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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 12 (b)

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES, INCLUDING:

- (b) STUDY OF SITUATIONS WHICH APPEAR TO REVEAL A CONSISTENT PATTERN OF GROSS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS PROVIDED IN COMMISSION RESOLUTION 8 (XXIII) AND ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 1235 (XLII) AND 1503 (XLVIII); REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON SITUATIONS ESTABLISHED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS FORTY-SIXTH SESSION

Letter dated 13 February 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights

I have the honour to forward to you herewith the text of the statement by the delegation of the Republic of Panama to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights at its forty-seventh session.

The delegation of Panama respectfully requests that text be circulated as an official document of the Commission at its forty-seventh session under agenda item 12 (b), Human rights in times of armed conflicts.

(Signed) Osvaldo Velásquez
Ambassador

Statement by the delegation of the Republic of Panama to the Commission on Human Rights, at its forty-seventh session, on agenda item 12 (b),
Human rights in times of armed conflicts

1. The Government of the Republic of Panama, through its delegation to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights at its forty-seventh session, appeals to countries involved in armed conflicts to observe international humanitarian rules.

2. Conventional weapons currently used in armed conflicts have been developed to a point at which their excessive power of destruction causes enormous losses in human life and property. It is logical to assume, therefore, that those involved in an armed conflict could resort to the use of weapons which in their scale of destruction and annihilation of human lives are not conventional: nuclear, chemical and bacteriological weapons. The effects of such weapons would be catastrophic and of incalculable magnitude for mankind; their use would constitute the greatest disregard of human rights and a crime against humanity to be condemned by all nations in the world. The existence of nuclear arsenals is a cause for justifiable concern to States throughout the world, in that it endangers the security of present and future generations, threatening the existence of human life on the planet. Likewise, the use of chemical and bacteriological weapons causes incalculable harm for mankind, destroying innocent lives, including those of women and children. Therefore, the Republic of Panama wishes to draw attention to the urgent need for all States to comply strictly with the principles and purposes of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925.

3. On behalf of our country, the delegation of Panama avails itself of the opportunity provided at this forum to exhort the countries involved in the war in the Persian Gulf to refrain from the use of nuclear, chemical and bacteriological weapons, which would constitute the greatest disregard of human rights.
