



**Security Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

S/17021  
11 March 1985  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

---

LETTER DATED 11 MARCH 1985 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I refer to my letter dated 9 March and, on instructions from my Government, have the honour to request you to circulate as a document of the Security Council the text of this letter and of the annexed letter, addressed to you by Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, concerning the question of the prisoners of war.

(Signed) Riyadh M. S. AL-QAYSI

Annex

Letter dated 9 March 1985 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister  
for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I have received with thanks your letter dated 7 March 1985\* and am highly appreciative of your interest in the question of the prisoners of war, consideration of which we had requested in the Security Council. On the strength of Iraq's unshakeable position, to which it gave expression during the meeting of the Security Council held on 5 March 1985 and which calls for a definitive and comprehensive solution to the suffering of the prisoners of war, and far from any thought of engaging in political manoeuvres or pursuing political goals, I should like to set forth the position of my Government with respect to the suggestions contained in your above-mentioned letter.

1. The Iraqi Government considers that the exchange of prisoners should be full, comprehensive and without any exceptions.
2. The Iraqi Government considers that the exchange can take place in either of the following two ways:
  - (a) That the exchange of prisoners should take place on a proportional basis, in accordance with the number present in each of the two countries, and over a maximum period of six months within which the comprehensive exchange will be accomplished.
  - (b) That the exchange should take place in stages, also over a maximum period of six months, and in the following manner:
    - (i) The first stage, during which the exchange of sick, disabled, elderly and child prisoners would take place.
    - (ii) The second stage, during which the exchange of those prisoners who have spent two or more years in captivity would take place.
    - (iii) The third stage, during which the exchange of the remaining prisoners would take place.
3. Iraq would welcome the Secretary-General's playing an active role in this process through close co-operation with the International Committee of the Red Cross.

---

\* Not published as a document of the Security Council.

With regard to the idea of protecting Powers, Iraq, in conformity with the Geneva Conventions, does not oppose such an idea. It considers, however, that it should be studied later on and when it becomes very necessary from the practical point of view.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Tariq AZIZ  
Deputy Prime Minister and  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of the Republic of Iraq  
9 March 1985

-----