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LETTER DATED 13 FEBRUARY 1984 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the letter addressed to you by  
Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the  
Republic of Iraq, in reply to your letter dated 10 February 1984.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as  
a document of the Security Council, as requested in the above-mentioned letter.

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

Annex

Letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq  
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 10 February 1984 (S/16337), and I avail myself of this opportunity to state the following:

Iraq has welcomed in the past and continues to welcome any initiative taken by the Secretary-General with a view to arriving at a peaceful settlement of the conflict through the implementation of the resolutions of the Security Council, the body entrusted, under the Charter, with the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security.

You are well aware that Iraq has accepted all Security Council resolutions and calls aiming at ending the conflict and at its peaceful settlement.

Iraq also agreed to the mission dispatched by the United Nations to study the issue of civilian targets affected by the war. The said mission confirmed in its report that damage had been suffered by both sides. Even after the report of the said mission has been issued, however, the Iranian side persists in denying that it has attacked civilian targets in Iraq, while it continues its attacks on such targets on almost a daily basis. This confirms that the Iranian side has no serious intention of acting on the basis of the humanitarian significance underlying the dispatch of the mission or of abiding by its commitment to stop its attacks on civilian targets in the future.

As a matter of fact, any updating of information on this matter will be of no value in the face either of these realities or of another far more important and well-known reality, namely, the insistence of the Iranian side for more than forty months on continuing and escalating the war, with all that that entails in tragedies, losses and dangers.

In this connection, it is necessary to recall the Iranian statements which have been issued and communicated to you during the last few weeks and in which Iranian responsible authorities have openly and publicly declared their intention of launching major attacks, described as decisive, against our country and our cities.

We should also like to recall that the dispatch of the above-mentioned mission in response to a request by Iran was associated at the time with the hope on the part of the United Nations Secretariat that Iran would deal with the Security Council within the framework of a search for a peaceful settlement of the conflict. The Iranian side, however, has not acted in this spirit, but has tried to exploit the entire issue for cheap propagandist purposes. The Iranian side has continued its insistence on the war, and it has continued to ignore the Security Council and the United Nations and to show no interest in dealing with them for the purpose of arriving at a peaceful solution to the conflict.

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This clearly proves that the so-called co-operation of Iran with the Secretary-General is bound up with Iran's disregard for Security Council resolutions. This matter is of the utmost importance not only in relation to the Iraqi-Iranian conflict but also with regard to the very purpose for which the United Nations was created and to its very future.

I take this opportunity to refer to the question of the inhumane treatment to which the Iraqi prisoners of war are subjected and to remind you of the request we already submitted to you to the effect that a mission be dispatched to investigate this matter, which is gravely important to both Iran and Iraq.

I wish also to remind you that my meeting with you on 29 September 1983 - a meeting attended by Mr. Palme - I received from you a seven-point paper covering the elements of the conflict, with the understanding that you intended to discuss those points with the two parties as a basis for a new attempt to find a solution to the conflict. On 4 October 1983, we communicated to you our agreement to discuss your proposals. On 31 October 1983, the Security Council adopted its resolution 540 (1983), which was accepted by Iraq and rejected by Iran. We and all the world expected that the Secretary-General would take an initiative based on his above-mentioned proposal and on the provisions of the latest Security Council resolution. Iraq has no objection to any initiative taken within the framework of a comprehensive discussion of the conflict; on the contrary, Iraq supports and desires such an initiative, as we have confirmed to you and to Mr. Palme more than once. But Iraq can see no useful purpose in any initiative which might emerge and which would be portrayed by the Iranian side as focusing on only one aspect of the conflict, with no expectation of its developing into a comprehensive discussion of it and without the Secretariat issuing anything to correct this impression and to put things in their proper perspective. The insistence of the Iranian régime on denying its attacks on civilian targets in Iraq makes us believe that this will be the attitude which will be taken by the other side in dealing with the question. While we strongly encourage your initiatives, we cannot deal with any such initiative before we obtain from the Iranian side serious assurances of its desire to discuss the seven-point paper and all the issues of the conflict on a comprehensive basis.

We have given the most serious attention to the question of attacks against civilian targets. Our Government has, since June 1983, proposed that a special agreement aiming at avoiding strikes against civilian targets be concluded between Iraq and Iran under the supervision of the United Nations. We have also strongly welcomed resolution 540 (1983) of 31 October 1983, which contains provisions with regard to this issue as well as to other, no less important, elements. It is our hope that international efforts, including especially those of the Secretary-General, will focus on the question of the implementation of all the provisions of this resolution.

The continued threat posed by the Iranian side to our civilian targets and economic installations, to say nothing of our existence as an independent State, is clear to all. There is no better proof to this fact than that Iraq, a leading oil-exporting country, has been deprived of its right to export its oil from its southern ports because of Iranian attacks on its oil installations and Iranian

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threats to them which continue to this day. On the other hand, the Iranian side enjoys this right. By rejecting resolution 540 (1983), the Iranian side has refused to put an end to such threats. This means insistence on its part on inflicting damage on Iraq by all available means. It is only natural that Iraq, which is the victim of aggression, should resort to all necessary means to defend its security, its vital interests, and its existence.

We reaffirm the urgent need for an initiative on your part, provided that it be made clear that such an initiative will aim at a comprehensive discussion of all the elements of the conflict and will seek a peaceful settlement of the conflict on the basis of Security Council resolutions, which also charged you with following up their implementation. We reaffirm hereby that we are prepared to sign an agreement with the Iranian side, under the supervision of the United Nations, to avoid striking civilian targets.

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

(Signed) Tariq AZIZ  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

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