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LETTER DATED 19 DECEMBER 1989 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instruction from my Government and with reference to the letter dated 8 December 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations, circulated as document S/21012, I have the honour to state the following.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has, since 20 August 1988, been publicly calling for the establishment of a just, durable and comprehensive peace which can be attained only through the full and rapid implementation of resolution 598 (1987). In this connection, the Islamic Republic of Iran, unlike Iraq, has taken concrete steps as well as a positive approach to the Secretary-General's plans and proposals for implementation of the resolution.

The Permanent Representative of Iraq, in document S/21012, refers to two assertions by Iranian authorities on the possible need for sacred defence, and draws a demagogic conclusion, i.e., the "Iranian course ... does not indicate a sincere and pure intent to establish peace and good-neighbourliness between Iran and Iraq and in the region". He goes on to say that his Government wishes to reaffirm to the Secretary-General and to the international community "its continuing resolve to strive for peace"!

Let us now examine Iraq's "continuing resolve to strive for peace". Three days after the letter of Iraq's Permanent Representative contained in document S/21012, Iraq's Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. Nizar Hamdoun, on 11 December 1989, in an interview with Turkish Daily News and in response to the question as to whether such a long-range rocket could be considered as a tool of defence, said:

... Considering the future of Iraq and that Iran has not shown any readiness to conclude a comprehensive peace treaty with Iraq, we had to develop this capability and in the future Iraq may have to utilize some of this capability.

I hope that this statement did not come as a surprise to the Permanent Representative of Iraq. He should now be asked if his Deputy Foreign Minister's statement and his Government's course of action would "indicate a sincere and pure intent to establish peace and good-neighbourliness between Iran and Iraq in the

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region" and whether he believes that the above statement is an indication of Iraq's "continuing resolve to strive for peace".

The Islamic Republic of Iran is of the view that the content of document S/21012 constitutes a pretext upon which Iraq intends to build in order to justify its non-compliance with resolution 598 (1987), which is dangerously apparent in recent statements by Iraqi officials.

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

(Signed) Kamal KHARRAZI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

