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Items 48 and 63 of the preliminary list*

CONSEQUENCES OF THE PROLONGATION OF THE

ARMED CONFLICT BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL

(BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS

SECURITY COUNCIL

Forty-third year

Letter dated 13 April 1988 from the Permanent Representative
of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to request that you have this letter and the enclosed communiqué from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Worship of the Argentine Republic (see annex) circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 48 and 63 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Marcelo E. R. DELPECH
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/43/50.

Annex

Communiqué from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Worship of
the Argentine Republic issued on 6 April 1988

In view of the escalation of warlike acts in the war between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Iraq, which is now in its eighth year, the Argentine Government has urged the two countries to put an end to hostilities as called for in resolution 598 (1987) of the United Nations Security Council, in whose drafting Argentina took an active part in an effort to bring about peace.

At the same time, Argentina considers it necessary to pronounce itself categorically on the following aspects of this conflict:

(1) The extension of hostilities to the major urban centres of both contenders, which has come to be called "the war of the cities", adds a new and tragic dimension to the conflict by involving the innocent and unarmed civilian population on both sides. This deserves the most vehement condemnation on the part of the Argentine Republic.

(2) The use of chemical weapons and asphyxiating, toxic and similar gases in the war between the two countries constitutes a serious violation of the 1925 Geneva Protocol and of customary international law and is a cause of profound concern to the Argentine people and Government.
