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Letter dated 10 December 1987 from the Permanent Representative of
Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey to you the text of the message issued on 6 December 1967 by His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait and Chairman of the current session of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, addressed to His Excellency Mr. Ronald Reagan, President of the United States of America, and His Excellency Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, on the occasion of their meeting on 7 December 1987 in Washington, D.C. (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you would circulate this letter and the text of the message as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 22, 33, 36, 38, 39, 47, 59, 62, 66, 69, 72, 73, 82, 85, 88, 91, 105, 110, 129 and 138, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad A. ABULHASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Message issued on 6 December 1987 by the Emir of the State of Kuwait addressed to the President of the United States of America and the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

The bilateral summit meeting between you is the focus of great attention from all Governments and peoples of the world, and it also enjoys the optimism of all champions of peace and security in a world whose various parts are beset by wars, disturbances and **economic crises**.

The world anxiously awaits steps subsequent to the agreement on the elimination of intermediate-range nuclear missiles in Europe and **hopes** that global and regional issues of a humanitarian nature will be afforded your concern.

Recalling the message you **addressed** to me in my capacity as the Chairman of the current session of the **Organization** of the Islamic Conference, in which you expressed your kind sentiments, I send you my sincere greetings and assurances of **esteem**. I wish you to remember, while on the threshold of a new phase of the dialogue between the two super-Powers, the global and regional issues which we **feel** are preoccupying millions in our contemporary world.

In practice, there is no longer a separation between regional and global **issues**. There is no regional issue in which the major Powers have no hand or influence, and there is no world or regional gathering whose agenda does not include **issues** that concern mankind as a whole and view the human being as vested with rights and dignity; issues of a regional character are **parts** of the overall picture of humanity.

First and **foremost** come the issues of national liberation and the rights of peoples to self-determination and to a safe **life** on their land, without aggression by or against them or intervention in their affairs. Most **notable** of these are the rights of the Palestinian people, the Lebanese people, the **Namibian** people, the oppressed African majority in South Africa, the Afghan people, some of the peoples of South-East Asia and some of the peoples of Latin America and the **Caribbean** States. Each of these peoples has rights that fall under the category of "human rights". The **bilateral summit** meeting can help to build a strong bridge between the International Covenants and their implementation. Co-operating in this with the international **organizations** and, primarily, the United Nations.

We live in a bipartite mankind and yearn for a unified one. The world today is **two**: the advanced, rich and **creditor North** and the backward, poor and **debtor South**, with all the disparate degrees of backwardness and development. Although humanity was able to break the shackle of the old slavery and proclaim human rights, debts have become new shackles for the developing countries whereby the slavery of individuals has turned into comprehensive **socio-economic** slavery. The **creditor countries' grip** on the fates of the **debtor** countries tightens daily, saps the vitality of present generations and dampens the hopes for future ones.

There is danger threatening **us all as human beings**, rich and **poor**, advanced and backward alike, and that is the continuous pollution **of** the natural environment in which we live, in which **our fathers** lived, and in which we wish our children to live. Scientific advancement and backwardness together threaten the natural environment and its components on land, at sea and in the air. Human destiny is treading a perilous path between extravagance in industrial **uses** in advanced **countries** and extravagance in consuming the environmental constituents in the pastures and forests of poor countries. Pollution is increasing in the land, the rivers and the air, and poison clouds travel from one country to another over land and **sea** in the North, while in the South the zone of drought, and with it hunger and famine, is expanding to the extent that in Central Africa and parts of **Asia** and Latin America rivers **have become** endangered and rainfall is dwindling.

This danger is not any less than the dangers of wars. If sincere voices have **been** raised calling for the preservation of the environment, the taking of positive steps to that end and the combating of drought and desertification, together with the threat of famine and death that they present, the bilateral meeting between the two super-Powers has the potential for being a world platform for the adoption of positive steps in this direction.

We **in the Arabian Gulf** region recall the resolution on the Iran-Iraq war to whose adoption **by** the Security Council you have contributed and hope in this **connection that** positive steps will **be taken to halt** this destructive war, its consumption of lives and money and its threat of proliferation. We hope to see restored to the Gulf the peace in which it lived for centuries, **with** neither territorial ambitions nor expansionist designs on the part of its inhabitants and with different races living on its land in amity and understanding.

We send you this message during a meeting of the two super-Powers of our contemporary world. **As Muslims we believe that the** greatest power is that **of** God Almighty, the creator **of** everything, who has summoned us to universal human brotherhood and faith in human dignity, this dignity for whose sake the United Nations was established, which the **Organization** of the Islamic Conference has proclaimed and which is the hope of mankind in the march to its future.

If science, whose peaks you have scaled, has managed to reach the horizons of outer space, we hope your meeting will reach **the depths of the human soul** and will **hearken** to its very real needs for security, progress and peace.

Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah
Emir of Kuwait