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for Mrs.

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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. TS/83/10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

21 April 1983

to Mater

Subject: Iraqi Iran / Iraqi Relations
PF3.

Your Highness.

I am grateful for your letter about the dangers presented by the war between Iran and Iraq and the need to find a way to end the conflict.

We are very conscious of the enormous loss of human life, the grave suffering of the civilian population and the material destruction caused by the conflict. We are also aware of the threat to the security of our friends in the Gulf which any expansion of the fighting would cause. We are deeply concerned at the continuation of the fighting, and are anxious to see an early end to this distressing conflict.

To this end we have been in close touch with others, including other permanent members of the Security Council, in recent weeks to exchange views and explore ways of encouraging new mediation efforts. It is unfortunate that the various attempts to reach a settlement, including those initiated by the United Nations, have so far proved unsuccessful. For our part we remain ready to support any realistic attempts aimed at ending the war.

In your letter you suggested that it is now time for stronger action by the Security Council under the terms of the United Nations Charter. We have considered this carefully

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and discussed it with others but have concluded that fresh moves by the Security Council at this stage would be unlikely to lead to serious negotiations to end the war, and indeed might have the opposite effect. In our view it is essential that any new initiative by the Security Council must be properly prepared in advance if it is to stand any chance of realising its objective. Iran as well as Iraq must indicate some willingness to respond positively to a call by the Security Council. Action by the Security Council which is ignored by either party to the conflict will do nothing to enhance the Organisation's credibility, and could possibly prejudice its ability to play a constructive and effective role in any future mediation efforts.

We shall remain in close touch with our friends, and with the UN Secretariat, in the days ahead to ensure that any new opportunities likely to contribute to progress are carefully considered. In the meantime, our representative at the United Nations has encouraged the Secretary-General in his efforts to bring the two sides together to deal with the oil slick from the Nowruz field. This grave threat to the environment must be brought under control very soon and we are hopeful that the involvement of the Secretary-General in this limited field, as a first step, will enhance his prospects for mediating the wider conflict.

Please accept, Your Highness, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely
Rayan Sheikh

His Highness Shaikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al-Thani
