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LETTER DATED 5 SEPTEMBER 1990 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
ALGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghozali, Minister for Foreign Affairs, in reply to your note SCPC/7/90(1), dated 8 August 1990, in connection with the adoption of Security Council resolution 661 (1990).

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

(Signed) Hocine DJOUDI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 5 September 1990 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs
of Algeria addressed to the Secretary-General

In reply to your letter dated 8 August 1990 concerning Security Council resolution 661 (1990), which was adopted under the agenda item entitled "The situation between Iraq and Kuwait", I have the honour to inform you as follows:

1. Bearing in mind the principles which have, at all times, guided its foreign policy, especially the principles of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and non-use of force in the settlement of disputes, Algeria immediately repudiated the invasion of Kuwait, which it deemed unacceptable from the very first day.

At the same time, my country was firmly in favour of a negotiated Arab solution, without any pressure or intervention from outside, whether direct or indirect, and stated that that implied the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

2. As regards Security Council resolution 661 (1990), which is binding on all members of the international community, including Algeria, we feel compelled to reaffirm, as unequivocally as possible, our commitment to the international legal order, the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the rules and principles of international law.

That having been said, Algeria wishes to make two observations which it regards as being of basic importance:

2.1 It is noteworthy, first of all, that the Security Council responded to the crisis in the Gulf with unusual dispatch and efficiency and adopted the measures it deemed appropriate in the circumstances in unanimity and with firmness.

The Security Council thus regained the unanimity and firmness which have been woefully lacking on past occasions, especially at the time of Israel's occupation of the Arab territories in 1967 and its subsequent annexation of the Golan and the invasion of Lebanon in 1982. It is to be hoped that the United Nations will react with the same vigour and the same efficiency in all situations that violate the Charter of the United Nations and the rules of international law.

2.2 Secondly, as regards the sanctions decreed by the Council against Iraq, Algeria interprets paragraph 3 of resolution 661 (1990) as excluding medical supplies and foodstuffs, on the basis of its understanding that it was not the Council's intention to make the starvation of the Iraqi people one of its objectives.

3. In view of the grave developments pertaining to this crisis in the area of the Gulf, the responsibilities of any State acting individually or collectively must be aimed primarily at ensuring that wisdom prevails over the logic of war, especially as the direct involvement of foreign forces in the area and their unprecedented scale are themselves a redoubtable factor in the escalation of the confrontation.

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It therefore seems to us essential that the maximum of restraint and moderation should be observed by the parties thus involved, in order to enable a solution to be sought by all appropriate political and diplomatic means.

Because the United Nations was founded in order to save mankind from the scourge of war, and not in order to contribute in the least to causing suffering of another kind, recourse to Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations must not leave room for any doubt and must derive from a faithful and rigorous reading of the spirit and letter of all the provisions of the Charter.

The Government of Algeria is expecting henceforth from the international community, and especially from the Security Council, equal dispatch and firmness in ensuring the implementation of the many resolutions of the Security Council, especially those concerning Palestinian territory and the other occupied Arab territories.

4. Algeria would finally emphasize the necessity of pursuing efforts to reach a negotiated settlement of the Gulf crisis in an Arab framework, and it expresses its firm opposition to any military solution, since such a solution would have the gravest consequences both for the peoples and countries of the region and for the international community as a whole.
