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Agenda item 138

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-ninth year

CONSEQUENCES OF THE PROLONGATION OF THE
ARMED CONFLICT BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ

Letter dated 2 April 1984 from the Permanent Representative of the
Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 23 December 1983 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to you (A/38/767-S/16238) and to state that paragraph 2 of the Iraqi letter says: "Article 35 of the Geneva Convention on the safety of environment ... does not exist, and it remains up to the Iranian authorities to come forward with its text". In this respect I wish to draw the attention of all concerned to the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts (Protocol I) and to quote article 35, as follows:

"SECTION I

"METHODS AND MEANS OF WARFARE

"Article 35-Basic rules

- "1. In any armed conflict, the right of the Parties to the conflict to choose methods or means of warfare is not unlimited.
- "2. It is prohibited to employ weapons, projectiles and material and methods of warfare of a nature to cause superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering.
- "3. It is prohibited to employ methods or means of warfare which are intended, or may be expected, to cause widespread, long-term and severe damage to the natural environment."

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I wish to stress that paragraph 3 of the above-mentioned article was meant specially in our previous correspondence. I am enclosing a photocopy of two pages of the said document. I would appreciate it if this letter and its attachment could be circulated as a document of the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 138, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Said RAJAIE-KHORASSANI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

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DU DROIT INTERNATIONAL HUMANITAIRE APPLICABLE
DANS LES CONFLITS ARMÉS

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Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of
12 August 1949, and relating to the protection of victims of
international armed conflicts (Protocol I)

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SECTION I
METHODS AND MEANS OF WARFARE

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