



Security Council

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LETTER DATED 13 OCTOBER 1989 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government and with reference to the letter dated 5 October 1989 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, the propriety of which notwithstanding, contained in document S/20888, I have the honour to draw attention to Iraq's campaign of exploitation of a humanitarian issue, i.e., the fate of the prisoners of war.

The facts are clear and simple. Since 20 August 1988, Iraq has refused to comply with resolution 598 (1987) and to live up to its commitments under international law and this mandatory resolution of which the issue of POWs is an indivisible part. It has refused to accept any plan presented by the Secretary-General for the implementation of resolution 598 (1987) as an integrated whole. Notwithstanding such obstructionist policies, the Iraqi Foreign Minister has taken the liberty in his letter of 5 October 1989 (S/20888), to misuse the Security Council in a bid to deceive the public and appear attractive. The Security Council, in our opinion, should not allow itself to be manipulated.

The call by Iraq for immediate repatriation of prisoners of war when viewed against its actions since the establishment of cease-fire clearly manifests Iraq's intention of deceit and public relation campaign in order to divert the international attention from pinpointing Iraq as the culprit for the continued captivity of tens of thousands of Iranian and Iraqi POWs whose hope of freedom immediately after cease-fire was shattered by Iraq's policy of intransigence. Iraq's campaign of public relations at the expense of POWs, like crocodile tears may win the support of the simple at heart, but more than a year after the cease-fire, the time has come for Iraq to embark on serious action instead. At the risk of repeating ourselves, I should point out that all POWs would have returned to their families before the beginning of the year 1989, if Iraq had co-operated with the Secretary-General and accepted his four point plan of 1 October 1988, a plan which was accepted by the Islamic Republic of Iran immediately after its presentation by the Secretary-General. In this connection if Iraq announces its acceptance of this plan tomorrow, all POWs will be repatriated within 90 days. The only peaceful solution to this problem which would immediately put an end to the untold sufferings of the Prisoners of War is a genuine political decision on the part of Iraqi authorities to concede to the Secretary-General's plan for implementation of resolution 598 (1987) with withdrawal to the internationally recognized boundaries and global repatriation of POWs.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, for its part, has clearly illustrated its firm commitment to the full implementation of resolution 598 (1987) as an integrated whole and in this context attaches great importance and urgency to the repatriation of all POWs; thus fully subscribing to paragraph 41 of the Secretary-General's report (S/20862) which reads in part:

"The resolution demands a withdrawal to the internationally recognized boundaries without delay. Further, it urges the release and repatriation of Prisoners of War without delay".

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

(Signed) Kamal KHARRAZI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

