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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TEL NO 170 OF 25 MARCH 1983

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ADVANCE COPY

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PS/Mr Howard

PS/PUS.

Sir Leahy

Mr Ogente

No (O) S (C)

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MIPT: MESSAGE FROM AMIR OF QATAR TO THE PRIME MINISTER

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER DATED 12 MARCH:

MADAM PRIME MINISTER,

AS WE ALL KNOW, IT IS AN ESTABLISHED FACT THAT WORLD PEACE AND SECURITY ARE INTEGRAL, AND THAT THEIR DISTURBANCE IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD AFFECTS ALL OTHER AREAS. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT NATIONS OF THE WORLD ARE LINKED IN COMMON MAJOR INTERESTS TO THE STATES OF THE GULF REGION, PEACE AND SECURITY IN THIS PARTICULAR REGION ARE OF CONCERN NOT ONLY TO ITS COUNTRIES BUT TO ALL COUNTRIES. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR THESE INTERESTS TO BE MAINTAINED AND DEVELOPED EXCEPT BY PRESERVING PEACE AND SECURITY IN THIS REGION WHICH IS THREATENED BY THE GRAVEST DANGERS OF THE CONTINUING IRAN/IRAQ WAR, NOW IN ITS THIRD YEAR.

THE UNITED NATIONS, PARTICULARLY THE SECURITY COUNCIL, THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE ORGANISATION, THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES AND SOME FRIENDLY STATES HAVE ALL TRIED TO END THIS WAR. THESE ATTEMPTS HAVE NOT ONLY BEEN INCONCLUSIVE, BUT THE WAR HAS INTENSIFIED.

YOUR EXCELLENCY ARE AWARE THAT THE MEMBER STATES OF THE GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL HAVE, IN TURN, DEVOTED GREAT EFFORTS TO FIND A WAY OUT OF THIS WAR AND TO PUT AN END TO ITS CONSEQUENT HORRIBLE BLOODSHED AND DESTRUCTION OF HUGE MATERIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES. THE OUTCOME OF THOSE ATTEMPTS, LIKEWISE, HAS NOT BROUGHT US NEARER TO A CEASEFIRE OR POSSIBLE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES CONCERNED TO SETTLE THEIR CONFLICT BY PEACEFUL MEANS.

IN THE FACE OF THIS SERIOUS SITUATION, IT HAS BECOME THE DUTY OF ALL OF US TO SEEK MEANS OTHER THAN THOSE ALREADY PROBED,

IN THE FACE OF THIS SERIOUS SITUATION, IT HAS BECOME THE DUTY OF ALL OF US TO SEEK MEANS OTHER THAN THOSE ALREADY PROBED, IN ORDER TO PRESERVE STABILITY AND GUARANTEE FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION IN THE GULF AND SAFEGUARD THE SECURITY OF ITS STATES TO WHICH WORLD PEACE AND SECURITY ARE STRONGLY LINKED.

IF IS MY FIRM BELIEF THAT YOUR EXCELLENCY WOULD AGREE WITH ME THAT THE CONTINUATION OF THIS WAR, AND THE POSSIBLE EXPANSION OF ITS SCOPE, THREATEN WITH A WORLD WAR THAT WOULD EXPOSE MANKIND TO ANNIHILATION. THE UN CHARTER HAS PLACED A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ON THE FIVE PERMANENT MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL REGARDING MAINTAINING WORLD PEACE AND SECURITY. FRANKNESS REQUIRES ME TO CONVEY TO YOU THAT WE FEEL, AS FAR AS THE IRAN/IRAQ WAR IS CONCERNED, THE FIVE COUNTRIES HAVE NOT MADE ALL THE EFFORTS THAT CONFORM WITH THAT RESPONSIBILITY. IT IS OUR VIEW THAT THE TIME HAS COME TO LAUNCH GREATER EFFORTS BASED ON MANDATORY EFFECTIVE MEANS WHICH ARE PROVIDED FOR IN THE UN CHARTER WHEN WORLD PEACE AND SECURITY ARE ENDANGERED.

MADAM PRIME MINISTER,
WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT YOU FULLY REALISE THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION RESULTING FROM THE IRAN/IRAQ WAR. IN FACT, IF CONTINUED, THIS WAR WOULD LEAD TO THE MOST DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCIES NOT ONLY FOR THE TWO BELLIGERENT PARTIES OR THE WHOLE REGION BUT FOR THE WORLD AT LARGE. IT IS, THEREFORE, OUR GREATEST HOPE THAT THE POSSIBLE APPLICATION OF THE MEANS PRESCRIBED BY THE UN CHARTER FOR SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD RECEIVE YOUR CAREFUL CONSIDERATION. HOWEVER, I AM CONFIDENT THAT YOU WILL DO YOUR UTMOST, UNDER THE CHARTER, TO HELP BRING PEACE IN OUR REGION.

WHILE LOOKING FORWARD TO RECEIVING YOUR VIEWS IN THIS RESPECT, PLEASE ACCEPT, MADAM PRIME MINISTER, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

SIGNED
KHALIFA BIN HAMAD AL-THANI
AMIR OF THE STATE OF QATAR