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LETTER DATED 25 JANUARY 1985 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 forward to Your Excellency the letter of His Excellency, Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, regarding attacks on neutral mercantile ships in the Persian Gulf.

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

(Signed) Pereidoun D. KAMALI
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

Annex

Letter from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic
Republic of Iran addressed to the Secretary-General

In response to your telex No. 777/116, in which you had informed me of the ITF Secretary-General's concern about attacks on neutral mercantile ships and the casualties of their crew, I wish to bring the following to your notice.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran also shares this concern and extends its sympathy to the families of those crew members who have lost their lives. As a matter of fact, since the time the Iraqi régime found itself unable to encounter Iranian soldiers in the war fronts, and decided to churn unrest in this international waterway, thus setting the stage for more extensive plots in the region, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran started to feel concerned about the spread of the war to the Persian Gulf waters, and attacks on non-belligerent ships which were sought by the Iraqi régime.

It was in fact due to her awareness of the true intentions and nature of the Iraqi régime that the Islamic Republic of Iran put the United Nations Security Council and the supporters of the Iraqi régime on alert against the adoption of the one-sided resolution 552. Unfortunately the support for this régime bore its fruit much sooner than was expected, turning the Persian Gulf waters into the scene of Iraqi attacks that disturbed economic life in this waterway.

Being fully aware of your humanitarian intentions, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes and supports any measure taken to ensure the freedom of navigation and security in the Persian Gulf.

Through its medical and other kinds of emergency assistance to the casualties of such wrecks, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has in the past displayed its good intentions.

Ali Akbar VELAYATI
Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Islamic Republic of Iran

