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CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS

Note verbale dated 4 September 1980 from the Permanent Mission
of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit to him herewith the statement of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan dated 20 August 1980 and furthermore has the honour to request that the enclosed text and this note be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 34 of the provisional agenda.

* A/35/150.

ANNEX

Statement by the Government of Democratic Republic
of Afghanistan dated 20 August 1980

1. The imperialist circles of the United States of America, Britain and some other countries of the West as well as the Chinese hegemonists and their henchmen, using the bases for the training of armed detachments of the Afghan counter-revolutionaries in the territories of Pakistan and Iran, continue the undeclared war against the people of Afghanistan. The reactionary forces seek to disrupt the peaceful life of the Afghan people and to bring innumerable misfortunes and suffering to it. Those forces resort to most dirty methods of conduct of an armed struggle. Facts of the use of chemical weapons by the bandits have already been observed. The use of chemical weapons has been resolutely condemned by the world public, the United Nations Organization, by all democratic countries and progressive international organizations.
2. As the latest developments show, the reactionary forces are stepping up criminal actions against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan - a sovereign State, a United Nations member and a member of the non-aligned movement. The scope of foreign interference in the internal affairs of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is broadening. Previously, international reaction tried to pass over in silence the facts of foreign aid to the Afghan counter-revolutionaries and to use clandestine channels to give it whereas now the state of things has changed. The leaders of some Western countries are now openly advocating an expansion of aid to the Afghan counter-revolutionaries. One can speak with confidence about the beginning of direct massive deliveries of weapons. This is evidenced by the equipment captured by Afghan military units during the operations to destroy bandits.
3. Previously, the armament of the bandits consisted mainly of obsolete specimens of weapons the emergence of which in Afghanistan could be explained by a possibility of their purchase on the so-called "free market". At present, the bandits get newest specimens of Western made weapons as well as weapons which are made in such countries as China, Iran and Egypt, and which are not sold on the free market.
4. In this connexion the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, considers it its duty to tell to Moslem people of Afghanistan, the peoples and Governments of all countries and all the progressive forces of the world that, despite the repeated statements and protests of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, international reaction headed by United States imperialism continues the criminal interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. The employment of such inhuman methods as the use of chemical weapons - the weapons of mass destruction banned by international treaties - is continued in the fight against the people and the legitimate Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

5. Apart from the widely known seizure of United States chemical grenades in Herat province on 25 March, this year, a potent nerve gas was used in a number of schools and lyceums of Kabul early in June this year. More than 250 Afghan children - the pupils of the schools - fell victim to that act unprecedented in its cruelty and senselessness. They were heavily poisoned.
6. The case of the poisoning of water in the Kabul "Bibi mahru" and "Soreya" schools on 9 June, this year, cannot but arouse indignation. As a result of a research which was carried out, experts established that the main component of the poisonous substance is a potent herbicide which is capable of causing irreversible processes in the human organism.
7. The counter-revolutionary forces continue to use chemical weapons during bandit raids, too. Thus, on 6 July, this year, bandits made a night attack on the city of Ghazni. After the bandit attack was repulsed, soldiers of the Afghan army found a subversion chemical ammunition of United States make with the marking "112" and the inscription "Caution. Poison. Do not touch. Gives off poisonous gases."
8. Another case of the use of chemical weapons was recorded in the same city of Ghazni on 10 July. A United States-made chemical grenade was thrown into the building of the provincial board of the State information service. Owing to the thrower's lack of knowledge of how to handle the grenade, the grenade did not explode. It had the marking "46.036,0 652-709". Early in April this year the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan in Herat province seized two anti-tank United States-made grenades of combined cumulative-chemical action. The grenades' marking was: "PKT 83 mm - m 12".
9. The Government of Afghanistan expresses readiness together with the competent representatives of the world community to carry out an expert examination of the chemical ammunition made in the United States of America, and an inquiry into the circumstances of their use by the bands of counter-revolutionaries that are being supplied with most up-to-date weapons from abroad.
10. During clashes with the bandits, servicemen of the Afghan army also captured other ammunition of United States, Chinese, Iranian, Egyptian and Italian make, which were shown to journalists during a press conference held in Kabul on 18 July, this year.
11. The Government of Afghanistan expresses deep indignation and resolutely protests against the provision of the bands of Afghan counter-revolutionaries with chemical weapons the use of which is illegal and inhuman.
12. The Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan brings this to the notice of the Governments of countries which neighbour on the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and which provide their territories for the staging of subversive actions and acts of direct aggression and warns that the entire responsibility for those criminal actions rests with them, just like with the espionage and military agencies of the United States of America and other imperialist countries which arm the bandits and terrorists with chemical weapons.

13. The Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is calling on all democratic States, national and progressive movements, international organizations and the entire world community to express a resolute protest against world imperialism's and first of all United States imperialism's criminal actions in Afghanistan and to frustrate their criminal plans which are aimed at causing innumerable misfortunes and suffering to the peaceful people of Afghanistan who uphold their freedom and sovereignty.