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

Letter dated 27 April 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 to you herewith the text of the statement made by the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq commenting on the declaration issued by the Security Council at its meeting held on 25 April 1985.

I should be grateful if this letter and the annex could be circulated as a document of the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly under agenda item 44.

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

Annex

Statement made by the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq in response to the declaration made public
by the Security Council on 25 April 1985

1. We have noted with regret that in the course of the past week and the days before, the Security Council spent much time dwelling on questions which are essentially secondary and which are the consequence of the war that Iran launched against Iraq and which it persists in waging. Through our Permanent Representative to the United Nations, we have made numerous efforts on the one hand, to draw the attention of the members of the Council to the seriousness of this attitude and to the fact that it is not in keeping with the spirit of the Charter and the fundamental purpose of the Council, which is, first and foremost, to maintain peace and security in the world, and on the other, to redirect the Council towards its normal task, which is to examine all aspects of the conflict and to strive, soberly and expeditiously, to find a just and comprehensive solution, on the basis of the Charter and international law. We are also astonished by the position taken by some members of the Council, whose names we will not mention for the moment, which insist on maintaining this mistaken position for reasons that, unfortunately, have nothing to do with their responsibility as members of the Council but which stem from commercial interests that have affected the way in which consideration is given to the conflict, which costs thousands of human lives with each attack that Iran attempts to launch against Iraq.

2. We have noticed a very strange phenomenon, which is that recently the United Nations appears to be straying from its history and traditions of 40 years. Some members of the Council and some circles in the Secretariat are strongly inclined to satisfy the party that is boycotting and scorning the Council, while, on the other hand, being set against the party that accepts that the Charter and international law serve as the basis for the settlement of conflicts, complies with all of the Council's decisions and co-operates with it and the Secretariat in a dedicated and responsible manner. A striking example of this inclination can be seen in the efforts made in the Council to attract the party which to date has boycotted and shown its contempt for the Council, with a view to being able to negotiate with that party. This phenomenon is extremely dangerous because it encourages a large number of countries with bellicose designs to ignore the Security Council and not to comply with its decisions, secure in the conviction that the Council will respond by endeavouring to adopt a more conciliatory attitude towards them, an attitude which some of its members are currently taking towards the Iranian régime. We want to caution the Council against this tendency. Any attitude which invokes moving further and further away from the sound, balanced position based on the Charter and international law that the Council has adopted thus far with respect to the conflict can only encourage the aggressive Iranian régime to display even greater contempt for the Council, the Charter and international law and to commit even more acts of aggression against Iraq and the other countries of the region.

3. We also find it very strange that some circles within the Organization are beginning to spread the notion that the Security Council has so far displayed a bias in favour of Iraq, not following up Iran's demands. We are surprised that these absurd arguments should have been used during the discussions that took place in the past few days. How can anyone say that the Council has been showing a bias in favour of Iraq in the decisions that it has adopted to date? If that was really the case, how are we to say that in the future the Council will not show a bias towards one particular party or another? It is hard to see how this type of reasoning will be able to encourage States to submit their disputes to the Security Council in the future.

4. If the Iranian régime negotiates with the Security Council and the Organization, it is only for propaganda purposes and because its plans of aggression, which consisted of invading Iraq, are about to meet with complete and final failure. Indeed, the Iranian régime has never hidden the fact that, in its view, force was the only means of settling the conflict. Similarly, Iran has never concealed the fact that its aim was to invade Iraq and impose its authority on the Iraqi people. We are stating this, not with a view to deceiving anyone, but in order to affirm an undeniable truth, namely that if Iran goes to the Security Council one day to discuss the conflict, it will do so not because it is influenced by the eloquence of those who seek to obtain its favours or by the formulas used in the latest note of the Council or in the statements made in some United Nations circles, but rather because it will be forced to do so by the heroism of the Iraqi people, which has crushed, one after the other, all the Iranian invasion attempts and rendered impossible the expansionist dreams of Khomeini. This is the reality that some are seeking to camouflage, for reasons known to all. We feel that the real purpose of the attitude taken by certain States to which we referred earlier and which derive commercial and perhaps political profit from the continuation of the conflict is not, as might be thought, to persuade Iran to negotiate with the Council, but rather to prompt Iraq to withdraw from the Council, thus enabling them on the one hand, to escape their responsibility as members of the Council vis-à-vis the continuation of the conflict and the tragedies and losses that it causes, and on the other hand, to pursue their profitable commercial activities. What other explanation can there be for the fact that the declaration of the Council calls on the parties to co-operate with the Security Council, when those who have issued this declaration are well aware that from the outset Iraq has consistently co-operated with the Council and with the Secretary-General, while Iran not only fails to co-operate with the Council but constantly flouts and accuses it. We therefore consider that the appeal in the declaration, in which the Council urges the parties to cease hostilities and co-operate with the Council, is addressed only to Iran. In effect it is Iran which rejects the resolutions of the Council and refuses to co-operate with it, obstinately continuing its war of aggression.

5. Convinced of the legitimacy of its cause and the soundness of its position, Iraq, which has consistently co-operated with the Council since the outbreak of hostilities, will maintain its position, for it believes it can protect the rights conferred on it by international law and defend its cause before international organizations, just as it is able - as it has already demonstrated - to defend its sovereignty, its security and its honour on the battlefield. Consequently, the Iraqi Government, despite its reservations concerning certain parts of the latest

declaration by the Council, declares that it accepts the appeals contained therein, for they constitute an indivisible whole, especially the appeals for the cessation of hostilities and a prompt, comprehensive, just and honourable settlement, if Iran accepts them clearly on the same basis. We also take this opportunity to refer to the letter which the Minister for Foreign Affairs addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 13 April 1985, in which he issued a warning concerning the preparations being made by Iran with a view to launching a new offensive aimed at invading Iraqi territory. While drawing attention to the seriousness of these Iranian preparations, we affirm, on the basis of our right of self-defence, that Iraq will use all means available to it to repulse this offensive if the Iranian régime launches a new attack on Iraqi territory or masses its troops at the Iraqi border for that purpose.
