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LETTER DATED 10 FEBRUARY 1984 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED
TO THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF IRAQ

I have the honour to refer to the letter of Ambassador Al-Qaysi of 24 January 1984 (S/16289), informing me of recent developments in the conflict between the Republic of Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Iran and alleging military attacks on civilian areas in Iraq. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has made similar allegations and has requested a fact-finding mission to investigate the situation.

I wish to stress at the outset that, as Secretary-General of the United Nations, I remain deeply concerned with the mounting toll in life and continued suffering exacted by this tragic conflict. Equally, I cannot be indifferent to the wider issues involved, especially at a time when there is a threat of escalation of the level of hostilities.

It is in the light of these considerations that, in our meeting at Casablanca, I stressed to His Excellency Mr. Izat Ibrahim Al-Douri, Vice-Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council of the Republic of Iraq, that I feel duty-bound to dispatch a mission to visit the war-stricken areas in both countries, all the more so since both parties have made repeated allegations of attacks on civilian targets. It would ascertain the facts in order to update the report of the previous mission, which was sent with the concurrence of your Government. Mindful of the concerns expressed by your Government, I would further propose that the mission, which would be headed by one of my senior aides, also ascertain the authoritative positions of both Governments regarding other questions related to the conflict. This would be in keeping with the role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security and in the adoption of effective measures to suppress acts of aggression. Given the respective positions of the two parties regarding the resolutions of the Security Council, it is only through direct discussions with the Governments that the Secretary-General can hope to contribute towards any efforts in this direction. Once there is an understanding between the parties on the scope of its functions, the mission can depart to the area at very short notice.

This letter reflects essentially my abiding concern over all the grievous consequences of this tragic conflict. In the meeting at Casablanca as well as in frequent discussions with your Permanent Representative, I have made every effort

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to be of assistance. Therefore, I earnestly hope that your Government will react positively to a proposal that I make in a renewed attempt to respond to your concerns.

I am sending a letter along similar lines to the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Inasmuch as your Government has requested that its letter should be circulated as a document of the Security Council, I am arranging for this letter to be treated in the same manner.

(Signed) Javier PEREZ DE CUELLAR
