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LETTER DATED 3 MARCH 1986 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF
THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE
UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have received instructions from my Government to bring to your attention the fact that, while the United Nations expert team dispatched by Your Excellency was conducting its investigation of the Iraqi use of chemical weapons against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Ba'athist régime of Iraq perpetrated yet another crime and carried out the chemical bombardment of Baneh at 0015 a.m. (local time) on Monday, 3 March 1986.

On 27 February 1986 the Iraqi régime had dropped chemical bombs on the Fatemeh Zahra Hospital on the Abadan Island, causing injury to some patients, physicians and medical assistants. This incident was later investigated by the United Nations expert team.

It is noteworthy that in March 1984 also, during the visit of the United Nations expert team to Iran, the Iraqi régime had resorted to the use of chemical bombs against the city of Ahwaz.

The persistence of the Iraqi régime in resorting to chemical weapons is evidence that the rulers of Baghdad, under no circumstances, have any respect for international rules and regulations, in particular, the provisions of the Geneva Protocol of 1925 pertaining to the prohibition of the use in war of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases and bacteriological methods of warfare.

For the sake of the record, my Government wishes to point out that although the United Nations expert team was requested to extend the length of their mission so as to investigate the latest incident in Baneh, the team did not visit the said site. Following consultations with the members of the team, the co-ordinator reached the conclusion that if the chemical agent used against Baneh were mustard gas, then it was unnecessary to conduct another investigation considering the already available and sufficient evidence of the usage of the said agent.

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It would be highly appreciated if the contents of this letter were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Fereidoun D. KAMALI
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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