



Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/20074
29 July 1988

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 29 JULY 1988 FROM THE ACTING PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention the recent acknowledgement by a high-ranking Iraqi official of the employment of chemical weapons in the imposed war against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

You must have already been informed that, after several years of Iraqi use of chemical weapons against tens of thousands of innocent Iranian and Iraqi children, men and women, Mr. Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi Foreign Minister, finally acknowledged publicly in a press interview in West Germany on 1 July 1988, the deployment of such mass murder weapons by the Iraqi régime in the war against the Islamic Republic of Iran. To justify this anti-human crime, however, Mr. Tariq Aziz has preposterously alleged that Iran initiated such warfare.

Eschewing the details already well known to Your Excellency, many reports submitted to the United Nations by the special expert teams sent to the region, various statements issued by the Security Council, particularly the statement of 21 March 1986, and the report of 8 May 1987 (S/18852) of the United Nations expert team clearly discredit such preposterous allegations against Iran.

Part one of S/18852, based on examination of bombs and their inner layers as well as considering the Iraqi claims, proves as baseless the Iraqi allegations in respect of Iran's use of chemical weapons.

Two hundred and forty-two cases of the deployment of chemical weapons by Iraq from January 1981 until the Halabja massacre in which thousands of innocent Kurdish residents were martyred, leading to a statement by the Security Council in condemnation of Iraq and, finally, to resolution 612 (1988) of the Security Council, and the recent public acknowledgement by Mr. Tariq Aziz regarding Iraq's use of such weapons clearly demonstrate recurrent violations of the 1925 Geneva Protocol on the Prohibition on the Use in War of Poisonous, Asphyxiating and Other Gases, contempt for international law and disrespect for the international community and its recognized principles, as well as flagrant violations of the 1948 Convention on Crimes against Humanity.

The Iraqi Foreign Minister's explicit acknowledgement during a visit by the United Nations expert team to the recent victims of Iraqi chemical weapons, is in effect a mockery of all human values and recognized international principles.

Such an acknowledgement, we believe, portends an ominous message for the global community, for it will gradually erode the residual respect for the 1925 Geneva Protocol to the point that chemical weapons will soon be included in the regular inventory of conventional weapons.

Considering the unequivocal acknowledgement by Mr. Tariq Aziz regarding Iraq's use of chemical weapons in the past and its resolve to use it in the future, the Islamic Republic of Iran urges the United Nations to adopt urgent and decisive measures, free from any political considerations, to condemn the deployment of chemical weapons by Iraq and to prevent the latter from any future use of such weapons.

Obviously, absence of a decisive and appropriate measure will not only undermine public confidence in the United Nations but also lead the States concerned to pursue individual, preventive measures, in which case Iraq and the members of the Security Council will have to bear the consequent responsibilities of such inaction.

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

(Signed) Mohammad Ja'afar MAHALLATI
Ambassador
Acting Permanent Representative

