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(BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS

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Fortieth year

Letter dated 5 February 1985 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

I have the honour to transmit to Your Excellency the text of the letter of His Excellency Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, regarding the failure of the Iraqi régime to respond to Your Excellency's appeal to refrain from using chemical weapons.

It would be highly appreciated if this letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Fereidoun D. KAMALI
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Letter from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Secretary-General

More than ten months have elapsed since the preparation of the report of the use of chemical weapons by Iraq against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Moreover, seven months have passed since Your Excellency's appeal to the Governments of Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Iran to refrain from using chemical weapons.

As you are aware, Iraq continued to use chemical weapons even after the publication of the report of Your Excellency's delegation (Document S/16433, March 26, 1984). This matter was brought to your attention in our letter of 28 June, 1984 contained in document A/39/333 S/16652. While we have never reciprocated the Iraqi resort to such weapons, we promptly responded in the positive to your appeal. And furthermore, despite having suffered tremendous human and property losses as a result of Iraq's inhumane chemical attacks, we gave assurances as to our continued commitment to the Geneva Protocol of 1925.

The Iraqi regime, on the contrary, has paid no heed to Your Excellency's appeal and the officials of this regime have frequently reiterated their determination to redeploy chemical weapons. Iraq's continued silent attitude clearly indicates that the Islamic Republic of Iran is still in danger of being subjected to chemical attacks. Certainly, Your Excellency has no doubt that the Islamic Republic of Iran has tried, with good intentions, through international fora and by resorting to acceptable international legal procedures, to prevent Iraq from using chemical weapons.

Unfortunately, as you have witnessed, due to the obstructivist policies of certain countries that prefer the preservation of their imperialist interests to the upholding of international law, such a course is of no avail. Surely, there are more effective ways to stop Iraq from using chemical weapons, but the Islamic Republic of Iran is not yet willing to consider the last resort.

Are there any legal ways and means in international law, through which this goal, in essence an international goal, could be achieved? It is hoped that Your Excellency will deal with this matter in earnest and furnish us with a reply. There is no doubt that were the reply not to guarantee a practical option,

it would be considered as negative. Such a reply would only mean that not only the Islamic Republic of Iran but the international community, as a whole, is entirely defenceless against the violations of Geneva Protocol of 1925, thus leaving the responsibility for the prevention of chemical attacks with individual states. I am sure that the catastrophic consequences of such a situation are thoroughly clear to Your Excellency and the members of the international community.

(Signed) Ali Akbar VELAYATI
Minister of Foreign Affairs
The Islamic Republic of Iran
