attack 11 Iranian cities; i.e., Abadan, Shush, Bakhtaran, Behbahan, Ahvaz, Ilam, Dezful, Andimeshk, Masjid-Suleiman, Port of Iman Khomeini and Ramhormuz.

Past experience shows that the régime of Saddam Hussein carries through with its threats. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on every occasion in the past, has notified and forewarned the international community and organizations so that they might, through the means and ways at their disposal, stop such criminal attacks and condemn the Iraqi régime. Yet, international organizations have remained silent, which has done nothing but encourage the Iraqi régime to continue its aggression.

While calling the attention of the international body to these threats, it is deemed necessary to announce that the Muslim people of Iran can no longer tolerate the cowardly genocidal attacks by the Iraqi régime, nor can the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran remain silent any longer to the cries of the innocent and defenseless residents of the Iranian cities.

Therefore, in response to Iraq's recent threat as to the imminent bombardment of seven Iranian cities, the Islamic Republic of Iran announced that it would bombard Iraqi industrial centres. Following this warning, the Iraqi régime announced that it would attack four other cities in addition to those announced previously. Such an unscrupulous criminality on the part of the Iraqi régime has forced the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to warn the residents of Basrah, Khanagheen and Mandali to evacuate these cities for their own security, and also to announce that henceforth the Islamic Republic of Iran would, within the framework of Islamic principles, retaliate Iraqi attacks.

It is obvious that, under these circumstances, the responsibility for the dire consequences of this dangerous game which would befall the oppressed Muslim people of Iraq would directly lie with the aggressive rulers of Baghdad. And it is natural that in this venue international organizations which might, through timely action, be able to preclude such a catastrophe by the Iraqi régime, will not, in case of inaction, be able to disclaim responsibility.

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