

(Mr. Kamyab, Islamic Republic of Iran)

12 and 15 February, during the course of the present military operation (which has been named VALFAJR-8) Iraq resorted to repeated massive employment of chemical weapons which resulted in many new victims. On one day alone, 12 February, the use of chemical weapons led to 1,700 persons being killed or wounded. On 13 February, chemical weapons were used by Iraq against the civilian population of Abadan City, which resulted in the death of 20 civilians and injury to more than 100 persons.

Of course, these recent incidents were not isolated. On 25 and 26 January 1986, Iraq several times used chemical weapons in Yibis area. On 27 January Iraq twice launched attacks using chemical weapons in the Aine Khosh area. On 30 January in two different places, Iraq more than eight times resorted to the use of chemical weapons. We are getting more information concerning the kinds of gas which have been used and other details with regard to recent incidents. As soon as this information is available we will make it known to interested delegations in the Conference on Disarmament. Of course I am referring here to the most recent occasions on which chemical weapons have been used by the Iraqi Régime. As the distinguished members of the Conference are well aware, during the course of the past two years, Iraq has employed chemical weapons on numerous occasions, some of which were brought to the attention of the Conference.

Some of the persons who have been wounded in the recent series of attacks employing chemical weapons have arrived in Europe for medical treatment and some others will arrive shortly. While sincerely thanking the countries which have received these wounded persons and have provided medical assistance for them I would like to request any other countries which find themselves in a position to provide medical care in such cases to let it be known.

I may bring to the attention of the Conference that on 12 February 1986, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran sent a note to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in which, while raising the alarm with regard to the serious danger in the use of chemical weapons for the international community, it was requested that a mission be sent to Teheran immediately to carry out an on-the-site inspection and verification of the facts regarding this employment of chemical weapons. This request of the Islamic Republic of Iran still stands and it is a cause for regret that such a mission has not been despatched to the area to date.

We feel that these repeated violations of principles and objectives of the 1925 Geneva Protocol by Iraq should meet with the strong condemnation of the international community. We also hope that these unfortunate developments will prompt the Conference on Disarmament to accelerate its negotiations on the convention on the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and on their destruction.