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GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
Forty-second session  
Item 62 of the preliminary list\*  
CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL  
(BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Forty-second year

Letter dated 29 June 1987 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the  
Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United  
Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and pursuant to my previous letters, I have the honour and the sad duty to inform you that at 1625 and 1630 hours on 28 June 1987, invading Iraqi war planes carried out chemical attacks against civilian quarters in the city of Sardasht. In this latest manifestation of their total disregard for the most basic norms of humanity, the Iraqi forces of aggression fired 20 chemical rockets against four different locations in the city, massacring innocent civilians. This heinous crime has, as of now, claimed the lives of 10 innocent people and wounded 650 others. Most of the victims are children and old men and women. More detailed information about casualty figures will be brought to your attention as they become available.

The resumption of the large-scale use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi régime in the past few days - including their most recent resort to chemical warfare against civilian quarters - has once again proved beyond any doubt to the international community not only the inhumanity of Iraqi war criminals, but more importantly their total disregard for their international obligations as well as for the sentiments of the international community. It is abundantly clear that the failure of the Security Council to condemn the initial act of aggression by the lawless Iraqi régime and the reluctance of the Council to deal seriously and effectively with Iraqi persistence in violating the most commonly accepted norms of international humanitarian law have only served to embolden the rulers in Baghdad to continue their war crimes; thus, the Council will certainly have to bear partial responsibility for the pain and suffering inflicted upon the civilian and other

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victims of Iraqi chemical warfare. The international community and the Security Council in particular should observe more carefully the policies of the Iraqi rulers in initiating and conducting the war, not the desperate peaceful gestures of Baghdad, as the true indicator of the future behaviour of the Iraqi ruling clique.

The serious nature of this latest episode of Iraqi use of banned chemical weapons and the escalating trend in their use necessitate a concerted effort on the part of the international community, and particularly the competent organs of the United Nations, to take investigative, preventive and punitive measures to uphold the authority of the existing international instruments and halt the Iraqi war crimes. It is in this context that the Islamic Republic of Iran requests the immediate dispatch of a United Nations team of experts to investigate the latest instances of Iraqi resort to chemical warfare.

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) Mohammad Javad ZARIF  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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