

(Mr. Velayati, Islamic Republic of Iran)

Unfortunately, arms delivery to Iraq was not only not halted after the inception of the aggression but was intensified, and went as far as the frequent deployment of chemical weapons in the past three years. The reports of the United Nations experts confirm the use of poisonous gas by the Iraqi régime against Iran (document S/16433). The presence of tens of Iranian victims of chemical weapons now being treated in European hospitals substantiates our claim.

The Iraqi régime, in addition to the use of chemical weapons in 33 operations in the past which have killed or injured more than 4,500 civilians and military personnel, has recently deployed more lethal doses in more than 10 instances leading to the injury of about 8,500 civilians. The detailed figures of these chemical attacks were presented to the Conference on Disarmament on 18 February 1986. On the request of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, a United Nations team despatched by the Secretary-General to probe into the recent deployment of chemical weapons arrived in Tehran last night.

The United Nations Security Council's failure to take a clear position vis-à-vis the violation by Iraq of the 1925 Geneva Protocol has further encouraged this régime to continue such acts, and it was vividly clear that adopting resolutions such as those of 25 April 1985 and 24 February 1986 of the United Nations Security Council would not solve any problem. The violation of international laws and regulations was not limited to the use of chemical weapons, and other breaches by that régime can be summarized as follows: outright and fully-fledged military aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran instead of recourse to international organizations and arbitration to settle claimed differences through peaceful means; deliberate demolition of cities and population centres with bulldozers (Security Council Document S/15834); total violation of the Geneva Protocol of 1949 concerning the treatment of POWs and civilian citizens of the occupied territories (Security Council document S/16962); application of chemical weapons in contravention of the Geneva Protocol of 1925 (Security Council document S/16433); attacking mercantile vessels in the Persian Gulf (Security Council document S/16877); violation of the 12 June 1984 undertaking with the United Nations Secretary-General as to the cessation of military attacks on civilian and population centres (Security Council document S/16897); attack on the atomic reactor in Bushehr, in the south of the country; attack on historical sites which have been registered as the cultural heritage of the world community in contravention of the Hague Convention 1954, especially the recent attacks against the monuments of historical value in Ispahan; and attacks on civil aircraft and threat to the safety of civil aviation.

The recent crime committed by the Iraqi régime in attacking a civilian aircraft in which 46 civilians were murdered is a new instance of violation of international laws and regulations.

If the deliberations on disarmament reach nowhere, and if verification of banning the manufacture and stockpiling of chemical weapons is not carried out, is the trial of war criminals and those who deploy chemical weapons beyond the capability of international organizations?