



Conseil de sécurité

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LETTRE DATEE DU 18 MARS 1988, ADRESSEE AU SECRETAIRE GENERAL PAR
LE REPRESENTANT PERMANENT PAR INTERIM DE LA REPUBLIQUE ISLAMIQUE
D'IRAN AUPRES DE L'ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES

Comme suite à mes lettres des 17 et 18 mars 1988 (S/19639 et S/19647), j'ai l'honneur d'appeler votre attention sur la démesure du régime iraquien, lequel n'a pas même protégé ses propres citoyens des attaques aux armes chimiques aveugles et massives qu'il a ordonnées, ainsi que sur l'urgence d'une réaction appropriée de la part de l'organisation internationale.

A ce propos, un article intitulé "L'Iraq est désormais le producteur le plus important d'armes chimiques du Moyen-Orient" a été publié dans le numéro de Jane's Defence du 27 février 1988, révélant que l'Iraq fabriquait et stockait des agents chimiques, et annonçant la reprise de l'utilisation des armes chimiques par le régime iraquien.

Une copie de l'article en question est jointe en annexe.

Je vous serais reconnaissant de bien vouloir faire distribuer le texte de la présente lettre et de son annexe comme document au Conseil de sécurité.

L'Ambassadeur,

Représentant permanent par intérim,

(Signé) Mohammad Ja'afar MAHALLATI

ANNEXE

Article paru dans le numéro de Jane's Defence du 27 février 1988

Iraq now Middle East's biggest chemical weapon producer

IRAQ has built up its chemical warfare (CW) capability and is believed to be now manufacturing Sarin, a deadly nerve gas, at its two main CW plants.

With Iran also capable of producing chemical weapons, with Syrian help, and carrying out new ground offensives, the Iraqi development has raised fears that the outlawed weapons could be used on a wider scale than they have so far in the seven-year-old Gulf War.

Sarin, developed from the Tabun nerve gas the Iraqis first used in 1984, can kill within two minutes of contact. The Iraqis have been manufacturing mustard gas, Lewisite and Tabun for some time.

According to diplomatic and other sources in Baghdad and other Arab capitals, the Iraqis can produce at least 60 tons of mustard gas a month, along with four tons each of Tabun and Sarin.

If those figures are correct, Iraq is the major manufacturer of chemical weapons in the Middle East. The only other Arab country believed to come anywhere near that level of production is Syria.

The United Nations has accused Iraq at least four times of using gases in the war. The

Iranians allege the Iraqis have used chemical weapons, mainly air-dropped bombs or artillery shells, more than 100 times. An estimated 8000 Iranians have been affected. About 1000 of them died.

The Iraqis' main plant is at Samarra, a 26 km² complex protected by batteries of SA-2 missiles 100 km north-west of Baghdad. The other key centre is at al-Fallujah, 65 km west of Baghdad.

The Iraqis have also built a chemical warfare research centre at Salman Pak, 40 km south-east of the capital. This is where the nerve gases are being developed, sources said.

US sources have said the Iraqis are developing a germ warfare capability at a complex south-east of Baghdad (*JDW* 9 January), but it is not clear from the latest reports whether this is at Salman Pak.

VX, which the USA has in its CW inventory, has the consistency of diesel oil, unlike most nerve gases which are lighter and will lie around the battlefield in deadly puddles.

Diplomatic sources in Baghdad said there have been indications the Iraqis may be building yet another chemical warfare plant.
