

(Mr. Velayati, Islamic Republic of Iran)

treatment. In the last report, Iraq was introduced as the frequent deployer of chemical weapons on a large scale. All of these reports were followed by statements by the Security Council and a number of countries condemning the use of chemical weapons by Iraq, but none of these measures prevented the Iraqis from repeating such grave crimes.

Since the foundation of the United Nations Organization, this is the first time that a signatory to the 1925 Geneva Protocol has officially been denounced as the flagrant violator of this Protocol, repeatedly committing these crimes. This crime is not confined to one particular country, but rather others will be affected by its consequences. Deployment of chemical weapons from World War I became an international issue crucial to the peace and security of the countries. In this very Conference, the subject of the prevention of production, deployment, use and stockpiling of chemical weapons has been as equally important as the issue of nuclear weapons. But at the same time, a small country like Iraq is allowed to be equipped with sophisticated chemicals and to use them at various junctures.

Our studies, as reflected in the United Nations reports, show that Iraq has deployed cyanide and nerve gas in addition to mustard gas. The Iraqi régime does not possess the technical expertise to produce such weapons, particularly the nerve gas to which only a few countries have access because of its sophistication. We have information about the exportation of chemical weapons and the related technology to Iraq and these studies will be continued. However, this responsibility does not fall solely on us, as a victim of chemical weapons, but rather it is a common and international duty for all countries, particularly the members of the Conference on Disarmament as well as the relevant decision-making organ of the United Nations and other international organs which should carry out a thorough investigation into the matter.

With the continued deployment of chemical weapons by the régime of Iraq, the international duty to adopt practical and serious measures, vis-à-vis this régime, and to investigate the countries which have provided it with chemical weapons, becomes extremely serious. The Benelux countries have banned the exportation of 12 chemical substances to Iraq following the Security Council's statement of 21 March 1986 condemning the Iraqi régime. Other members of the European Community have also adopted special measures to impose controls on certain substances which can be turned into chemical weapons. It is, however, clear that such actions by a few countries concerning a limited number of substances and without thorough executive verification are in no way sufficient. Since the adoption of the Security Council's statement of 21 March, Iraq has deployed chemical weapons on five separate occasions in different places, the last of which was on 28 May 1986 in Gorgan and Amirabad in the south-west of the country -- resulting in the injury of over 50 persons. Mustard gas was used in all these instances and this has been reported to the Secretary-General with a request that teams be dispatched to investigate. Owing to Iraq's past record, no investigation was felt necessary in this regard and the cases were confirmed. In one case only, and following a long procrastination, we received a positive response for the dispatch of a probing team where the traces had, with the lapse of time, eroded away. Medical reports are sent to the Secretary-General on a regular basis.