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LETTER DATED 27 AUGUST 1990 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
KUWAIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Pursuant to our communications concerning the situation of Kuwaiti diplomats in Iraq and on instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith the text of a note verbale from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait addressed to the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva concerning the detention of the Ambassador of the State of Kuwait in Baghdad, of the staff of the Embassy in Baghdad and the Consulate in Basra and of their families.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad A. ABULHASAN
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Note verbale dated 26 August 1990 from the Ministry of Foreign
Affairs of Kuwait addressed to the International Committee of
the Red Cross

The Ministry would like to state that, in its note of 15 August 1990, it informed ICRC that the Iraqi authorities had seized the Ambassador of the State of Kuwait in Baghdad, Mr. Ibrahim Jassem Al Bahu, the staff of the Embassy in Baghdad and the staff of the Consulate in Basra and had imprisoned them at an undisclosed location. The Ministry has requested ICRC to exercise its good offices in order to determine their whereabouts, endeavour to save their lives and inform it of their situation.

The Ministry has learnt with great distress that the Ambassador of the State of Kuwait was forced by the Iraqi authorities to participate in a television interview conducted with him by Baghdad Television on 20 August 1990 with a view to justifying the brutal Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait. The Iraqi Embassy in Austria undertook to circulate the statement of the Kuwaiti Ambassador to the embassies in Vienna.

While we have doubts about the staged television interview with the Kuwaiti Ambassador in Baghdad, we have none at all with regard to the Iraqi occupation authorities and their repressive methods. Such methods are incompatible with the most elementary principles of human rights and are in contravention of international norms and international covenants, particularly the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait once again requests ICRC to intervene in order to safeguard and protect Kuwaiti citizens and to ensure that they are properly treated and that the authorities concerned accord them the necessary protection under the fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 and particularly its article 27, which stipulates that civilians "shall be protected especially against all acts of violence or threats thereof and against insults and public curiosity".

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait further requests ICRC to do all in its power to meet without delay with the Ambassador of the State of Kuwait and the Kuwaiti diplomats, whom the Iraqi authorities have prevented from performing their official and legal duties, in order to ascertain their physical and mental well-being as long as they are prevented from exercising their legal right to leave Iraqi territory in accordance with article 35 of the fourth Geneva Convention.
