



**Security Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

S/21554  
17 August 1990  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

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LETTER DATED 17 AUGUST 1990 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF SAUDI ARABIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE  
SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter addressed to you by His Royal Highness Prince Saud al-Faisal, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in connection with the letter dated 12 August 1990 from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and threat to the security and safety of Saudi Arabia.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and the letter of His Royal Highness the Minister for Foreign Affairs circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir SHIHABI  
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 12 August 1990 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of Saudi Arabia addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to refer to the letter dated 12 August 1990 received by you from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, which was circulated by you as a document of the Security Council in accordance with the request of the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations. I have the honour to state the following:

1. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is meticulous in its complete respect for and firm adherence to international covenants, particularly the Charter of the United Nations, the Charter of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Pact of the League of Arab States. The fact that its record is clear is demonstrated by its respect for and adherence to all such resolutions adopted by those organizations and bodies as represent the will of the Arab, Islamic and international community and at the same time express the position of international legitimacy with respect to issues concerning international peace and security, both in our region and in the world as a whole.

2. Accordingly, the Government of Saudi Arabia supported Security Council resolutions 660 (1990), 661 (1990) and 662 (1990). It likewise endorsed the resolution adopted by the Extraordinary Arab Summit Conference, held at Cairo on 9 and 10 August 1990, the resolution of the 19th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and the resolution adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at its extraordinary session on the subject of the Iraqi aggression against the fraternal State of Kuwait.

3. We in Saudi Arabia had hoped that the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq would inform the Security Council of his Government's unconditional respect for and adherence to Security Council resolution 660 (1990) and announce his country's immediate unconditional withdrawal and abrogation of all illegal measures taken by his Government with respect to an independent State Member of the United Nations. However, he chose entirely to disregard international legitimacy and deliberately to raise peripheral issues, in an attempt to divert the attention of the international community from the essence of the crisis caused by the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait.

4. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq referred to two issues in his aforementioned letter to you. The first relates to Iraq's intentions towards Saudi Arabia, and the second concerns the Arab, Islamic and friendly forces which have joined the Saudi Arabian armed forces in order to assist them in defending Saudi Arabia against any aggression.

With regard to Iraq's intentions, I should like to note that the Iraqi Government did indeed propose that an agreement on non-interference in internal affairs and the non-use of force be signed. My Government responded to its request, and the agreement was indeed signed on 27 March 1989. In this regard, my

Government would like to draw the Security Council's attention to the Iraqi President's proposal to the Arab States in February 1981, whereby he undertook not to interfere in internal affairs or to use force for the settlement of disputes. He also assured a number of Arab Heads of State and Ministers for Foreign Affairs, who had exerted admirable efforts to solve the dispute between Iraq and Kuwait by peaceful means, that he had no intention of using force to solve his dispute with Kuwait. Nevertheless, he neither kept his promises nor honoured his vows. At dawn on Thursday, 2 August 1990, he invaded Kuwait and overthrew its legitimate Government. He then ignored Security Council resolutions 660 (1990) and 661 (1990) and defied the legitimate will of the international community by announcing his annexation of Kuwait. This in turn led to the adoption of Security Council resolution 662 (1990). Not content with this act of defiance, the Iraqi Government proceeded to concentrate large military forces in combat formation near the border between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, thus demonstrating and proving the Iraqi régime's aggressive intentions towards Saudi Arabia.

Such behaviour demonstrates the non-credibility of the Iraqi régime, and its determination neither to respect its promises nor to honour its vows, without any shadow of doubt. Saudi Arabia is therefore obliged to take all the precautionary measures required in order to defend its security, to protect its citizens and to preserve its economic foundations.

In the face of these challenges, Saudi Arabia exercised its legitimate right, as enshrined in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, article 2 of the Joint Arab Defence Treaty and the resolution adopted by the Extraordinary Arab Summit Conference on 10 August 1990. It has welcomed the forces of fraternal and other friendly States which expressed their willingness to support the Saudi Arabian armed forces in the defence of the Kingdom. My Government has confirmed that the presence of these forces is temporary and will end once the reasons for the threats confronting the Kingdom are removed. Their mission is entirely defensive, and the use of these forces for an act of aggression against any State will not be permitted in any circumstances whatsoever.

5. In his letter to you, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq adopted the style of the misleading media campaign now being waged by his Government in an attempt to divert attention from the essence and core of the problem, namely, Iraq's aggression against Kuwait. My Government is confident that this campaign, which is an insult to the intelligence of international public opinion and shows contempt for the legitimate will of the international community, as expressed by the Security Council, will not succeed in permitting the aggressor to consolidate his aggression. Tension in this region cannot be dissipated other than by complete respect for, absolute adherence to and full implementation of Security Council resolutions 660 (1990), 661 (1990) and 662 (1990).

Thus, if the Iraqi Government wishes to prove that it has no aggressive intentions, it has only to withdraw immediately and unconditionally from Kuwait and

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to allow the legitimate Government once again to exercise its functions in the State of Kuwait.

(Signed) Saud AL-FAISAL  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

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