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STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON BEHALF
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AT THE 2172nd MEETING ON
27 NOVEMBER 1979

I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his statement.

I wish to refer to the letter of the Secretary-General dated 25 November 1979 (S/13646), on the basis of which the Council is meeting and which reads as follows:

"I wish to refer to the grave situation which has arisen in the relations between the United States and Iran. The Government of the United States is deeply disturbed at the seizure of its Embassy in Teheran and the detention of its diplomatic personnel, in violation of the relevant international conventions. The Government of Iran seeks redress for injustices and abuse of human rights which, in its view, were committed by the previous régime. The international community is increasingly concerned that the dangerous level of tension between these two countries threatens peace and stability in the region and could have disastrous consequences for the entire world.

"In my opinion, therefore, the present crisis poses a serious threat to international peace and security. Accordingly, in the exercise of my responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations, I ask that the Security Council be convened urgently in an effort to seek a peaceful solution of the problem in conformity with the principles of justice and international law."

I also wish to refer to the letter dated 27 November 1979 from the Chargé d'Affaires of the Permanent Mission of Iran to the United Nations addressed to me (S/13650), by which he requested that formal deliberations of the Security Council be postponed out of respect for the most holy days of Tassua and Ashura, days highly revered and commemorated for centuries in many Islamic countries, particularly Iran, and in order to enable His Excellency Mr. Abolhassan Bani-Sadr, the Foreign Minister of Iran, to arrive in New York so as to be able to participate in full debate of the Security Council as of Saturday evening, 1 December 1979.

After consultations, the Council has, therefore, agreed to adjourn its meeting until 1 December 1979 at 9 p.m., subject to the understanding that it will reconvene before then if the situation demands it.

I also wish to draw the attention of the Security Council to the fact that on 9 November 1979, following consultations among members of the Security Council, I issued the following statement (S/13616) on behalf of the members of the Security Council, urgently asking for the release and protection of American diplomatic personnel who have been detained in Iran since 4 November 1979:

"Following consultations among the members of the Security Council, I am authorized as President of the Council to express the Council's profound concern over the prolonged detention of American diplomatic personnel in Iran. Speaking as President of the Security Council on behalf of the Security Council and, while not wishing to interfere in the internal affairs of any country, I must emphasize that the principle of the inviolability of diplomatic personnel and establishments be respected in all cases in accordance with internationally accepted norms. Therefore, I urge in the strongest terms that the diplomatic personnel being held in Iran be released without delay and provided protection. I further urge the Secretary-General to continue to use his good offices to assist towards this objective."

On behalf of the Security Council, I strongly reiterate this appeal.

In view of the serious threat to international peace and security, the Security Council will not relent in its urgent efforts to seek a peaceful solution of the problem in conformity with the principles of justice and international law.
