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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM IN THE AGENDA
OF THE FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

UNITED STATES MILITARY CONCENTRATIONS IN THE GULF REGION: THREAT
TO ARAB AND INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

Letter dated 5 November 1990 from the Permanent Representative of
Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and to request, under that rule, the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the current forty-fifth session of the Assembly, to be entitled "United States military concentrations in the Gulf region: threats to Arab and international peace and security".

I also transmit herewith an explanatory memorandum detailing the reasons for the inclusion of this new agenda item, in accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure.

(Signed) Abdul Amir A. AL-ANBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Explanatory memorandum

1. The Government of the United States of America has since **7** August 1990 been engaged in an unprecedented build-up of enormous military force in the Arabian Peninsula and the waters of the Arabian Gulf.
2. These forces now amount to **some 300,000** men. They are equipped with the **most** modern weapons and military hardware, consisting of aircraft carriers, aircraft, **missiles** and other weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear-powered devices, the presence **Of** which exposes the region to the hazards of nuclear explosions and radiation.
3. This unprecedentedly high concentration of military forces by the United States, as well as the quantity of weapons and lethal equipment and the American Government's persistence in dispatching a number of additional forces which **may** amount to over 100,000, together with more weapons and equipment, all serve to confirm that the forces' objectives are offensive rather than defensive. These facts, taken together with the other elements of American policy towards the region, constitute a direct danger and a manifest threat to Arab and international peace and security.
4. The statements made by American officials since the beginning of the crisis in the Gulf indicate their underlying aggressive intentions against Iraq and unwillingness to consider any possibility of reaching a peaceful, just and durable solution of both the Gulf crisis and the other delicate problems affecting the region, which are all inextricably linked. . First and foremost among these problems is the Israeli entity's occupation of Arab territories in Palestine, Lebanon and Syria.
5. **Among** the most noteworthy statements are the refusals to negotiate which have been and continue to be voiced by United States President George Bush and his direct threats to attack Iraq if that country does not announce its complete capitulation to American conditions. We refer to the following statements by President Bush during his election **campaign** in San Francisco on 28 October 1990: "We have a lot of troops there, they are well trained and highly motivated. That alone is sending a strong **message** to Saddam Hussein." On the same day, in another California city (Los Angeles), American Secretary of State Baker spoke in extremely violent terms against Iraq and its people during a meeting of the World Affairs Council. He said that there were limits to patience and that the United States would definitely not rule out the use of force against Iraq.
6. There are hundreds of other violent **statements**. Possibly the **most** notable were the statements made in Saudi Arabia by General Dugan, the American Air Force Chief of Staff, who referred to a need for co-operation and co-ordination with the Israeli entity in any attack on Iraq. These statements were published in The Washincrtcn Post on 16 September, as well as in other newspapers and news agency reports. The statement was also reflected in a document of the Security Council (S/21805) on 20 September **1990**.

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7. These **statements** and the decision to **dismiss** the General who made them confirm that the American Administration had from the outset decided to use force against Iraq, whether on the grounds of **defence against** a supposed attack on Saudi territory, of collective self-defence **or** in order to implement the resolutions of the Security Council.

8. The United States aggressive escalation against Iraq is being conducted in isolation from the Security Council resolutions and from the international community's desire to avoid war. The intention is to present the international community with a fait accompli, as occurred **when** the United States used force to impose the maritime embargo against Iraq before the Security Council had adopted any resolution.

9. The American plan revealed by General Dugan involves an intensive air bombardment of downtown Baghdad and the liquidation of the President of the Republic and members of his family. The General not only intended to bomb the city, with its civilian population, but also asked strategists to determine and target for destruction what is unique in Iraqi civilization and considered by Iraqis to be of great value.

10. We are witnessing a surge in hostile statements against Iraq, in which the highest-ranking American officials declare that the objectives of the United States military presence in the Gulf region are to apply and enforce the boycott against Iraq. This in itself is an act of aggression because it runs counter **to** the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and is not associated with any Security Council resolution relating to the Gulf crisis.

11. The United States military forces are imposing a comprehensive sea, land and air embargo against Iraq in violation of the principles of the United Nations, of international law **and** even of pertinent Security Council resolutions. The starvation embargo against the people of Iraq is an inhumane, uncouth and vexatious act which deprives the Iraqi people of the simplest basic human right, i.e. the right to life. It is children, women and the elderly who make up the population groups **most** exposed to harm as a result of this embargo, in violation of covenants on human rights and the Geneva Conventions of 1949.

12. Iraqi commercial vessels are subjected on a daily basis to persistent violation? which resemble acts of piracy by the American **forces** and their allies in the Arabian Gulf and on the high seas. Every aspect of the embargo thus constitutes a further element of the American military aggression against Iraq and the **Arab** nation.

13. The United States military presence in the region is associated with a rigid American policy that rejects any attempt made to reach a peaceful solution. The United States of America lays down conditions which it deliberately presents as humiliating and capitulatory for Iraq, and it does so in order to prepare the way for the destruction of its **economy** and the elimination of its **power** to defend itself so as to make the **Arab** nation easy prey to the expansionist ambitions of the Israeli entity. The United States of America has exploited the new international situation in its own interest and has imposed, through the United Nations Security Council, the adoption **of** unjust and iniquitous resolutions against Iraq. It has

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also brought great pressure to bear on many countries of the world including the countries of the Arabian Gulf and oil importing countries, in order to compel them to deploy forces **for** the blockade of Iraq or to contribute enormous sums of money to support this aggressive military presence. The frantic call for the imposition of humiliating conditions on Iraq and its people constitutes one more element of the aggression.

14. The United States of America suppresses any attempt made for peace in its infancy, regardless of its source. The American President himself maintains contacts, by telephone and otherwise, sends envoys to other countries and uses all possible means to stop any such initiative, even levelling at its proponents accusations that are unbecoming for a Head of State. This was clear in the United States reaction to the statements made by one of the Saudi leaders on 21 October 1990, in **which** he referred to certain Arab traditions that might help in the achievement **of** a peaceful inter-Arab settlement of the crisis. King Fahd then made an announcement on 24 October in which he forbade officials in Saudi Arabia to make any statement calling for a political settlement, and the President of the United States thanked King Fahd for making that announcement. The statements of the American President and his Secretary of State to which we have referred in paragraph 5 of this memorandum were made **at a time** when the world was encouraging the second visit to Iraq, on 28 October, of the envoy of the Soviet President, and while the Soviet and French Presidents were meeting to discuss the Gulf crisis and the possibility of reaching a peaceful solution. **Such** conduct on the part of the United States States can only indicate an additional element in the aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation.

15. The United States of America is waging a disinformation campaign against Iraq and its people in which it is employing all of its material and publicistic capacities, particularly the information media and public relations -companies specializing in the conduct of information campaigns and psychological warfare. This campaign is giving circulation **to claims**, lies and allegations from parties which are biased and lacking in independence and **which** level against Iraq and its people accusations that are unfounded, uncorroborated, not susceptible to any proof or logic and to which even fantasy **could** not lend credence. By means of this campaign, it seeks to mar Iraq's **reputation**, to create a psychological atmosphere against it and to prepare **America** and world public opinion to accept the acts of aggression that the United States is planning against Iraq and the Arab nation.

16. The United States of America has thwarted all the peace initiatives in whose preparation and elaboration many Arab and world leaders have attempted to exercise their good offices so as to advance the process towards a comprehensive peace in the entire region. Reference can be made to the efforts made by His Majesty King Hussein of Jordan, by Mr. **Ali** Abdullah Saleh, President of Yemen, and by the leaders of the Arab Maghreb countries, as well as to the Soviet efforts being made by the envoy of Soviet President Gorbachev, Mr. Primakov, and to the positions adopted by France.

17. The United States of America has also rejected all of the initiatives proposed by Iraq with a view to reaching a peaceful and just solution, **most** prominently the initiative proposed by the President of the Republic of Iraq, **Mr. Saddam Hussein**, on 12 August 1990. That initiative set forth workable and peaceful principles for the solution **of** all the interconnected problems of the region and for the

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implementation, without favour and without the introduction of double standards, of all the relevant Security Council resolutions so as to bring the region to the threshold of a real state of peace that might for ever banish the spectre of war and allow an opportunity, so long awaited over many decades, to ensure the well-being of the region and its peoples.

18. Iraq had already proposed a workable peace initiative in April 1990, in which it called for the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction in the region. Iraq is prepared to destroy its chemical weapons if Israel destroys its nuclear and chemical weapons and its other weapons of mass destruction.

19. Iraq has also proposed numerous initiatives calling upon the United States and its allies to give a pledge of non-aggression against Iraq so that the matter of foreign citizens in Iraq may be addressed. The United States, however, flatly and inexorably rejected all these initiatives, thereby confirming that it is determined to carry out its aggressive scheme to move against Iraq and the Arab nation. One of the most salient indications of this is, as we have stated in paragraph 1 of this memorandum, the speed with which United States forces were sent to thwart any Arab solution that might have emerged in the first days of the crisis and which was associated with Iraq's announcement of its readiness to withdraw and its actually beginning to do so at that time. The arrival of the United States forces, however, thwarted those peace initiatives and opened the way for the implementation of the United States-Zionist scheme to strike against Iraq and the Arab nation and to create a situation of mass destruction with dire and inestimable consequences for mankind for many years into the future.

20. The abandonment of the American scheme and the invocation of peace remain a humanitarian duty that is in keeping with all the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, with international law and with the ideals and values of humanity and of civilization. Accordingly, the inclusion of this important matter as an item in the agenda of the General Assembly at this session is an important and exceptional issue that requires the support and backing of all States that cherish peace.
