

(Mr. Velayati, Islamic Republic of Iran)

I wonder if our world has experienced such deep and vast hypocrisy in recent years. A look into this reality and especially where it is related to chemical weapons is very interesting and displays the seriousness of the disaster that rends the heart of anyone with any conscience. Read the reports of the Pugwash Conference held last year in Geneva and see for yourselves which countries have provided the biological weapons used against our people.

We are pleased to notice in the General Assembly's resolutions that international sensitivity against the use of chemical weapons has gained justifiably large dimensions. As you are well aware, this sensitivity was fully manifested in a recent conference held in Stockholm. Unfortunately, in spite of the fact that we have, in a well-documented manner, informed the international community of the use of chemical weapons against the people of Iran in the course of the invasion of my country by foreign troops, no positive or beneficial reaction has yet been noted.

It seems that the use of these weapons is considered detestable, inhumane and to be condemned only when such a protest can be used as propaganda by one Superpower against another.

My purpose in presenting these documents is not one of propaganda. On the contrary, my incentive is based on the humanitarian and Islamic duty to present the latest proof to the international community, and particularly to those organs whose competence is to deal with such matters, and to inform those whose conscience has been awakened, of whom there are undoubtedly not a few in this forum, of just a sample of the irreversible damage and casualties inflicted upon my country.

For a better appreciation of the technical details and the medical treatment of the afflicted victims, a report has been submitted to the distinguished delegates.

The use of chemical and biological weapons in fact started sporadically from the very beginning of the imposed war against our country. Statistics presented here show a few registered cases and in no way project the full picture. In at least 49 cases of chemical strikes in 40 regions along the border area, the documents compiled state that 109 persons were killed and hundreds were wounded.

Among these victims, 26 were poisoned, 25 were suffocated, 69 suffered from nausea, 66 became dizzy, 11 had breathing problems, 362 suffered from vision problems with permanent or temporary blindness and 59 complained of skin ailments, while 100 others were severely injured in their testicles and legs. The pictures taken from those afflicted show vividly the traces of wounds, blisters, black and pink skin marks and physical malfunctions. These illustrations, along with other medical documents, were placed at the disposal of a number of foreign medical specialists at the International Medical Seminar held last November in Tehran, and a number of these victims were also examined by the participants. The results were reflected in the Guardian published in London on 25 November 1983. This report quotes one of the specialists who visited the victims of these chemical strikes in several hospitals as saying "I believe there is no doubt that the Iraqis used gas". Also this report regarding the observations of a specialist participating in this seminar from London says one of these specialists who studied the impact of the deployment of chemical weapons on the nervous system says "most definitely what has been used is an element creating blisters, which could be something like mustard nitrogen gas".