



International Atomic Energy Agency

## INFORMATION CIRCULAR

---

IAEA - INFCIRC/347

27 November 1987

GENERAL Distr.

Original: SPANISH

### EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN THE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MEXICO AND THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

The attached text of a letter to the Director General from the Resident Representative of Mexico is being circulated to all Member States at the Resident Representative's request. The Director General's reply is also attached.

ATTACHMENT 1

TEXT OF A LETTER TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL FROM  
THE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MEXICO

Vienna, 23 November 198

Sir,

From the communications addressed to you by the President of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (document INFCIRC/346), I have learnt of the armed attack on the Bushehr nuclear power plant.

I must tell you that the Government of Mexico received the news of this attack with consternation. Both the General Assembly of the United Nations and the General Conference of the Agency have repeatedly condemned such attacks, describing them as contrary to international law and to the Charter of the United Nations and the IAEA's Statute. Given their consequences for the civilian populations living near nuclear power plants, and given also their permanent harmful effects on the earth's environment, acts such as this go beyond normal acts of war and, in effect, virtually constitute a crime against humanity. The States belonging to what is called the Third World have vigorously condemned military actions of this kind, as was stated by the spokesman of our group at the end of the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.

The reaction of the Agency to the attack on the Iranian power plant at Bushehr is to be seen in the letter which you sent to the President of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran on 18 November 1987 (document INFCIRC/346/Add.1). I must inform you that the Government of Mexico considers a reply of this kind to be inadequate. Any armed attack against a nuclear power plant puts the peaceful uses of atomic energy in jeopardy, and my Government was confident that the Agency would act rapidly and efficiently. The dispatch of a fact-finding mission (to determine both the damage caused by the attack and any possible radiation effects) seems indispensable to my Government. Moreover, the Mexican Government does not believe that the information available to the Agency, which predates the armed attack, is sufficient to make such a mission unnecessary.

The Government of Mexico would also hope to see, on the part of the competent organs of the IAEA: (1) a frank condemnation of the attack; (2) a new and exemplary condemnation of all attacks of this kind; and (3) a fresh appeal to all Member States that they should - until an appropriate legal instrument on the subject is finalized - give a moral and political undertaking to refrain from any such attacks in the future

ATTACHMENT 2

TEXT OF A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL  
TO THE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MEXICO

24 November 1987

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

I have received your letter of 23 November 1987 concerning Iran's complaint about the attack at Bushehr. In reply to that complaint I immediately, on 18 November 1987, expressed readiness on behalf of the IAEA to send a mission to the Islamic Republic of Iran to assess damage to buildings under construction and to advise on matters of radioprotection, if any such problems should have arisen.<sup>1/</sup> I have confirmed this readiness in a telex message sent today.<sup>2/</sup>

Our present information does not stand in the way of sending a mission, but the composition and dispatch of a mission would be facilitated by the further factual information requested.

With regard to the question of condemnation and the other points mentioned in the fourth paragraph of your letter, these are primarily matters for the policy-making organs of the Agency, whose members have been fully apprised of the exchange of messages which has occurred.

---

<sup>1/</sup> See INFCIRC/346/Add.1.

<sup>2/</sup> See Attachment 2 to INFCIRC/346/Add.2.