



General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/39/874
S/16982
25 February 1985
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Thirty-ninth session
Agenda item 44
CONSEQUENCES OF THE PROLONGATION
OF THE ARMED CONFLICT BETWEEN
IRAN AND IRAQ

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fortieth year

Letter dated 24 February 1985 from the Permanent Representative of
Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement made by an official spokesman at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq on 16 February 1985 in response to the Iranian régime's allegation that Iraq has not announced its willingness to accept Iraqi prisoners.

I request to have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 44, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Riyadh M. S. AL-QAYSI
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Text of the statement of the official spokesman for
the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

In accordance with his habit of distorting the facts and in a new attempt to lie to the Iranian peoples and to the peoples of the world, a high official in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Iranian régime has stated that Iraq refused to accept a group of Iraqi prisoners whom the Iranian régime had decided to release.

Desiring to make clear the facts and refute the lies and fabrications of the Teheran rulers, we wish to state that, on 7 February 1985, Iraq received a note from the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Baghdad containing the Iranian régime's proposal to hand over 30 handicapped Iraqi prisoners through the intermediary of the Turkish Government and without the mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) playing any role in supervising the operation, on the alleged grounds that the Iranian régime had severed its relations with the ICRC mission, which was consequently no longer active in Iran.

Immediately upon receipt of the Turkish note, the Iraqi authorities proceeded to study the request which it contained and gave their consent, at the appropriate time, to the Turkish authorities for them to receive the Iraqi prisoners and play a supervisory and intermediary role.

Out of their respect for the Geneva Conventions, the Iraqi authorities requested that the ICRC mission should receive these prisoners from the Turkish authorities and accompany them to Iraq.

The Iraqi authorities also submitted in return a list containing the names of 20 Iranian prisoners to the ICRC mission and to the Turkish authorities to be handed over to Iran in return for the Iraqi prisoners.

The Iranian régime's charge that Iraq hesitated to accept the most recent batch of Iraqi prisoners and agreed to accept them only after its authorities had sent notice to the ICRC representative is also a lying and disgraceful allegation. Iraq gave its consent to the ICRC mission immediately, and no one has heard of the alleged notice mentioned by the Iranian official; the speed of the Iraqi reply giving its consent left no time for giving such notice.

Everyone knows that Iraq has a number of times released Iranian prisoners without any return out of respect for the Geneva Conventions and the decisions of the joint medical commission, in accordance with its method of procedure, its principles and the principles of the glorious Islamic Sharia, at a time when the Iranian authorities were turning their backs on all international conventions, customs and pacts and were according Iraqi prisoners harsh and ugly treatment, which went so far as shooting at them within view of the ICRC mission in Gorgan Camp.

The Iranian régime's charges are a wretched and futile attempt to enhance its ugly image with regard to its treatment of Iraqi prisoners, treatment which is contrary to all celestial, legal and human values and which has been clearly exposed by ICRC in its official statements on many occasions.
