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LETTER DATED 9 APRIL 1985 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the letter of the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to the Director-General of that organization in connection with the recent bombardment of the historic sites in the city of Isfahan by the Iraqi régime.

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

(Signed) Said RAJAIE-KHORASSANI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of
Iran to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural
Organization addressed to the Director-General

I have the honour to refer to my letter No. 3392 of 15 March 1985 whereby I informed you of the Iraqi aerial bombardments of the historic city of Isfahan.

I take the liberty at this moment to communicate to you other more precise details on the damages caused by these bombardments, as relayed to me by a telex from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

At 13:10 hours of 13 March 1985 Iraqi bombers attacked certain locations in the historic city of Isfahan, causing the destruction of a wing of the Jom'e Mosque, as well as other sites connected to this ancient area of the mosque, details of which are as follows:

- 1 - Tchahardah Tcheshmeh (Fourteen Springs) of the quincunx of the south-east have been completely destroyed.
- 2 - Several arcs adjoining the quincunx have cracked, and risks of collapse are great.
- 3 - The ancient Caravanserai "Chekar Beq", situated at the "Ali" Bazar north of the mosque, as well as several ancient shops in the said Bazar have been completely destroyed.
- 4 - Eight ancient shops, located in the area of the mosque which fell in, have been annihilated.

Once again, Iraq has thus violated the 1954 Hague Convention related to "The Protection of Cultural Property during Armed Conflicts" and it is feared that it will once more proceed to destroy cultural works and property such as that of "Naqhshe-Jahan" of Isfahan.

It is well known that the Jom'e-Mosque is among the most famous historic works of the world.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran urgently requests that you send a mission to Iran to verify all the damages caused to the Iranian cultural heritage and to induce Iraq's respect for the said Convention.

Reza FEIZ
Permanent Representative
to UNESCO

