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Item 62 of the preliminary list*
CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL)
WEAPONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-second year

Letter dated 11 May 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 enclose herewith 18 video cassettes of the British Broadcasting Corporation's Panorama programme entitled "Secrets of Samarra", which by presenting solid and objective evidence proves beyond a shadow of a doubt the Iraqi acquired ability to produce chemical weapons at its chemical producing plant at Samarra and its indisputable use of such weapons in its war against Iran.

The States Members of the United Nations, in general, and the members of the Security Council, in particular, are requested to refer to their own consciences following a viewing of the Panorama programme and to judge for themselves the abhorrence and indeed the explicit and implicit dangers of the crime of the use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi régime in its war against the Islamic Republic of Iran. We are certain that through objective contemplation of this programme, the viewer will no longer consider silence or feeble objections on the part of the international community in the face of the Iraqi use of chemical warfare as sufficient. It is hoped that the urgency of the need for taking immediate and effective measures to halt the deployment of chemical weapons by Iraq, regardless of political considerations, will at last become apparent to the United Nations Organization.

For those Member States of this international body that may feel seriously apprehensive about the production, stockpiling and deployment of chemical weapons by Iraq, the video cassettes reveal answers to the following questions:

* A/42/50.

1. When and where did Iraq begin to manufacture chemical weapons?
2. How much and what kinds of chemical weapons does Iraq produce and stockpile?
3. How does Iraq purchase chemical agents and precursors?
4. What trading companies in Western Europe and the United States have sold chemical agents and precursors, which have been used to manufacture different kinds of chemical agents, to Iraq?
5. What is the impact of the Iraqi use, manufacture and stockpiling of chemical weapons on the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous and Other Gases?
6. How many countries have resumed manufacturing and stockpiling highly lethal chemical weapons since Iraq deployed them against Iranians?

The 18 copies of the video cassette are being forwarded for distribution among the members of the Security Council; one copy is to remain in the archives of the Security Council as an integral part of this document. 1/

While expressing genuine regard for the sincere and conscientious people who by producing the programme have exposed such a major crime by the Iraqi Ba'athist régime, it may be noted that the enclosed cassettes are for private viewing only and permission may be required for public broadcasting.

It would be highly appreciated if this letter 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

Notes

1/ A copy of the video cassette in English was received by the Secretary-General and may be consulted at the Reference and Bibliography Section of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library, room L-211.
