



Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/17216
24 May 1985

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 23 MAY 1985 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government and with reference to the note dated 9 May 1985 from His Excellency the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs, I have the honour to invite your attention to the following.

1. In conformity with the recommendations contained in the report of Your Excellency's mission to Iraq and Iran for investigation of the conditions of prisoners of war (POWs) (S/16962), the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran submitted some practical proposals in order to encourage and promote the idea contained in paragraph 15 of Your Excellency's note to that report. Regrettably, due to obstacles created by the Iraqi régime and their procrastinative attitude, the international body has failed to take advantage of our full preparedness so as to ameliorate the suffering of POWs.
2. In order to encourage all concerned and to prove its good faith in connection with the humanitarian issue of the POWs, the Islamic Republic of Iran, in line with its proposals, has unilaterally repatriated two groups of 27 and 48 disabled Iraqi POWs on 3 March and 29 April 1985, respectively, through the help and supervision of the Turkish Red Crescent Organization, whose sincere co-operation we highly appreciate. We are pleased to announce, herewith, that another 50 disabled Iraqi POWs will be unilaterally repatriated in the near future.
3. The other proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran which has been implemented unilaterally is the visits by the families of POWs. This practice has continued over a long time. At present, families of 1,000 Iraqi POWs are each month invited to go to the embassies and consular offices of the Islamic Republic of Iran in order to facilitate their travel to Iran for a visit with POWs. Many families have been able to rejoice at the visit with POWs so far.
4. Since the implementation of the other proposals of the Islamic Republic of Iran is contingent upon the co-operation of the other party, we are awaiting the initiatives and efforts of the United Nations towards the materialization of those proposals within the framework of the Third Geneva Convention.

5. In view of the humanitarian considerations and provisions of the Geneva Conventions, the repatriation of young POWs who, according to the Geneva Convention, are not considered POWs, like civilians, have the first priority.

6. Needless to say that involvement of the International Committee of the Red Cross, as long as it has not rectified its biased political stance, would not help to accomplish the above-mentioned humanitarian objectives.

It is urgently requested that the United Nations take some effective measures in order to stop the continued subjugation of the Iranian POWs to Iraqi violence and torture.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to continue its humanitarian efforts concerning the Iraqi POWs, including their unilateral repatriation. We are convinced that, in connection with paragraph 15 of Your Excellency's note to the said report, there is also considerable room for positive work to improve the situation of our prisoners of war in Iraq.

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

(Signed) Said RAJAIE-KHORASSANI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

