



**Security Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

S/18870  
18 May 1987  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

---

LETTER DATED 18 MAY 1987 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the Security Council statement on the report of the mission dispatched by the Secretary-General to investigate allegations of the use of chemical weapons in the conflict between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq (S/18852). The Council states that "Iraqi military personnel have sustained injuries from chemical warfare agents", without actually affirming that Iran has resorted to the use of chemical weapons of which Iraqi forces have been the victims. This wording, which appears in the mission's report and which the Security Council has reproduced in its statement, amounts to a serious shortcoming on the part of the mission and is in fundamental conflict with some reliable evidence of which the mission had knowledge and from which it could have deduced that Iran is indeed using chemical weapons.

The most obvious indication of this appears in chapter VII, paragraph 66 (c), of the report of the investigating mission, where it is stated that Iraqi military personnel have sustained injuries from chemical warfare agents, pulmonary irritants, possibly phosgene.

In the circumstances, and since the mission's report does not mention the presence of that chemical warfare agent in the course of its investigation of the other party, how can one account for the fact that Iraqi military personnel have sustained injuries from it?

It is thus difficult to comprehend how the investigating mission could have concluded that it was unable to determine how the injuries were caused, it having been demonstrated, as we have explained, that it was Iran which, in addition to the mustard gas used by Iranian forces in their attacks against Iraqi forces, used phosgene against the Iraqi army.

In submitting these explanations, my Government wishes it to be known that it deeply regrets the serious shortcoming in the report of the investigating mission. Because it reproduces the shortcoming, the statement of the Security Council is wanting in accuracy.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the text of this letter to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ismat KITTANI  
Permanent Representative