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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Letter dated 16 March 1990 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of  
the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations addressed  
to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued on 16 March 1990 by a spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan concerning the execution in Iraq of a British journalist (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this text circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 35 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Katsumi SEZAKI  
Ambassador Extraordinary  
and Plenipotentiary  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
and Chargé d'affaires of  
Japan to the United Nations

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\* A/45/50.

ANNEX

Statement dated 16 March 1990 by a spokesman of the Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs of Japan concerning the execution of a  
British journalist in Iraq

1. We have received the report that a journalist working for The Observer, a British newspaper, has been executed in Iraq. Although we are aware that the sentence was handed down in accordance with Iraqi law, we regret that, in spite of appeals for clemency made by countries concerned, the execution was carried out.
2. On 14 March, on humanitarian grounds and from the standpoint of a country which has friendly relations with both Iraq and the United Kingdom, the Government of Japan made a representation to the Government of Iraq expressing the hope that Iraq would give generous consideration to the appeal by the United Kingdom for clemency.

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