

UNITED NATIONS



# SECURITY COUNCIL OFFICIAL RECORDS

LIBRARY  
FEB 10 1980  
UN/ISA COLLECTION

THIRTY-FIFTH YEAR

**2247<sup>th</sup>** MEETING: 26 SEPTEMBER 1980

NEW YORK

---

## CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Provisional agenda (S/Agenda/2247) .....	1
Adoption of the agenda .....	1
The situation between Iran and Iraq .....	1

#### NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

Documents of the Security Council (symbol S/...) are normally published in quarterly *Supplements* of the *Official Records of the Security Council*. The date of the document indicates the supplement in which it appears or in which information about it is given.

The resolutions of the Security Council, numbered in accordance with a system adopted in 1964, are published in yearly volumes of *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council*. The new system, which has been applied retroactively to resolutions adopted before 1 January 1965, became fully operative on that date.

## 2247th MEETING

Held in New York on Friday, 26 September 1980, at 7 p.m.

*President:* Mr. Taïeb SLIM (Tunisia).

*Present:* The representatives of the following States: Bangladesh, China, France, German Democratic Republic, Jamaica, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Philippines, Portugal, Tunisia, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Zambia.

### Provisional agenda (S/Agenda/2247)

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. The situation between Iran and Iraq

*The meeting was called to order at 7.25 p.m.*

### Adoption of the agenda

*The agenda was adopted.*

### The situation between Iran and Iraq

1. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): I should like to inform the members of the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Iraq, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In accordance with the usual practice I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure.

*At the invitation of the President, Mr. Kittani (Iraq) took a place at the Council table.*

2. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): The Council is meeting today in response to a letter dated 26 September from the representatives of Mexico and Norway to the President of the Security Council. That letter is contained in document S/14198.

3. I should like to draw the attention of the members of the Council to the following documents: S/14191 and S/14192, containing the texts of letters dated 22 and 24 September, from the Chargé d'affaires ad interim of the Permanent Mission of Iraq, addressed, respectively, to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council; S/14193 and Corr.1, containing the text of a letter dated 24 September from the Sec-

retary-General to the President of the Security Council; S/14195, containing the text of a letter dated 25 September from the representative of Tunisia addressed to the Secretary-General; and S/14196 and S/14197, containing the texts of letters dated, respectively, 23 and 25 September from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council.

4. I now call on the Secretary-General.

5. The SECRETARY-GENERAL: I appreciate the opportunity to make a brief statement to the Council, summarizing developments at the United Nations in the last few days as regards the conflict between Iran and Iraq.

6. Ever since the first clashes, I have followed the developments with deep concern. On Monday, 22 September, I appealed to the parties to put an end to the fighting and to make every possible effort to settle their differences by negotiation. On the same day, through the representatives of the two Governments at the United Nations, I offered my good offices, should the parties feel that this might be of use in settling their differences.

7. On the following day, 23 September, I asked the President of the Security Council to arrange for consultations of the Council at the earliest possible time in view of the escalation of the conflict [S/14196]. In consultations on the evening of 23 September, the Council agreed that you, Mr. President, should issue a statement expressing the concern of members of the Council, stating that the members of the Council welcomed and fully supported my appeal and the offer of my good offices, and appealing to the Governments of Iran and Iraq, as a first step towards a solution of the conflict, to desist from all armed activity and all acts that might worsen the present dangerous situation and to settle their dispute by peaceful means.<sup>1</sup>

8. On 24 September I addressed a written message [S/14193] to the Presidents of Iran and Iraq reiterating my previous appeal. I also attempted to contact them directly with a view to ascertaining the positions of both Governments with regard to the appeals which had been made to them. A special emissary of the Government of Iraq arrived in New York late on 24 September, and I have discussed the situation with him on several occasions since that time. I have also kept in touch with the Chargé d'affaires of Iran as well as contacting the office of the President of Iran by telephone.

9. On the afternoon of 25 September, I received a response to my appeals of 22 and 24 September from the President of Iraq. Members of the Council will recall that prior to this time the Foreign Minister of Iraq had communicated the position of his Government in letters dated 22 and 24 September [S/14191 and S/14192]. In his message of 25 September, the President of Iraq expressed his appreciation for my initiatives and emphasized Iraq's concern that international peace and security should not be threatened and that economic and oil interests of States should not be exposed to danger. In repeating the position stated in the letters from the Foreign Minister of Iraq, the President emphasized that Iraq's objective was to gain Iran's irrevocable recognition of Iraq's rights in its lands and sovereignty over its national waters. He also asked whether Iran was ready to accept a cease-fire.

10. Unfortunately, despite all these efforts, the fighting still continued and intensified. On 25 September, I therefore addressed a second letter [S/14197] to you, Mr. President, repeating that, in view of the fact that, in my opinion, the current situation was undoubtedly a threat to international peace and security, I felt obliged to suggest that the Security Council should consider the matter with the utmost urgency. On the evening of the same day, the representatives of Mexico and Norway requested a formal meeting of the Council [S/14198].

11. On the afternoon of 25 September, members of the Council and I were informed that the Islamic Conference would meet at the Foreign Ministerial level on the next day—that is, today—to seek ways and means to assist in resolving the differences of the two Governments. Clearly it was important that this valuable initiative should have every chance to succeed since it was in the spirit of the appeal to the two Governments addressed by you, Mr. President, on behalf of the members of the Security Council. It was therefore decided in consultations late last night that the formal meeting of the Council should take place this afternoon after the Islamic Conference had met here at the United Nations in the earlier part of the day. I have been informed by the Secretary-General of the Islamic Conference, Mr. Chatti, that the Conference will send a good-will mission to Iran and Iraq. Mr. Chatti stressed that this mission should be regarded as complementary to the efforts of the Council. I am gratified by this constructive initiative and I hope that the mission's efforts will be successful.

12. Before I conclude this statement, I wish to express once again my deep concern at the escalation of this tragic conflict and my anxiety about the dangers which will inevitably arise from its further escalation. I know that this concern is shared by all members of the Council. The Security Council is the organ of the United Nations with the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. The Council has to exercise that responsibility keeping

in mind the principles of the Charter and the interests of the entire world community. Naturally, the positions of the parties to the conflict are a factor of primary importance. This is a most delicate and difficult, but at the same time an absolutely vital, task. I am sure that the Council will find the most useful and practical way of reaching the objective which all have in mind, namely an end to the fighting and a settlement of the differences between the two Governments by peaceful means.

13. In conclusion, Mr. President, I wish to pay a warm tribute to you for your own unremitting efforts in these last days and for your wise guidance of the Council in this very difficult situation. I wish to assure the Council, as well as the two Governments concerned, that, for my part, I shall continue to do my utmost to be of assistance in finding a solution to this very urgent and dangerous problem.

14. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): I thank the Secretary-General for his kind words addressed to me personally. It is rather he who must be thanked for his continuous efforts to help us since the very beginning of this crisis.

15. Mr. MUÑOZ LEDO (Mexico) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Mr. President, because of the outstanding manner in which you have been presiding over the work of the Council, these words of welcome are no mere formality, but are a sincere expression of our appreciation for the skill and intelligence with which you have been conducting our deliberations at such a difficult time. We should also like to express our appreciation for the sureness and wisdom with which Ambassador Futscher Pereira of Portugal presided over the work of the Council last month.

16. This meeting of the Council is being held at a particularly serious time, inasmuch as peace has in fact been breached in a region of the world which is already convulsed and potentially explosive.

17. At the proper time we shall express ourselves on the substance of the conflict. Now it is a matter of urgency to secure a commitment by the States so that, in accordance with the means provided for by the Charter, an immediate cessation of hostilities may be brought about on terms which will be just for both parties.

18. The delegation of Mexico, together with that of Norway, requested the convening of this formal meeting of the Council because we believe that it is our duty as members of the international community decisively to promote the peaceful settlement of disputes. We consider it significant that the non-permanent members of the Council that represent developing countries have granted us their moral endorsement of this meeting.

19. Of course, we have not been inactive. Since the outbreak of the conflict we have held informal consul-

tations, and last Tuesday, 23 September, we authorized the President of the Council, on behalf of all the members of the Council, to encourage the mediation efforts of the Secretary-General and to issue an urgent appeal to the parties to the conflict that they desist from all armed action.

20. We wish to reiterate to the Secretary-General our profound appreciation for his intense efforts to bring about a dialogue and we should also express our hope that his efforts will bear fruit.

21. We also recognize the value of the efforts of both the countries of the non-aligned movement and of those of the Islamic Conference to bring about a cessation of this fratricidal war through mutual understanding between the parties. We consider that the Council should continue to promote that process of mediation and should in no way hinder it but we also feel that nothing can relieve this body of its primary responsibility in the maintenance of international peace and security.

22. By its very nature the Council provides the most appropriate forum for the opinion of States to be expressed and for the will of the international community to take shape on questions of particular importance or gravity. It is also a distinctive feature of the Council that, in accordance with its functions under the Charter, its deliberations should culminate, where appropriate, in decisions of a binding nature—not just in declarations or recommendations.

23. We are confident that efforts to bring about a speedy and just settlement of the conflict will be entirely successful.

24. We hope that the urgent need to prevent further loss of life and material damage in two fraternal nations will prevail over considerations of a strategic or economic nature.

25. We urge the parties to the conflict to heed the appeal of the United Nations and to act accordingly. We also urge all States to refrain from any action which might aggravate the present situation.

26. In any case, we must ensure respect for the essential principles of the Organization: the independence and territorial integrity of States, non-intervention, the peaceful settlement of disputes and the maintenance of peace.

27. Mr. ÅLGÅRD (Norway): Allow me at the outset, Mr. President, to congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for this month. You have already demonstrated your great diplomatic skills and patience, combined with a firm hand. We are very confident seeing you in the Chair.

28. At the same time, I wish to thank the retiring President, Ambassador Futscher Pereira of Portugal,

for the efficient and elegant way in which he conducted our business last month.

29. The war between Iraq and Iran is a matter of the gravest concern to all of us. It threatens the stability of a very sensitive area of extreme importance to the entire world. The situation, therefore, clearly constitutes a serious threat to international peace and security.

30. Under the Charter, the Security Council has the responsibility for maintaining international peace and security. Norway, as a member of the Council, felt that, faced with an ongoing war, the Council had a duty to act. Mexico and Norway therefore joined in bringing the conflict before the Council.

31. Three days ago the President of the Council, on behalf of the members of the Council, appealed to the Governments of Iraq and Iran, as a first step, to desist from all armed activity and all acts that might worsen the situation. The Secretary-General has also made appeals to the parties. Efforts have also been made by the Islamic Conference to find peaceful means to settle this conflict.

32. We highly appreciate those efforts and we note with deep regret that they have not succeeded in bringing an end to the hostilities. On the contrary, the fighting continues. In this situation Norway feels that the Council must act and discharge its responsibilities under the Charter.

33. We believe that the Council, as a matter of highest urgency, should adopt a resolution calling upon the Governments of Iraq and Iran, as a first step and without prejudice to their positions, to take forthwith all measures for an immediate cease-fire and for the cessation of all military activities in the area. Furthermore, in its resolution the Council should call upon the Governments of Iraq and Iran immediately and concurrently with the cease-fire to initiate negotiations under appropriate auspices with a view to settling their dispute by peaceful means.

34. The PRESIDENT: (*interpretation from French*): The next speaker is the representative of Iraq, I call on him.

35. Mr. KITTANI (Iraq): First of all, I wish to express to you, Mr. President, and to the other members of the Council our deep gratitude and appreciation for having so graciously acceded to our request to participate in this meeting. I should like to assure the Council that our request emanated from our deep attachment to international peace and security and from our respect for the United Nations and for the authority of the Council.

36. We are very grateful to you, Mr. President, and to the Secretary-General in particular, for having brought the Council up to date on the various initiatives

and appeals addressed to the two parties to the dispute and for having informed the Council about the prompt and positive responses of my Government to those communications.

37. In order to supplement what has already been made clear and to show that we are willing and ready at all times to co-operate with any initiative for international peace and security, I wish first of all to read to the Council some excerpts from a statement issued earlier today by the Foreign Minister of Iraq in Baghdad. The Foreign Minister stated, *inter alia*:

"Iraq emphasizes the principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of States, respect for their national sovereignty and concern for international peace and security. It has given many examples of its genuine belief in and attachment to those principles, both in words and in deeds. It has also done its best to establish relations of good-neighbourliness and friendship with Iran and endeavoured, through its contacts and statements of position, as well as through the repeated notes it has recently submitted, to make the Iranian régime listen to the voice of reason, accept those principles and adhere to them.

"On the basis of these same principles, Iraq today reiterates its concern for peace in the world and the fact that it does not intend to continue the fighting at all if Iran acknowledges these principles and acts accordingly.

"Iraq's objective, as we have repeatedly stated, is the maintenance of its national rights, its honour, its territorial integrity and its sovereignty over its national waters. It categorically has no ambitions concerning Iran's territory. All it aims at is: the acknowledgement by the Iranian régime of these rights; non-intervention in Iraq's internal affairs; the establishment of lasting peace on our common border; and good-neighbourly relations.

"Iraq appreciates the concern shown by many States throughout the world for security in this area and understands and shares their apprehension. For its part, Iraq wishes to make clear that it has a sense of responsibility towards the vital economic interests of all States, especially as regards oil. Iraq has played a responsible role regarding this matter over the past year.

"With regard to the numerous proposals for mediation and good offices, the Iraqi Government

wishes to declare that it appreciates those endeavours and welcomes the consideration of the problem underlying the present situation, both at the international and the regional level, with a view to setting things right and securing our national interests.

"While welcoming efforts for the establishment of good relations on those bases, Iraq is acting in accordance with its sense of responsibility and out of a belief in the principles of non-alignment and the Charter of the United Nations, particularly now that it has proved its ability to defend its sovereignty and rights through military means, after all political means and the invocation of international law and custom had failed."

Those are the excerpts from my Foreign Minister's statement earlier today that I wished to bring to the attention of this body.

38. There is one other matter I wish to bring to the attention of the Council. As the consideration of the matter in the Council proceeds, we have one request to make: if the Council is at any time going to move into substantive discussions of the conflict and perhaps consider draft resolutions that might be submitted officially to it, we would humbly request that an opportunity be given to our Government to present its case in full, through its Foreign Minister, who is willing and ready to come here when we inform him of the request of the Council or when we inform him that such substantive debate and consideration of draft resolutions is to take place.

39. I think this is a reasonable and fair request by any party to any dispute and I hope it will be accepted by the Council.

40. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): There are no other speakers. We shall thus continue our consideration of this question, bearing in mind the wish expressed by the Government of Iraq in the statement by its representative here today.

*The meeting rose at 8.00 p.m.*

---

NOTE

<sup>1</sup> See *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1980*, p. 23.



---

**كيفية الحصول على منشورات الأمم المتحدة**  
يمكن الحصول على منشورات الأمم المتحدة من المكتبات ودور التوزيع في جميع أنحاء العالم - استلم منها من المكتبة التي تتعامل معها  
أو اكتب إلى : الأمم المتحدة ، قسم البيع في نيويورك أو في جنيف .

**如何购取联合国出版物**

联合国出版物在全世界各地的书店和经售处均有发售。请向书店询问或写信到纽约或日内瓦的联合国销售组。

**HOW TO OBTAIN UNITED NATIONS PUBLICATIONS**

United Nations publications may be obtained from bookstores and distributors throughout the world. Consult your bookstore or write to: United Nations, Sales Section, New York or Geneva.

**COMMENT SE PROCURER LES PUBLICATIONS DES NATIONS UNIES**

Les publications des Nations Unies sont en vente dans les librairies et les agences dépositaires du monde entier. Informez-vous auprès de votre libraire ou adressez-vous à : Nations Unies, Section des ventes, New York ou Genève.

**КАК ПОЛУЧИТЬ ИЗДАНИЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ**

Издания Организации Объединенных Наций можно купить в книжных магазинах и агентствах во всех районах мира. Наводите справки об изданиях в вашем книжном магазине или пишите по адресу: Организация Объединенных Наций, Секция по продаже изданий, Нью-Йорк или Женева.

**COMO CONSEGUIR PUBLICACIONES DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS**

Las publicaciones de las Naciones Unidas están en venta en librerías y casas distribuidoras en todas partes del mundo. Consulte a su librero o diríjase a: Naciones Unidas, Sección de Ventas, Nueva York o Ginebra.

---