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LETTER DATED 9 OCTOBER 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 the text of the letter of His Excellency Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

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

(Signed) Said RAJAIE-KHORASSANI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

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

I would like to bring to Your Excellency's attention the fact that the Iraqi criminal régime has again resorted to the use of chemical weapons on a large scale against the Islamic Republic of Iran. This abominable and inhumane act against all internationally accepted norms of law and conventions is committed only by régimes of a Fascist and expansionist nature. The rulers of such régimes have no regard for humanity, peoples and even their own national dignity. It is unfortunate to say that the international organizations and even the Governments signatory to conventions banning the use of such deadly weapons have not strongly condemned such deployment and this in turn has given a green light to the Iraqi rulers to repeat their violation of the Geneva Protocol of 1925, thereby ridiculing world consciousness. In pursuance of this course, the Iranian town of Sumar (in the west of the country) was subject to an unprecedented and large-scale chemical bombardment at 1005 and 1015 hours (local time) on 8 October 1987.

We would like to assure you that the Islamic Republic of Iran has the power, whenever it decides, to use its similar and even more advanced capabilities to retaliate and put the Iraqi rulers in a desperate situation. However respect for humanity, Islamic principles and international law have so far prevented us from retaliating. It is therefore necessary for the Security Council to halt any further delay in dealing decisively with this issue and punish those war criminals responsible for these heinous acts. We also expect that the dispatch of an expert team be expedited to the region as soon as possible before the evidence of this crime vanishes. It is necessary to note here that the lack of appropriate reaction to the request for dispatch of an expert team made by the Islamic Republic of Iran on the occasion of Iraqi resort to chemical weapons against the civilian population in Sardasht - which was a turning point in the history of the use of chemical weapons - encouraged the Iraqi rulers to continue their acts of lawlessness. We hope that these important issues could be dealt with in a more responsible and independent manner.

(Signed) Ali Akbar VELAYATI
Minister for Foreign Affairs
The Islamic Republic of Iran
