

Recognizing existing prohibitions on the use of chemical weapons, Mr. Oostrom went on to note:

The use of these chemical agents leaves the possibility of a future biological catastrophe for the region and perhaps for other nations which are not involved in this conflict. We in this House must use all means at our disposal to prevent any more chemical weapons from being used and to see to a speedy end to this tragic conflict.¹⁵

Later that day, Mr. Oostrom asked Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark whether he would investigate recent charges of the use of chemical weapons in the Iran-Iraq war and--if such allegations proved correct--whether he would communicate Canada's objections and concerns to the warring parties.¹⁶ Mr. Clark replied:

It is hard to secure detailed information but I agree...that we have to do our best to try. It is our view that there should be an expert investigation. We believe that it would best be conducted under the United Nations and we would recommend to the Secretary General that he put in place such an expert investigation.¹⁷

Conservative MP Alex Kindy also referred to the alleged use of chemical weapons in the Gulf war, and noting that it was his understanding that the Iranian Chargé d'Affaires had asked Canada for medical assistance for injuries incurred as a result of the chemical weapon attacks. Mr. Kindy went on to ask Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark whether such help would be forthcoming, and also if the Minister could assure the House that there was "no Canadian content" in the chemical warfare taking

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.