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LETTER DATED 31 JULY 1989 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED
NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the English translation of the text of
a note addressed to the International Committee of the Red Cross in Tehran on
30 July 1989.

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

(Signed) Mahmoud Sadat MADARSHAHI
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Note verbale dated 30 July 1989 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Islamic Republic of Iran addressed to the International
Committee of the Red Cross in Tehran

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran presents its compliments to the office of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) at Tehran and with reference to the latter's note dated 11 July 1989 has the honour to note the following.

Regrettably, close to 11 months have elapsed since the illegal capture of more than 700 of the Islamic Republic of Iran's military personnel by the Iraqi régime within the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran following the establishment of the cease-fire. This action by the Iraqi régime is not only similar to other Iraqi violations of the principles of international law during the imposed war, but is also one of the most important violations of the cease-fire by that régime. Since then, the Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly reminded the ICRC authorities that the lives of these people and tens of thousands of other captured Iranians who are being kept in secret camps by Iraq since the inception of the war are in danger.

In this connection, the authorities of the Iraqi régime have made the following contradictory statements after their illegal capture of over 700 Iranian military personnel:

1. The Foreign Minister of the Iraqi régime, during the first round of talks on the implementation of Security Council resolution 598 (1987) at Geneva, stated that those prisoners would soon be released.

2. The authorities of the Iraqi régime in the April 1989 meeting with the Delegate-General of ICRC for the Middle East stated that they had captured 350 of the Iranian military personnel after the inception of the cease-fire. It is noteworthy that the Iraqi authorities have claimed that the captured Iranians had gone to Iraqi camps to drink tea and subsequently refused to return.

3. On 18 April 1989, the Foreign Minister of Iraq in a letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations stated that after the refusal of the Iranian soldiers to return to their former positions, Iraqi forces had to capture them on 23 August 1988 (S/20597, annex).

4. On 10 June 1989, the Foreign Minister of Iraq in a note to the office of ICRC in Baghdad, without referring to the capture of these people by Iraq, only stated that on 23 August 1988 the Iraqi forces had to drive the Iranian forces to their initial positions (S/20684, annex).

Taking into account the above-mentioned facts and the uncertainty created by Iraq about the fate of these people, the Islamic Republic of Iran once again expresses its profound concern regarding the fate of the military as well as the

civilian population of Iran who have illegally been captured after the inception of the cease-fire. In these circumstances, the international community in general and ICRC in particular ought to compel Iraq to respect the principles of international law and to exert pressure on that régime not to use human beings as a means to achieve political aims. In the light of the continued illegal imprisonment of these people, it is now evident that repeated claims by Iraq regarding its humanitarian concern over the issue of prisoners of war is only a propaganda gesture and a political ploy.

Taking into account the refusal of the Iraqi régime to free these people or to respond explicitly concerning their fate, the sensitive and crucial task of safe-guarding the life of these people and arranging for their freedom becomes the responsibility of the international community and ICRC.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the office of ICRC in Tehran the assurances of its highest consideration.

Hoping for the victory of the oppressed over the oppressors.

