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LETTER DATED 1 DECEMBER 1979 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF TUNISIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF  
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to request you to have the enclosed text of the statement by the Tunisian Government concerning the events following upon the taking of hostages in the United States Embassy in Teheran circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mahmoud MESTIRI  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

Annex

While the foreign policy of Tunisia has always been based on the principle of non-interference in the internal policies of other States and the right of the latter freely to choose the political and economic systems with which they wish to equip themselves, it is nevertheless true that its foreign policy has been and still is one of respect for the rules of international law as established by the general principles of law, custom and international conventions which have been accepted by the community of nations.

Of those rules, those governing diplomatic relations between States stipulate, in accordance with the Vienna Conventions on diplomatic privileges and immunities, that the receiving State must ensure the protection and integrity of diplomatic missions and their personnel.

On 23 November 1979, as part of its contribution to the search for a just and rapid solution to the crisis, Tunisia, through its Minister for Foreign Affairs received a delegation sent by the Council of the Revolution of Iran, a fraternal country which has always been, and still is, linked to Tunisia by ties of fraternity born of the community of religion and civilization.

During the meeting, the Minister for Foreign Affairs entreated the Iranian delegation to transmit to the leaders in Teheran Tunisia's deep concern and to urge them to reflect on the unforeseeable consequences of this escalation and to comply with the rules governing international relations.

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