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LETTER DATED 30 NOVEMBER 1979 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
IRELAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith text of a statement issued by the Heads of State or Government and the Foreign Ministers of the Nine Member States of the European Community, meeting in the European Council in Dublin on 30 November 1979.

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

(Signed) Paul J. G. KEATING  
Permanent Representative of Ireland  
on behalf of the Nine Member States  
of the European Community

Annex

Statement by the Heads of State or Government and the Foreign  
Ministers of the Nine Member States of the European Community,  
meeting in the European Council

Dublin, 30th November 1979

1. The Heads of State or Government and the Foreign Ministers of the Nine, meeting in the European Council, considered the grave situation created by the occupation of the Embassy of the United States in Tehran and the holding of members of its staff as hostages in flagrant breach of international law.
2. The European Council strongly reaffirmed the statement which was issued by the Foreign Ministers of the Nine at their meeting of 20 November in Brussels. It is fundamental that diplomatic missions should be protected. The failure to uphold this principle and the taking of hostages to exert pressure on Governments are totally unacceptable. It is the duty of all Governments to oppose energetically such a breach of international law.
3. The Nine Member States of the European Community fully respect the independence of Iran and the right of the Iranian people to determine their own future. They are conscious of the importance which the Iranian people attach to the changes which have taken place in their country. But in the same measure as they respect the rights of Iran they call on Iran to respect fully the rights of others and to observe the established principles that govern relations between States. Respect for these principles is essential to the effort to secure order and justice in international relations which is in the interest of all States including Iran.
4. The Governments of the Nine, supported by public opinion in their countries, expressed in particular by the European Parliament, solemnly appeal to Iran to respect these fundamental rights and duties so long established in international law. They urge most strongly that the Iranian authorities take action immediately to release the hostages in complete safety and allow them to return to their own country.

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