

(Mr. Natwar Singh, India)

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I have been frank in expressing my disappointment at the stagnation of the process of negotiation in this unique multilateral negotiating forum in the field of disarmament. This does not mean that we do not see any positive features in the work of the Conference on Disarmament. On the contrary, we value it very much. We do not think that there is any inherent fault in the Conference on Disarmament -- either in its composition, size or procedures. The Conference on Disarmament is an institution of our times and is subject to the policies of the respective Governments that make up its membership. If the Conference on Disarmament has not lived up to the hopes that accompanied its birth, in its present incarnation, in 1978, it is largely a reflection of our individual and collective failings. On the positive side, I would like to mention the negotiations on the Chemical Weapons Convention, where some significant progress has been made. I hope that the remaining problems will soon be resolved and a convention concluded at the earliest.

On 3 April 1987: (1) Twelve rockets of mustard agents were dropped by planes. (2) Thirty-two shells carrying blistering agents were fired by artillery in the morning. Six persons were killed in Saragah's defense lines as the result.

On 4 April 1987, the following weapons were used: (1) Two rockets containing blood agents. (2) Two rockets containing blood agents again at night. (3) Three artillery shells of blister type in the afternoon. (4) Five mortar shells of blister type in the afternoon. (5) Chemical mortar shell by helicopter which had caused 10 persons injured.

On 5 April 1987, a number of chemical shells of mustard gas were used.

On 14 and 15 April 1987, the following weapons were used: (1) Twenty mortar shells of mustard gas at night. (2) Thirty rockets during the day and night, leaving 128 persons injured. (3) Thirty chemical shells and shells were dropped by planes and fired by artillery during the night.

Also on the night of 16 April 1987, a part of the city of Sharamshahr in the south of the country was shelled and as a result 21 municipal workers were killed and a number of other citizens were injured.

In this connection, Dr. Ali Akbar Salavati, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in his message to the United Nations Secretary-General and the President of the United States, protested against this inhuman crime.

In the message to the United Nations Secretary-General, it is stated that "this is the first time that residential areas in the Islamic Republic of Iran have been subjected to chemical attacks by the Iraqi regime. Furthermore, new substances are being used in recent attacks. Attacks on civilians"