



**Security Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

S/22499  
15 April 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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LETTER DATED 12 APRIL 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVE OF JAPAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
ADDRESSED TO THE **SECRETARY-GENERAL**

I have the **honour** to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued on 12 April 1991 by the Press Secretary for Public Information and Cultural Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the air drop of relief materials to evacuees stranded in Iraq.

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

(Signed) Yoshio HATANO  
Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative of  
Japan to the United Nations

Annex

Statement of the Press Secretary/Director General for Public Information and Cultural Affairs of the Foreign Ministry on the airdrop of relief materials to evacuees stranded in Iraq

1. On 10 April, the Government of Japan, in response to requests from Iran and Turkey, with which it enjoys friendly relations, and out of humanitarian concern, decided to dispatch a Japanese disaster relief team to Iran and to send emergency relief materials to Iran and Turkey, where a large number of evacuees, most of whom are Kurdish, are entering from Iraq. This is in addition to the financial aid of 10 million dollars it is extending to international organizations concerned through the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator's Office (UNDRO).
2. There are still also a large number of evacuees stranded in Iraqi territory. The situation of these evacuees is even more severe than that of the evacuees who have fled to Iran and Turkey, because it is more difficult to get assistance to them. Despite United Nations Security Council resolution 688, which "insists that Iraq allow immediate access by international humanitarian organizations to all those in need of assistance in all parts of Iraq", international humanitarian organisations have thus far been unable to get adequate assistance to the evacuees in Iraq. Several countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, and France have therefore been airdropping relief materials for them. The actions of these countries will help to alleviate the suffering of the evacuees in Iraq, and the Government of Japan appreciates and firmly supports their humanitarian activities.

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