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LETTER DATED 24 MAY 1985 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to forward to you the text of the letter of His Excellency Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

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

(Signed) Said RAJAIE-KHORASSANI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter from H.E. Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Islamic Republic of Iran, addressed to the Secretary-General

As you are aware, in response to the most recent statement of the Security Council regarding the condemnation of the use of chemical weapons, the criminal Iraqi régime has announced that not only does it have reservations regarding certain points of the statement but that it will also, without hesitation, use any means in its power in its continued war of aggression. It is quite clear that such a response simply indicates Iraq's intention to continue its violations of the rules of international law, including the Geneva Protocol of 1925 regulating the use of chemical weapons.

However, unfortunately, matters do not end there. As I mentioned in my statement at the Disarmament Conference in Geneva, the deployment of chemical weapons by the régime of Iraq, over the past few years, has enjoyed qualitative and quantitative expansion. It is not necessary to repeat that the continuation of this trend not only threatens the peace and security of the region but also that of the world, as Your Excellency as well as the Security Council are fully aware. What I wish to repeat and urgently stress is that the reactions of Iraq, so far, to the Security Council statement, to other countries' condemnation of the use of chemical weapons and to Your Excellency's efforts to stop the use of such weapons have proved that, although resolutions, statements and requests are appropriate and necessary, they are not sufficient to induce a halt to the continued use of chemical weapons by the Baathist régime of Iraq.

The Security Council, which is duty-bound by the Charter of the United Nations to maintain peace and security, should not even convince itself that it has carried out its duty by merely issuing a statement which unfortunately lacks the required explicitness in its condemnation of the régime of Iraq.

I am certain, Your Excellency, that you agree that the work and duties of the Security Council and the United Nations, as defined by the Charter, cannot be confined to the issuance of statements and resolutions and the publication of documents to be registered in history. These bodies must mobilize all international means within their power to stop immediately and definitively any violations of international regulations, particularly those violations which seriously threaten international peace and security. At this moment in time, such a threat exists for the international community and particularly for the Islamic Republic of Iran, because despite all requests of and resort to international organizations, no practical results have been rendered.

What is to be done in the face of the renewed deployment and use of chemical weapons by Iraq? Is there any solution other than retaliation in kind on the part of the victims of chemical attacks? If an alternative solution is not suggested, it is feared that quite soon we will witness a tremendous international race in the field of chemical weapons. We hope that the Islamic Republic of Iran and the international community will soon receive a clear answer to the above questions from you and the Security Council.
