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CONSEQUENCES OF THE PROLONGATION OF THE ARMED CONFLICT
BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ

Letter dated 8 February 1985 from the Permanent Representative of
Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General*

On the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to enclose the text of a statement by the official spokesman of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq in response to the allegations made by the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran in a speech he delivered today, 8 February 1985, that Iraq had again started shelling Iranian cities, and his threat to shell the city of Basra and other Iraqi cities.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have this letter and the annex thereto circulated as a document of the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly under agenda item 44.

(Signed) Riyadh AL-QAYSI
Permanent Representative

* Previously circulated as document S/16948.

ANNEX

Statement made on 8 February 1985 by the spokesman of the
Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq

President Khamenei, head of the Iranian régime, alleged, in a speech he delivered today, that Iraq had again started shelling Iranian cities. The President of the Iranian régime threatened to shell the city of Basra and other Iraqi cities.

It is well known that, already in 1983, Iraq suggested the signing of an agreement between the two sides to avoid the shelling of purely residential centres, and it has reaffirmed this suggestion on many occasions.

It has been the Iranian side that has refused to sign such an agreement and has persisted in its aggression on Iraqi cities and their peaceful inhabitants.

Under the pressure of strong Iraqi punitive blows and the pressure of the Iranian peoples who are suffering under the aggressive policies of this criminal régime, the Iranian régime had to accept the proposal of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to sign an agreement whereby the shelling of civilian centres would be avoided, under the supervision of representatives of the United Nations Secretariat. This agreement has been in force since 12 June 1984. It was also agreed, through the United Nations Secretariat, to delimit the areas to which this agreement applied and to determine how to detect any breaches of this agreement.

Iraq took the initiative in this agreement, and in accordance with its principles and firm approach in calling for a comprehensive peace, in respecting international charters and in keeping to its pledges, wholeheartedly abided by this agreement, while the Iranian régime continued to violate it. Iraq therefore rejects the allegations of the President of the Iranian régime and confirms that it did not, and it will not, resort to shelling civilian centres, except in order to retaliate. The allegations of the head of the Iranian régime are a clear indication of the severe dilemma in which this criminal régime finds itself, having insisted for years and years on war and aggression, and gaining only defeat and failure.

After the Iranian régime's painful defeat on the battlefield and its inability effectively to protect its armies positioned near our borders for the purposes of aggression but bombarded by our heroic air force; in the face of great pressure from the Iranian peoples who want peace; as a result of the severe isolation of this régime at the regional as well as international levels because of its insistence on continuing with this war and its threat to the security and stability of the region; for all these reasons the Iranian régime is trying to get out of its dilemma and cover its defeat and failure by telling these outright lies and committing more crimes against the peoples of Iraq and of Iran.

We strongly and emphatically warn the Iranian régime that we will respond twice as violently against those who want to harm our towns and our people.

In spite of our supremacy in land, air, naval and rocket forces, we have accepted the initiative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and have avoided the shelling of civilian areas as an expression of our desire for peace and our approach to it.

But if the Iranian régime wants to try its bad luck once more and to continue shelling Iraqi cities and their peaceful inhabitants, we shall, with the help of God, direct destructive strikes against it. We bring this to the attention of the Iranian people, world public opinion and the United Nations Secretariat.

The one who warns is not to be blamed.
