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MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

Letter dated 27 December 1995 from the Permanent Representative
of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to enclose,
herewith a letter dated 27 December 1995 from H.E. Mr. Ali Akbar Velayati,
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, addressed to you.

It would be highly appreciated if this letter and its annex were circulated
as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 10, 60, 81, 95 (a),
140, 145 and 146, and of the Security Council, as requested in the annex.

(Signed) Kamal KHARRAZI
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 27 December 1995 from the Minister for Foreign
Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran addressed to the
Secretary-General

The perennial hostile policies of the Government of the United States of America against the Islamic Republic of Iran have recently been intensified and taken dangerous new dimensions. As you may be aware, two pieces of legislation are being enacted in the United States Congress, one authorizing covert subversive operations against the Islamic Republic of Iran and the other unilaterally attempting to disrupt Iran's economic relations with other States. They are both in blatant violation of universally accepted norms and principles governing relations among nations and create dangerous precedents with unpredictable yet grave consequences detrimental to the cause of the rule of law and international peace and security. They thus require immediate and serious examination and reaction by the international community, and particularly the United Nations.

As you might have noticed, the reports made public in the United States media, including the enclosed article entitled "White House Agrees to Bill Authorizing Covert Action in Iran", published in The Washington Post on 22 December 1995, unveil a conspiracy by the United States Government to conduct covert operations against the Islamic Republic of Iran and its legitimate Government. These reports reflect the agreement of the White House with a Congressional bill that authorizes spending of up to US\$ 20 million for secret anti-Iran operations. It is even more alarming to note that, according to the Congressional Monitor, at least US\$ 2 million out of this amount is allocated to subversive activities within Iranian territory.

Since the legislation is classified, the magnitude of the adventurist illegal operations envisaged remains unknown. It is important to note that the original intention of the legislation, as officially and publicly proposed by the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, was to overthrow the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The few details that have been published indicate that the White House and the Congress have agreed to intervene directly in order to destabilize the Islamic Republic of Iran, which includes measures such as supporting groups opposing the Iranian Government and "cultivating new opponents".

As the involvement of the overwhelming majority of these groups in terrorist crimes against the Iranian people, inside and outside Iranian territory, is solidly based in uncontrovertible documents, even acknowledged by the American Government, the now-declared policy of the United States is nothing but the most vivid example of State-sponsored terrorism in its most blatant and official form. The involvement of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) as an agency of the United States Government, also indicates the practice of State-terrorism ironically being legislated into law.

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The policy of interference, intervention and subversion, which is now made public, has been pursued for years by the Government of the United States of America against Iran. It contravenes the universally recognized dictums of international law and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including the fundamental principles of respect for the sovereignty and political independence of States and non-intervention and interference in the internal affairs of other States.

Furthermore, the United States Government is bound, through its undertaking under the Algerian Declaration of 19 January 1981, formally adhered to and constituting a treaty obligation for that Government, to refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The United States interventionist policies in Iran have a long history and have always been a source of anxiety and concern for our people. In order to put an end to these conducts, the Algerian Declaration, inter alia, provides:

The United States pledges that it is and from now on will be the policy of the United States not to intervene, directly or indirectly, politically or militarily, in Iran's internal affairs.

It is crystally clear that the United States Government, by adopting the measures envisaged in the aforementioned legislation, has once more violated its undertaking under this declaration, and is in serious breach of its international treaty obligations.

The principle of non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States is a universally accepted norm incorporated in the Charter of the United Nations and several other international and regional treaties. In addition to United States treaty obligations vis-à-vis the Islamic Republic of Iran, several resolutions of the General Assembly, including the Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention in the Domestic Affairs of States and the Protection of Their Independence and Sovereignty (resolution 2131 (XX) of 21 December 1965), the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations (resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970) and the Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention and Interference in the Internal Affairs of States (resolution 36/103 of 9 December 1981) reaffirm the obligation of States not to interfere, directly or indirectly, in the internal or external affairs of other States.

Resolution 2625 (XXV) stipulates that:

... armed intervention and all other forms of interference or attempted threats against the personality of the State or against its political, economic and cultural elements, are in violation of international law No State may use or encourage the use of economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights and to secure from it advantages of any kind.

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Both the above-mentioned pieces of United States legislation constitute blatant violations of these universally recognized norms governing inter-State conduct.

To justify its illegal behaviour, the United States has resorted extensively to a baseless defamatory misinformation campaign, vilification and hostile propaganda and has disseminated false and fabricated allegations against the Islamic Republic of Iran. As we have indicated in the past, we consider the insistence of American officials on repeating unsubstantiated and undocumented allegations that have already been proven fictitious as a matter of utmost irresponsibility and a serious and dangerous mistake, the continuation of which will have destructive repercussions for international relations and will create a climate of suspicion and distrust.

The new pieces of legislation pending in the United States Congress, viewed in the wider context, signify a trend towards unilateralism and a tendency towards coercive imposition of the politically motivated views of one State on the rest of the international community. They also represent a very fundamental challenge to the rule of law and the underlying principles of the United Nations, and indicate the tendency to legalize State and State-sponsored terrorism through domestic legislation.

It is evident that the continuation of this kind of irresponsible unilateral conduct and arrogant behaviour by the United States Government will set an alarming precedent with far-reaching adverse implications for international peace and security and create uncertainty and insecurity in international relations, for which the United States alone must bear full responsibility. These policies must be universally and unequivocally rejected. The United Nations, and particularly the Secretary-General of the Organization, has a fundamental responsibility to prevent such disastrous consequences and take all necessary and appropriate steps to bring these policies and practices to an immediate halt.

It would be highly appreciated, if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 10, 60, 81, 95 (a), 140, 145 and 146, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ali Akbar VELAYATI
Minister for Foreign Affairs

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Appendix