



Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/18556
5 January 1987

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 5 JANUARY 1987 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 the honour to transmit herewith the text of the letter of His
Excellency Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic
Republic of Iran, concerning the deployment of chemical weapons by the régime of
Iraq.

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

(Signed) Mohammad Javad ZARIF
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic
Republic of Iran addressed to the Secretary-General

As you were informed by the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations in New York, the aggressor régime of Iraq, following its chemical attacks in the southern area on 25 December 1986 once again on 31 December 1986 caused the martyrdom and injury of many by its use of chemical weapons of the Tiyr kind (mustard-gas derivative) in the Sumar area and Bakhtaran Province.

As we have previously declared and indeed as indicated by the aggressor Iraqi régime's use of chemical weapons twice in the past week, the said régime, due to its aggressive nature, despite having been condemned by international organizations, particularly the Security Council (statement dated 21 March 1986 (S/17932)) is by no means prepared to comply with and respect the principles and rules of international law, in particular the 1925 Geneva Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare. It is also evident that this régime, by continuing its attacks against non-military and residential areas and by its use of chemical weapons, intends to escalate the imposed war against the Islamic Republic of Iran and endanger the peace and security of the world and the region.

The Islamic Republic of Iran once again, while emphasizing its intention to continue its commitment to compliance with all the principles and rules of international law, particularly the 1925 Geneva Protocol, invites the attention of the international community to the great dangers stemming from the continuation and the widening of the scope of the use of chemical weapons by the aggressor régime of Iraq. While asking Your Excellency to dispatch an expert team to investigate the recent deployment of chemical weapons by Iraq, it is expected that immediate serious and constructive steps be taken by Your Excellency to halt in its entirety the use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi régime. It should be recalled that the blatant and repeated violations of the Security Council statement dated 21 March 1986 by the régime of Iraq transfers to Your Excellency and the Security Council the great responsibility for halting these attacks.

Should immediate preventative measures fail to materialize with respect to these acts of aggression, the Islamic Republic of Iran will no longer tolerate such aggressive actions, particularly those involving the use of chemical weapons by the régime of Iraq, and if necessary will assume itself entitled to resort to any possible preventative measures in legitimate self-defence. Obviously, under such circumstances, the responsibility for the consequences of such a measure will lie not only with the aggressor régime of Iraq but also with international organizations, particularly the United Nations, which is incapable of preventing the continuation of acts of aggression and the blatant violations of rules of international law such as the deployment of chemical weapons by Iraq.

Ali Akbar VELAYATI
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the
Islamic Republic of Iran