UNITED NATIONS

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Security Council

LETTER DATED 9 NOVEMBER 1983 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED
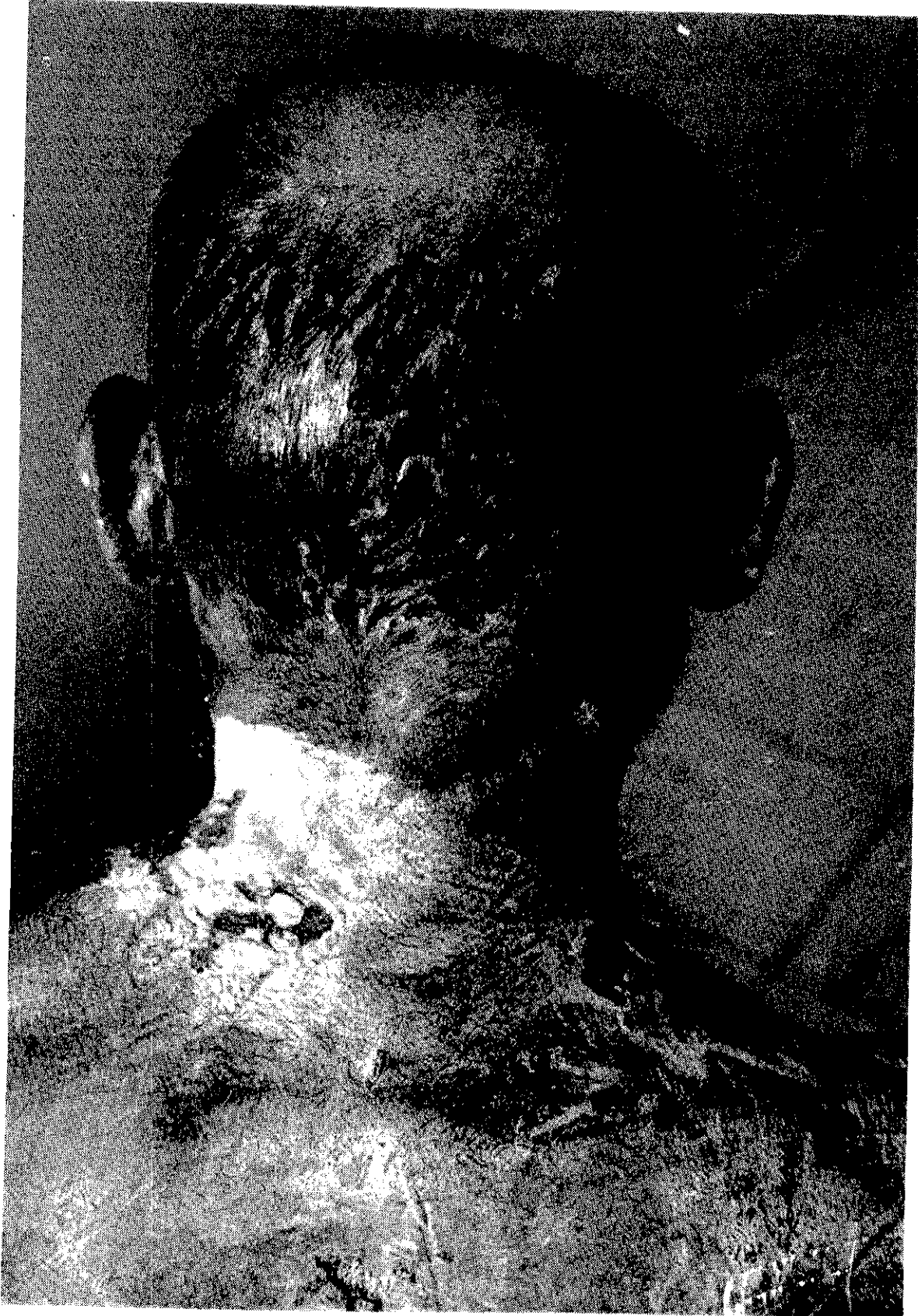TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Pursuant to my letter dated 3 November 1983 (S/16128) concerning the use of chemical weapons by Iraq against targets in Iran, I have the honour to inform you that we have received samples of schrapnel from two rounds of chemical artillery shells fired on the eve of 25 October 1983 in the Piranshahr area, as well as samples of sand from the locations where the rounds exploded. According to the report of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, these two shells produced a thick smoke about one minute after hitting the targets, prompting the personnel in the vicinity to wear their gas masks. Nevertheless, a number of personnel were affected due to the leaking of some gas through the masks or after the masks were taken off. These personnel were positioned about 500 metres from the target location. The effects of the gas on the personnel consisted of a burning sensation in the throat coupled with difficulty in breathing and continuous coughing, wetness of the eyes and nose, nausea and senselessness. Six people were affected as described; four were treated on location and released after several hours, one person recovered after six days of hospitalization, and one person with severe symptoms was transferred to Tehran. The physician in charge has reported that the gas has affected the nervous system in the exposed personnel. There have also been several other chemical attacks by Iraq, especially in the Khorramshahr area. A number of pictures of victims of Iraqi chemical attacks are attached.

The evidence received is available in this Mission for inspection by any expert that you may assign.

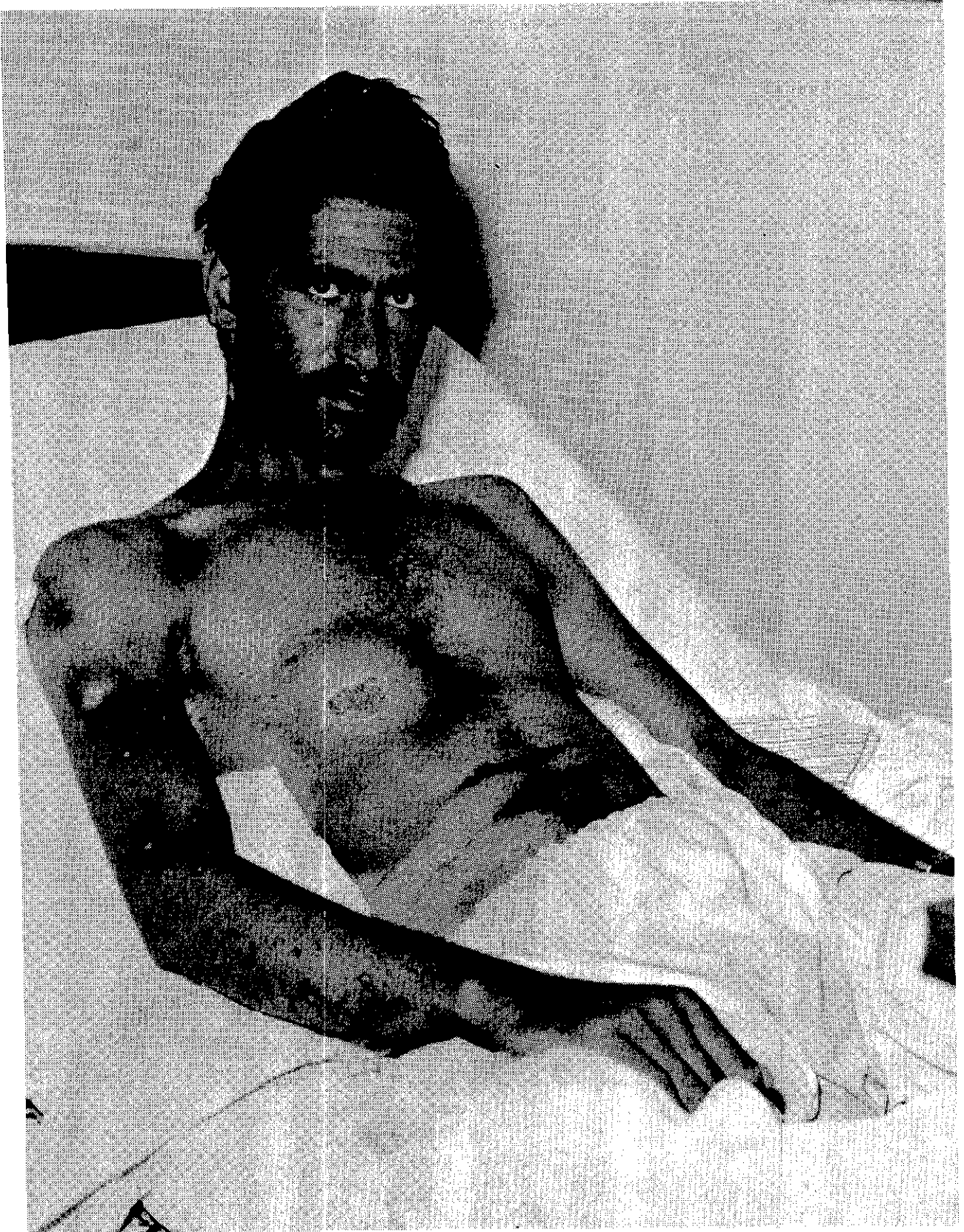I would appreciate it if this letter could be distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Said RAJAIE-KHORASSANI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex I

Annex II

Annex III