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LETTER DATED 23 FEBRUARY 1984 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated  
23 February 1984 (S/16362), I have the honour to report the following:

1. On 14 February 1984, Iraq announced that it would cease striking at selected targets in certain Iranian towns for one week. It has strictly adhered to that commitment. Nevertheless, as you were informed in my letter of 21 February 1984, the aggressors, the Iranian armed forces, continued to shell Iraqi towns for a full five days (14-18 February 1984). The Iranian régime has falsely claimed that Iraqi troops have struck at civilian targets inside Iran.

2. On 18 February 1984, the Iranian Chief of Staff issued a statement to the effect that Iran would not strike at Iraqi towns and villages. On that same day, an official communiqué was issued by the Iraqi military spokesman in response to that statement. The communiqué, which was transmitted to you under cover of my aforementioned letter of 21 February 1984, indicated Iraq's willingness to avoid any shelling of towns, villages and civilians, provided that such a commitment was subject to effective international supervision.

3. Nevertheless, the aggressors, the Iranian armed forces, continued, for five days, their barbaric shelling of civilian targets in Iraqi towns. In spite of the statement by the Iranian Chief of Staff, the following attacks were perpetrated:

19 February - Kanaro district (Jowarta province) was shelled by heavy artillery. One citizen was wounded, and part of an elementary school was destroyed.

21 February - The town of Eshshahabi was shelled by heavy artillery. Two dwelling-houses were destroyed. The town's mosque, a school and a number of civilian installations and properties were partially damaged.

22 February - Heavy artillery shelling of the Tawilah area, which resulted in the destruction of two houses.

23 February - Heavy artillery shelling of the town of Albasra killed 10 people, wounded 26, destroyed one civilian car, and damaged another car and a number of civilian installations and properties.

23 February - Heavy artillery shelling of the town of Mendaly damaged a number of civilian installations.

23 February - Heavy artillery shelling of the town of Eshshahabi destroyed three dwelling-houses.

The escalation and intensification of the barbaric shelling of civilian targets in Iraqi towns by the aggressors, the Iranian armed forces, coincided with the large-scale offensive which these forces launched during the night of 22/23 February 1984. That took place at the same time that the Iranian régime was continuing its infamous policy of deceit, lies and hypocrisy. All these acts demonstrate forcefully what experience already has proven to us: that the Iranian statements and declarations cannot be trusted. In order to prevent any bombing or shelling of towns, villages or civilians, it is essential to have effective international supervision.

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

(Signed) Riyadh AL-QAYSI  
Permanent Representative

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