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Forty-second session  
Item 62 of the preliminary list\*  
CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL  
(BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Forty-second year

Letter dated 13 April 1987 from the Permanent Representative of  
the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to  
the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward to you herewith the text of the letter addressed to you by His Excellency Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran (see annex).

It would be highly appreciated if this letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 62 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Said RAJAIE-KHORASSANI  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

\* A/42/50.

ANNEX

Letter dated 13 April 1987 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Secretary-General

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

I wish to inform you, with a great sense of sorrow, that the Iraqi régime repeatedly resorted to chemical warfare on a very large scale on 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 April 1987. Residential areas were the main target of these recent Iraqi chemical attacks, as a result of which in the cities of Abadan, Khorramshahr and the village of Mared at least 100 civilians were injured by chemical agents. Furthermore, new chemical agents and compounds have been employed in the recent attacks.

Chemical warfare against civilian quarters and installations, as well as the deployment of new chemical agents, constitute dangerous and grave developments adding to the long and deplorable record of Iraqi war crimes which require a decisive approach totally different from those adopted on previous occasions.

You are cognizant that, when in the face of the repeated resort by Iraq to these illegal and internationally unacceptable methods of warfare, the international community and particularly the United Nations have failed to react in an effective and practical manner in order to prevent further occurrences of these savage acts of lawlessness; they have not only encouraged Iraq to continue its criminal policies, but have also in reality eroded the authority of all rules and principles of international humanitarian law, as well as other rules of international law governing the conduct of armed hostilities. The shameless continuation of the resort to chemical weapons by Iraq when the draft convention on chemical weapons is in its final preparatory stages cannot be considered as anything but a clear travesty of this valuable international effort, which will cause irreparable damage to international endeavours in this humanitarian field.

It is distressing to note that, despite the 1925 Geneva Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and despite the statements made in the Security Council on 3 March 1984, 25 April 1985 and 21 March 1986, as well as Your Excellency's statement of 6 January 1987, the Iraqi régime continues its criminal policies with impunity. International organizations, competent international authorities as well as all Governments and particularly those with membership in the Security Council should recognize their grave moral and constitutional responsibility in the face of this dangerous qualitative and quantitative escalation of the use of chemical weapons by Iraq. Adoption of immediate and tangible measures, including the demand, in no ambiguous terms, for a commitment on the part of the Iraqi régime to refrain from the use of chemical weapons, as well as a mandatory embargo on the export to Iraq of chemical agents and the technology necessary for the production of these illegal weapons, can prove effective in preventing further use of such weapons.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran expects Your Excellency seriously to take all necessary steps in order to prevent the continuation of Iraqi war crimes and to dispatch immediately a United Nations team to investigate the results of the most recent chemical attacks.

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