

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In the aftermath of the Gulf War, there has been heightened concern about the potential for proliferation of biological and toxin weapons. This paper does not directly address the issue of biological and toxin weapons per se.

During the Iraq-Iran war from 1980-1988, there were confirmed reports that Iran had been attacked with chemical weapons by Iraq. During that war, there was unconfirmed speculation about novel toxin agents and biological agents as well.

Security Council Resolution 687, dated 3 April 1991, requires that Iraq accept destruction, removal or rendering harmless, under international supervision, of all chemical and biological weapons and all stocks of agents and all related subsystems and components.

The Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) forbids the development, production and stockpiling of such weapons, as is indicated from the enclosed box (see page 2). The Third Review Conference of the BTWC, held in September 1991, sought to address certain concerns through agreement on a refined and expanded set of confidence-building measures (CBMs) designed to provide greater transparency among States.

This is the recent background against which this case study was conducted of Iranian publications on the subject of biological and toxin research. The term "collateral analysis" has been used to describe a method of information gathering that involves the collection and systematic examination of publicly-available scientific, technical and other information. It makes no judgement as to the purpose of the research. This analysis may provide an initial