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LETTER DATED 22 JANUARY 1990 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 inform you that, at 1300 hours local time on 17 January 1990, Tehran radio announced in Persian that Mr. Velayati, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, had that morning taken part in a meeting of what the broadcast referred to as the Iraqi opposition, held at Tehran University to commemorate the anniversary of the martyrdom of Hojjat-ul-Islam Sayyid Mahdi al-Hakim. The broadcast quoted Mr. Velayati as saying:

"The anniversary of the martyrdom of this heroic freedom fighter, which is rightly known as Iraqi Opposition Day, must serve as the beginning of a struggle and battle to break the international silence concerning violations of your people's human and Islamic rights."

According to the broadcast, he continued as follows:

"The world is today aware of your concerns and sufferings and of the catastrophe which has befallen you, for there is no one that has not heard of the ruined villages, the frightful prisons, torture and massacres and of the events at Halabjah. You, therefore, bear living witness to the oppression which your people has undergone; so long as you remain defiant, rest assured that there will be people prepared to assist you and that you will inevitably recover your rights."

The broadcast went on to state that Mr. Velayati "praised the endeavours of the Muslim Iraqi people and expressed his hopes for the success of the freedom fighters and the opposition in their struggle to fulfil their noble objectives under the banner of cohesive unity and Islamic brotherhood".

On this occasion, I should like to remind you of the many occasions on which we have noted that the declared wishes of Iranian officials - including the Iranian Minister for Foreign Affairs himself - to establish peace and good-neighbourly relations with Iraq, as stated in their deliberations behind closed doors with you, your personal representative and other members of the Security Council, do not

reflect the true intentions of the Iranian Government, which has in fact not abandoned its policies of interference in internal affairs and destabilization in the region. This corroborates our previous assertions - repeated in particular during Mr. Jan Eliasson's recent visit to Baghdad - to the effect that Iran's desire to establish peace and good-neighbourly relations with Iraq must be stated overtly and in such a manner as to create the popular climate required in order both to bring about such peace and good-neighbourliness and finally to put an end to Iran's past policy of fanning the flames of war and threatening security and stability in the region.

The aforementioned statements by Iran's Minister for Foreign Affairs, who serves as the head of that country's delegation to the peace negotiations, provides further glaring evidence of the many representations which we have already made in the course of our consultations with you, your personal representative and members of the Security Council. They demonstrate that our conclusions were correct. They confirm that Iran's acceptance of Security Council resolution 598 (1987) did not spring from a deep political conviction of the need for peace but was simply a tactical manoeuvre prompted by the failure of its programme of aggression and expansion against Iraq. They also clearly show the real reasons for the Iranian Government's refusal to commit itself to the direct talks provided for in the agreement of 8 August 1988, which gave rise to the declaration of a cease-fire between the two countries with effect from 20 August 1988, and for the selective approach and the attitude of deception, prevarication and procrastination so far adopted by the Iranian Government with respect to the peace process.

The correctness of these conclusions once again underscores the need to devote attention to the essence of the peace process, which, as you are well aware, is to bring about mutual understanding, in direct talks between the two parties under your auspices, as to the provisions of resolution 598 (1987), and to the measures and sequences required for their implementation, rather than to address only certain details and individual issues, the result of which will be, in the final analysis, a perpetuation of the state of no peace, no war, between the two countries.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdul Amir A. AL-ANBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

